



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, 8 November 2022

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TUESDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 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.

ASSENT TO BILLS



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

The Honourable C.W. Pitt MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Speaker

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

Date of Assent: 31 October 2022

A Bill for An Act to amend the Racing Integrity Act 2016 for particular purposes

A Bill for An Act to amend the Corrective Services Act 2006, the Public Health Act 2005 and the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014 for particular purposes

A Bill for An Act to amend the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 for particular purposes

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

Yours sincerely

Governor

31 October 2022

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 31 October 2022, from Her Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 31 October 2022 [[1835](#)].

The Honourable C.W. Pitt MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Speaker

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

Date of Assent: 3 November 2022

A Bill for An Act to amend the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991, the Associations Incorporation Act 1981, the Associations Incorporation Regulation 1999, the Industrial Relations Act 2016 and the Public Trustee Act 1978 for particular purposes

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


Yours sincerely
Governor

3 November 2022


Tabled paper: Letter, dated 3 November 2022, from Her Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to a certain bill on 3 November 2022 [[1835A](#)].

PRIVILEGE

Comments by Member for Capalaba, Withdrawal and Apology


 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (9.31 am): On 16 August during Matters of Public Interest, I said, 'It was not her petition; it was his petition.' I was referring to the Mayor of Redland City, Karen Williams, and the member for Broadwater. Under the standing orders of the House for petitions, the petition did belong to the LNP drunk-driving mayor and not the member for Broadwater. I withdraw the statement and apologise to the House.

Comments by Member for Logan

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (9.32 am): On 30 August during an impromptu response immediately after a speech by the member for Burdekin, I said that the member for Burdekin voted for the LNP's budget cuts to roads. I wish to clarify that the member for Burdekin was not a member of the House in 2012 to 2015. I certainly had no intention of misleading the House.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Divisions, Procedures


 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, amendments to the Parliament of Queensland Act 2020 enabled proxy voting whereby members did not have to be physically present in the chamber. The amendments to the act made it clear that this was only available during the exceptional circumstance of the public health emergency for COVID-19. Due to the expiration of the COVID-19 directives on 31 October 2022, the special procedures for transacting business in exceptional circumstances in sessional orders are no longer in effect.

Consequently, the House will now revert to the procedures for divisions set out under chapter 19 of the standing orders. I remind members that, in order to vote, members must be physically present in the chamber before the division bells finish. For party votes, members must be in their allocated seat and the Clerk will report the votes of the minor parties and the Independent member.

Government members interjected.


Mr SPEAKER: Order! This is not an opportunity to debate, members.

Absence of Members

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I received advice from the member for Whitsunday as to her absence from the sitting of the House this week. I also advise of the absence of the member for Pumicestone from the sittings of the House last sitting week to attend the CPA's inaugural Advanced Professional Development and Skills-Building Residency Course in Cape Town, South Africa, from 24 to 28 October 2022. The members' notifications comply with standing order 263A.


PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House


 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 3 November 2022, I tabled two rulings regarding matters of privilege including: a ruling relating to a complaint by the member for Glass House alleging that the member for Bundaberg deliberately misled the House on 17 August 2022; and a ruling relating to a complaint by the member for Nanango alleging that the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water deliberately misled the House on 21 June 2022. I ruled that both matters did not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee. I now refer to these matters so that if any member wishes to exercise their rights in respect of those matters under the standing orders then they should do so immediately, identifying the matter in question.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Order of Business, Matters of Public Importance

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, the temporary sessional orders agreed to by the House in the last sitting week include an additional Matters of Public Importance debate, spread across two sitting weeks, with 30 minutes on 25 November from 8 pm and 30 minutes today from 8 pm. I note that the Leader of the Opposition nominee made a 10-minute contribution on the first occasion. Accordingly, the remaining contributions for the 8 pm Matters of Public Interest on Tuesday, 8 November 2022 will be six members with five minutes each.

School Group Tour

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Tamborine Mountain State School in the electorate of Scenic Rim.

PETITIONS

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

Corruption Commission

Mr Andrew, from 2,145 petitioners, requesting the House to close the Crime and Corruption Commission and establish an Independent Corruption Commission [[1836](#)].

Moggill Road and Mount Crosby Road, Pedestrian Infrastructure

Dr Rowan, from 332 petitioners, requesting the House to consult with the community and in collaboration with the Brisbane City Council deliver upgraded and DDA-compliant pedestrian infrastructure along Moggill Road and Mount Crosby Roads [[1837](#)].

Karana Downs, Mount Crosby, Lake Manchester, Kholo and Anstead, Bus Services

Dr Rowan, from 1,598 petitioners, requesting the House to provide contracted Brisbane City Council bus services to the suburbs of Karana Downs, Mount Crosby, Lake Manchester, Kholo, Anstead and surrounding areas [[1838](#)].

Anti-Discrimination Act

Mr Berkman, 1,146 petitioners, requesting the House to remove queerphobic legislation from the Anti-Discrimination Act [[1839](#)].

Cannonvale, Fire Station

Ms Camm, from 128 petitioners, requesting the House to find a more suitable site in Cannonvale for the proposed fire station [[1840](#)].

Preston Boundary Road, Speed Limit

Mr Weir, 161 petitioners, requesting the House to reduce the speed limit from 80 to 70 kms/hour along the 2.4 kilometre stretch of Preston Boundary Road from the intersection of the New England Highway to past the Highgate Road intersection [[1841](#)].

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

Great Sandy Marine Park, Seafood Industry

1,101 petitioners, requesting the House to cease the review of the Great Sandy Marine Park Zoning Plan and implement a range of measures to protect the local catch seafood industry and commercial seafood industry suppliers [[1842](#)].

Coronavirus Vaccination, Education Queensland

3,264 petitioners, requesting the House to direct Education Queensland to cease disciplinary action against those employees who did not comply with the directive to be vaccinated which could result in their being docked up to 18 weeks' pay [[1843](#)].

Seatbelt Infringement Notices

717 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure that seat belt infringement notices are sent with evidentiary quality A4 images which can be downloaded in JPG or similar commonly used format [[1844](#)].

Body Corporate and Community Management Act

3,115 petitioners, requesting the House to amend the Body Corporate and Community Management Act regulation modules and fix term limits of service contracts and letting authorities to a maximum of five years [[1845](#)].

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS (SO 31)

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

31 October 2022—

- [1787](#) Auditor-General Report 4: 2022-23—2022 status of Auditor-General's recommendations
- [1788](#) Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board—Annual Report 2021-22
- [1789](#) Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal—Annual Report 2021-22
- [1790](#) The Public Advocate—Annual Report 2021-22
- [1791](#) Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council—Annual Report 2021-22
- [1792](#) Queensland Law Reform Commission—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1793](#) Dumaresq-Barwon Border Rivers Commission—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1794](#) Gladstone Area Water Board—Annual Report 2021-22
- [1795](#) Queensland's Category 2 Water Authorities—Annual Report 2021-2022, Consolidated report
- [1796](#) Queensland's River Improvement Trusts—Annual Report 2021-2022, Consolidated report
- [1797](#) Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 23, 57th Parliament—Towards a healthier, safer, more just and compassionate Queensland: decriminalising the offences affecting those most vulnerable
- [1798](#) State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 26, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled on 10 May and between 25 May and 21 June 2022, government response
- [1799](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 38, 57th Parliament—Examination of the Working with Children (Indigenous Communities) Amendment Bill 2021

1 November 2022—

- [1800](#) Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee: Report No. 109, 57th Parliament—Annual Report 2021-22
- [1801](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 35, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 22 June 2022 and 30 August 2022
- [1802](#) Ethics Committee: Report No. 211, 57th Parliament—Annual Report 2021-22

3 November 2022—

- [1803](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt—Alleged contempt of Parliament by the member for Bundaberg
- [1804](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt—Alleged contempt of Parliament by the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water
- [1805](#) Education and Care Services National Law: Regulatory Legislation Amendment (Reform) Act 2022 (Vic), No. 13 of 2022
- [1806](#) Education and Care Services National Law: Regulatory Legislation Amendment (Reform) Act 2022 (Vic), No. 13 of 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights
- [1807](#) Education and Care Services National Law: Early Childhood Legislation Amendment Act 2022 (Vic), No. 43 of 2022
- [1808](#) Education and Care Services National Law: Early Childhood Legislation Amendment Act 2022 (Vic), No. 43 of 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights

4 November 2022—

- [1809](#) Transport and Resources Committee: Report No. 25, 57th Parliament—Coal Mining Safety and Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022
- [1810](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 36, 57th Parliament—Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 3) 2022 and Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2022
- [1811](#) Education, Employment and Training Committee: Report No. 28, 57th Parliament—Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022
- [1812](#) Land Court of Queensland—Annual Report 2021-22
- [1813](#) Land Tribunal—Annual Report 2021-22
- [1814](#) Legal Services Commission—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1815](#) Health and Environment Committee: Report No. 26, 57th Parliament—Annual Report 2021-22

7 November 2022—

- [1816](#) National Energy Retail Law (Queensland) Act 2014: National Energy Retail Amendment (Protecting Customers Affected by Family Violence) Rule 2022 No. 1

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Public Trustee Act 1978:

- [1817](#) Public Trustee (Interest Rate) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2022, No. 148
- [1818](#) Public Trustee (Interest Rate) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2022, No. 148, explanatory notes
- [1819](#) Public Trustee (Interest Rate) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2022, No. 148, human rights certificate

Child Protection Reform and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2022:

- [1820](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 149
- [1821](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 149, explanatory notes
- [1822](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 149, human rights certificate

Fisheries Act 1994:

- [1823](#) Fisheries (Effort Caps and Other Matters) Amendment Declaration 2022, No. 150
- [1824](#) Fisheries (Effort Caps and Other Matters) Amendment Declaration 2022, No. 150, explanatory notes
- [1825](#) Fisheries (Effort Caps and Other Matters) Amendment Declaration 2022, No. 150, human rights certificate

Queensland Veterans' Council Act 2021:

- [1826](#) Queensland Veterans' Council (Postponement) Regulation 2022, No. 151
- [1827](#) Queensland Veterans' Council (Postponement) Regulation 2022, No. 151, explanatory notes
- [1828](#) Queensland Veterans' Council (Postponement) Regulation 2022, No. 151, human rights certificate

Queensland Veterans' Council Act 2021:


- [1829](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 152
- [1830](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 152, explanatory notes
- [1831](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 152, human rights certificate

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities (Justice, Land and Other Matters) Act 1984, Liquor Act 1992:

- [1832](#) Liquor (Pompuraaw) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 153
- [1833](#) Liquor (Pompuraaw) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 153, explanatory notes
- [1834](#) Liquor (Pompuraaw) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 153, human rights certificate


SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Parliamentary Friends of Basketball

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise the House that the Parliamentary Friends of Basketball event held last night was a roaring success, with the North defeating the South. In fairness, there was a draft in effect that meant that some members from the South played for the North. I wish to congratulate the co-chairs of the Parliamentary Friends of Basketball, the member for Sandgate and the member for Toowoomba North, and all members who participated.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Containers for Change

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.38 am): Our Containers for Change program has been a roaring success with Queenslanders literally cashing in on the program and doing their bit for the environment whether it is students using it for some pocket change, adults who have discovered a new hobby or even charities that have needed an extra income stream. Since it was launched in 2018, 5.5 billion containers have now been recycled through refund points and \$540 million in refunds have been issued. On top of that, \$8.1 million in refunds have been paid to charities, community organisations and schools. Some figures from around the state include: Cairns, 345 million containers returned and \$34.5 million refunded; Townsville, 372 million containers returned and \$37.2 million refunded; Mackay, 249 million containers returned and \$24.9 million refunded; Gladstone, 98 million containers returned and \$9.8 million refunded; Rockhampton, 134 million containers returned and \$13.4 million refunded; Bundaberg, 190 million containers returned and \$19 million refunded; the Sunshine Coast, 345 million containers returned and \$34.5 million refunded; and Ipswich, 106 million containers returned and \$10.6 million refunded.


Before we introduced the program four years ago, only 18 per cent of beverage containers were recovered and recycled. That is now 65 per cent. It has stopped billions of containers from ending up in our waterways and environment, thrown millions of dollars behind local groups and supported upwards of 800 jobs at 359 facilities across our state. Currently, the Containers for Change program accepts most aluminium, glass, plastic, steel and liquid paperboard beverage containers between 150 millilitres and three litres.

Today I have some good news for Queensland: as part of National Recycling Week, I can announce that we are looking to expand it. We want to include glass, wine and spirit bottles to ramp up our recycling efforts and put even more money back into the pockets of Queenslanders. There will be 10 cents refundable for glass wine and/or spirit bottles.

Ms Grace: Is champagne included?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I believe so, Minister. Consultation on growing the scheme will start next month and go through to February next year. We want to make sure that any decision to expand the scheme to include wine and spirit bottles is one that is backed by the community and industry. Going by the amount of interest on social media this morning about it, it looks like it will be a very popular decision.


Housing

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.41 am): Last month our government held a housing summit to address the unprecedented housing pressures facing Queenslanders and, critically, to find solutions for thousands of Queensland families. As tens of thousands of families flock to Queensland from the southern states, we are seeing significant pressures on both the rental and property markets as well as an increased demand for social and affordable housing. We are committed to putting the unique ideas and proposals raised at the summit into unique actions for Queensland—solutions that can be achieved by working together.

Today I can announce some immediate action to address housing pressures. As I announced on the weekend, QBuild, the government's construction arm, will use modern prefabricated designs in a housing construction factory at Eagle Farm to help speed up the delivery of housing supply. We will establish the QBuild Rapid Accommodation and Apprenticeship Centre—the first of its kind in Queensland. The minister and I will be opening this brand new centre before Christmas. The centre will allow QBuild to construct prefabricated new homes for frontline nurses, teachers and police in regional and remote Queensland, taking pressure off regional rental and housing markets. It is something that local mayors have also discussed with me. The initial target is to complete up to 80 homes this financial year, using modern, prefabricated designs to speed up delivery. Specifically, this will deliver safe, affordable and appropriate social housing for workers and ultimately for the community's most vulnerable.

Under our government we have rebuilt QBuild, delivering on a program that started three years ago and has now hired 300 tradies including 60 apprentices. That more than doubles the number of tradespeople in the organisation and achieves important targets for inclusion of women and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers. It means that we can also respond faster to rebuild and repair our schools, hospitals and social housing when they are impacted by natural disasters. I am proud that our own QBuild, an organisation that is 160 years old, now that it has been rebuilt, can be part of such an innovative solution to housing pressures. Further actions from the Housing Summit will also be delivered in a report to be tabled in parliament this month.


Energy Industry, Jobs

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.43 am): Our government released our ambitious, wideranging, world-leading Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. Now we take the first important steps to ensure that we are well on our way by joining with Queensland's six publicly owned energy companies to recruit another 2,300 new energy sector workers over the next three years. A key focus of the plan is delivering good, secure jobs in traditional and emerging industries. We are going to need apprentices, engineers, electrical designers, labourers, admin staff and many more workers across the sector.

Today I am encouraging anyone who wants a career in energy—the best and brightest from across the state—to be part of our energy transformation. We have launched a user-friendly jobs portal for Queenslanders who want to take part to begin their new careers, many of them in regional communities. This a great opportunity for young people looking to enter a highly skilled career in the region where they live.

The Energy and Jobs Plan will drive \$62 billion in investment in Queensland's electricity system including the country's biggest pumped hydro. It will turbocharge every corner of the state, boosting opportunities for highly trained energy professionals to live and work in regional communities. Those 2,300 new workers are needed to deliver renewable energy zones, develop new transmission infrastructure and connect large-scale pumped hydro projects. For example, Powerlink has a significant program of work to deliver as part of the plan and it needs workers across all parts of the business—from liaising with communities and landholders to transmission line crews and network planners. These 2,300 workers will play a crucial role in underpinning Queensland's energy transformation.

Tourism Industry

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.45 am): Last week the tourism industry's who's who from across the state gathered for the annual DestinationQ Forum, Queensland's leading tourism industry event. This year, 900 delegates gathered on the Gold Coast over the three-day program to discuss the future of Queensland's tourism industry. As part of DestinationQ I launched our new ambitious tourism plan, *Towards tourism 2032*, which will transform our tourism sector in the lead-up to the games. This golden decade ahead equals golden opportunities.

The games will elevate our state as a must-see destination like never before, and our tourism industry needs to be ready. As part of this plan we want to more than double our overnight expenditure to \$44 billion by 2032. We are currently at \$20.6 billion, so there is a big job ahead, but with the games a beacon of opportunity I believe we can achieve it.


I also announced 2023 as the Year of Accessible Tourism, with \$12 million in funding to back it. Part of our strategy is making sure we are a destination for everyone, including all-abilities. I want to thank Dylan Alcott's brother Zack from Get Skilled Access, Hailey Brown from Vacayit and Nick Morris, an access consultant, for joining us for that special announcement. Zack said the news was like Christmas. He said—

To see a government and a state dedicate a year to accessibility is so impactful for not only what you're going to do, but you're already showing as a cultural symbol that you're accessible and inclusive and welcoming for people with disability.

Similar to the Year of Outback Tourism and Year of Indigenous Tourism, this will trigger investment and change to make our state as accessible as it can be. I thank the Minister for Tourism and the Assistant Minister for Tourism for attending all three days of the event, including the Queensland Tourism Awards on Friday night, now in its 37th year. Congratulations to all of this year's winners including: Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, which took gold for Major Tourist Attractions; Bundaberg Rum Distillery Visitor Experience for the Tourist Attractions category; Cooly Rocks On Festival for the Major Festivals and Events; Outback Queensland Masters for the Festivals and Events category; and Lady Elliot Island Eco Resort for the Steve Irwin Award for Ecotourism. The full list is on the QTIC website. These winners now go on to the Australian Tourism Awards in March. We wish them all the best.

I thank the tourism department, TEQ and QTIC for organising another successful Tourism Week and note our ongoing partnership with QTIC, signed at the event, to deliver our new strategy. I also advise the House that the DestinationQ program will be held in Cairns next year. I know that the Assistant Minister for Tourism is very excited about that.

Wide Bay Burnett Regional Plan


 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (9.47 am): Communities across the Wide Bay-Burnett will soon have a new blueprint for their future, with the draft Wide Bay Burnett Regional Plan now open for feedback. It has been 11 years since the release of the last regional plan, and in that time the region has undergone massive change. Updating the regional plan with a 25-year look ahead is vital to respond to these changes. Today I released the draft plan for the community to have its say.

Through a new regional plan for Wide Bay-Burnett we will be able to address issues that are specific to the region. The community is invited to provide feedback up until 24 February 2023. I encourage everyone across the Wide Bay to have their say as it impacts the future of their region. Our successful health response means that Queensland has become an even more attractive place to live, work and raise a family. Wide Bay-Burnett offers people an enviable lifestyle that we know southerners are moving for. Updating the regional plan will ensure the region is best placed to respond to these shifts and improve opportunities for economic development and livability across the region.

Communities of the Wide Bay-Burnett make up Queensland's second largest population, and the region is a true lifestyle destination. The plan will address the needs of more than 300,000 people in communities across the Bundaberg, Cherbourg, Fraser Coast, Gympie, North Burnett and South Burnett local government areas.

As more people move to our regional and rural communities, it is important that communities remain a great place to live. It is crucial that local councils, community and industry are all involved in the updating of the plan. This plan provides a long-term vision for the region to deliver more infrastructure, jobs and services for communities into the future.


Exports

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.49 am): Last week's inaugural United Airlines flight direct from San Francisco was good news for Queensland tourism operators. But when it took off to head back across the Pacific, it was also good news for Queensland exporters. Underneath the passengers' feet on that return journey were more than 17 tonnes of high-value Queensland exports being flown to North American markets via San Francisco. It included 1.3 tonnes of Queensland-made cosmetics. It included 900 kilograms of four-wheel drive components manufactured at Brendale, in the electorate of Pine Rivers. It included 15 tonnes of high-quality, chilled Queensland beef.

One of the lessons we learned from the pandemic was the importance and fragility of international supply chains. Less international flights meant less belly hold capacity for Queensland cargo. Now, thanks to our government's partnership with Queensland airports and our joint aviation industry attraction fund, those flights are roaring back. In the 2021-22 financial year almost 11,000 tonnes of Queensland beef flew out of Brisbane Airport—beef worth \$314 million. That was of value to Queensland graziers, feedlot operators and processors. Our other leading air freight exports are a showcase of advanced manufacturing—aircraft components, medical devices and instruments, and pharmaceuticals.

Access to more diverse markets for more products makes Queensland exporters more resilient, and our government wants to see more of that. That is why we have invested \$20 million in the construction of regional trade distribution centres at Toowoomba and Cairns. Those centres, with temperature-controlled storage, give access to direct flights to Asia for producers from the Lockyer Valley to the Atherton Tablelands and everywhere in between. The three new United Airlines flights direct to San Francisco mean another 50 tonnes of capacity for Queensland exporters each week. That means more jobs and more business right across Queensland. I congratulate the Brisbane Airport Corporation and United Airlines on this important aviation partnership and everything it brings to our state.

Kindergarten

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.51 am): Nothing is more important than giving our kids a great start in life. We all know that education is the key. That is why the Palaszczuk government is committed to providing better kindy services right across Queensland. I was delighted to recently visit the Lady Gowrie Love Street Child Centre—in the heart of my electorate—to announce the final details of our Kindy for All program. It is an investment of more than \$1 billion over five years—the most significant funding reform and boost for kindergarten in Queensland in a decade.

We know the research points to all the benefits of a quality kindergarten program for children in the year before school. Teachers regularly tell me the difference they see at school between those students who have been to kindy and those who have not. We all know that cost can present a significant barrier to enrolling in kindy, particularly for families doing it tough in the current inflationary environment. I do not want to see any child miss out. That is why the centrepiece of Kindy for All is free or cheaper kindy for more than 40,000 Queensland families, delivering real cost-of-living relief from the start of next year.


Like the federal government childcare plan, this is targeted—supported with an economic dividend. It is the perfect trifecta—good for families, good for children and good for the economy, particularly in supporting women and working parents to return to work. At Love Street I met three-year-old Advait. He is starting kindy next year, and it will be totally free. His father, Amol, said—

It's a relief for our family to know we can give him the opportunity to learn, play and make friends at kindy without worrying about the cost.

Cost-of-living support is just one part of Kindy for All. It is about good jobs too. We are boosting funding for up to 300 remote and regional kindy services to help them attract and retain early childhood teachers—such as providing relocation and accommodation assistance. We are expanding our successful Kindy Uplift pilot—providing targeted support to help children thrive at kindergarten. We have extra funding for disability and inclusion support—almost \$100 million over five years.

I encourage families to jump on our new Kindy Savings website. In a few simple steps, people can find out how much they will save. This is yet another way the Palaszczuk government is delivering for Queensland families and giving our kids a great kindy start.

Cervical Cancer

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.54 am): Over the past three years we know that one health issue has towered over all others. While the focus has been on COVID-19, other diseases have continued cutting short the lives of Queenslanders. Cancer, for example, does not care about COVID. That is why it is important we promote events like National Cervical Cancer Awareness Week if we want to make cervical cancer history.


Queensland has led the world in cervical cancer prevention for the past 20 years and efforts to reinforce preventive measures for cervical cancer means elimination of this insidious disease is now within reach. University of Queensland Professor Ian Frazer and his team helped make that a viable goal when they developed a vaccine for the human papillomavirus, which is responsible for 70 per cent of cervical cancers. Gardisal, as it is known, was first administered in 2006 and will protect millions of women around the world, but we cannot be complacent.

A woman, or person with a cervix, who has ever had sexual contact and is aged between 25 and 74 should complete a cervical screening test every five years. Regrettably, only 62.4 per cent of eligible Australian women are screening as frequently as recommended. This means that about 38 per cent of eligible Australian women have either never screened or are lapsed screeners, which is extremely concerning when 70 per cent of cervical cancer occurs in women who have never been screened or who have let their screening lapse. Some women, or people with a cervix, may find the process invasive, distressing or embarrassing. However, I have brilliant news for them. Self-collection is now an option available in Queensland.

In Queensland, women, or persons with a cervix, living in rural and remote communities also have access to specially trained registered nurses via the Mobile Women's Health Service. They have encouraged thousands of women, and people with a cervix, to be proactive about their health and wellbeing, including being up to date with their cervical screening. In fact, in 2020-21, the team travelled nearly 120,000 kilometres to deliver more than 3,000 occasions of service, including over 1,500 cervical screens across 96 Queensland locations. It is an astounding accomplishment and demonstrates the sheer determination and passion our frontline healthcare staff have for their communities.

I would like to take a moment to congratulate a former colleague to many of the members of this House, Vicky Darling. Vicky was the member for Sandgate from 2006 to 2012 and served as the state's environment minister in 2011 and 2012. She is now the newly minted CEO of the Australian Cervical Cancer Foundation. Most importantly, I want this statement to serve as a reminder to go and get a cervical screening test because that simple act could save someone's life.

Energy Industry; Electricity Supply

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (9.57 am): The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan is all about good jobs, better services and protecting the great Queensland lifestyle. It is a bold, practical and achievable plan. It is one that means cheaper, cleaner and secure energy for generations. We have commenced transformation of our power stations to clean energy hubs. We have announced the largest publicly owned wind farm in the nation at Tarong West. We have opened recruitment, as the Premier said today, for the first 2,300 new jobs. Clean energy is not just cheaper energy; it is more secure and it means more opportunities for Queenslanders.

I would like to address electricity reliability. Despite the outages at the Callide Power Station, I can inform the House that there is more than adequate supply for current demand, even in our peak periods. Despite what those across the floor would have Queenslanders believe, I have received specific advice from the Australian Energy Market Operator that our online generation also exceeds demand. CS Energy has restored one unit to operations with another scheduled tomorrow, a third in early January and full operation of the Callide plant scheduled for April next year.


I can also inform the House that in relation to the incident with the water-cooling tower at Callide, Workplace Health and Safety Queensland commenced their independent investigation on Wednesday and will conduct a thorough examination. It is not appropriate to speculate whilst that investigation is ongoing. However, government will provide a full and transparent response to the outcomes of that investigation.

Further, last Friday, independent engineers were engaged to conduct a separate investigation by CS Energy. As I have always done, I will continue to receive daily updates on Queensland's energy system. I can confirm that the latest update from the Australian Energy Market Operator, notwithstanding this outage, advises that Queensland's system is healthy and manageable. Due to public ownership, we will continue to ensure high standards are met to deliver our energy transformation in an orderly way. As part of our plan, we committed to working with government owned energy companies to develop their plans that enable this transition to clean energy hubs.

Today I am pleased to say that we are delivering on our commitments detailed in the Queensland SuperGrid Infrastructure Blueprint by informing the House that we have established a portfolio generator asset management and cybersecurity assurance review. The key objectives of the assurance review are to: ensure current approaches reflect contemporary practice; appropriately address risks and ensure the delivery of reliable and secure power to consumers; support the energy transformation underway, including maintaining system reliability and security over time to complement strategic planning around conversion to clean energy hubs; and enable businesses to ensure contemporary practices are in place as they continue to expand their asset portfolios.

Importantly, it will also address the prevention of cybersecurity threats to supply which the Australian Energy Market Operator recently informed energy ministers was a serious threat for Australia. The outcomes of this review are expected to be provided to government in the second half of 2023. The government will ensure the outcomes are responded to fully and transparently. The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan has been welcomed by industry, conservationists and the energy workforce because it delivers an orderly transition, economic growth and job opportunities; it takes real action on climate change; and, most of all, it delivers Queenslanders secure, reliable and affordable energy for generations.

Containers for Change

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (10.01 am): Last week marked the fourth anniversary of our highly successful container refund scheme. Of course, everyone loves Containers for Change—almost everyone. In fact, Queenslanders love it so much that everywhere I go they tell me they want the scheme expanded. To celebrate National Recycling Week, we are delivering.

As the Premier announced this morning, we will soon start consultation on including wine and spirit bottles and other large beverage containers into the scheme. That means your Tuesday tiple or Saturday spritz could soon be exchanged for the same 10 cent refund currently available on smaller cans and bottles.

Since we introduced the Containers for Change scheme, not only have we seen a dramatic increase in the rate of container recycling but also we have seen a 48 per cent decrease in the rate of beverage litter which means less pollution in our natural environment. With the expansion I think we can increase that even further. Peak bodies agree, with groups from the National Retailers Association, Australian Beverages Council, Australian Council of Recyclers, Boomerang Alliance and the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia strongly supporting this step.

A detailed discussion paper will be released in mid-December and feedback will help inform any decision to expand the eligible containers with consultation to close in mid-February next year, although I will say it has already been very popular online. On my Facebook this morning we heard from someone who said—

I live in a small rural town where there is no recycling as such. Since the implementation of the Containers for Change program our Chaplaincy program has raised over \$25,000 to support local community groups from the Men's Sheds, School P and Cs, Community Christmas tree event, the local Show, Hospital and hospital auxiliary, Kindy and many more. Allowing the expansion of the system to include wine and spirit bottles would be of great benefit.

I will also be convening a round table of wine producers and distillers to discuss how we can make this work for everyone.

In the four years since we began the Containers for Change scheme more than 5.5 billion containers have been returned to the 359 container refund points across the state, with individual Queenslanders receiving over \$542 million in refunds. A further 1.25 billion containers continue to be

collected through available council kerbside services. My favourite part of the Containers for Change program is how the program gives back to the community, whether it is the stories of the more than 800 jobs that have been created, like those in the member for Greenslopes electorate where local mental health organisation Stepping Stone is working with the Coorparoo depot or 10 Cent Tom from my community on the Gold Coast—who I am sure many members in this House would be aware of—who has started his own social enterprise.


We have also seen over \$8.1 million in refunds paid to charities, community organisations and schools, driven by some stand out recyclers. I want to acknowledge one of those Containers for Change heroes here today—Quentin Scott from Longreach who recently passed away. I was lucky enough to meet Scotty, also known as the ‘Barefoot Bush Poet’, when we were in Longreach for community cabinet last year. Scotty had been collecting containers since 2019, and in 2022 alone had returned 83,000 items, resulting in \$8,300 donated to local charities including the Longreach Lions Club, Landcare and Cystic Fibrosis. I want to place on the record my recognition of Scotty’s hard work and his contribution to his community, and I know he is dearly missed.

This is a scheme aimed at reducing litter, but it has done so much more for our community, for employment, for charity and for our environment.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I need to clarify whether the consultation is going to include the Speaker’s Gin, available right here at the Queensland parliament!

Ms SCANLON: Yes, absolutely.

Child Protection

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.05 am): Keeping Queensland’s children and young people safe is our highest priority. My department works with some of Queensland’s most vulnerable children, young people and families. Most, arguably all, come into contact with the department having experienced significant trauma.

Sadly, we are seeing an increase in the complexity of issues that families face and the number of families needing support. Too many are dealing with domestic and family violence at home, and our Child Safety staff must always take a trauma-informed approach when working with children and young people in these families. It is why we have partnered with the Safe & Together Institute to strengthen how we work with families and it is the reason we are part of the eight high-risk teams operating across the state to provide multi-agency risk assessment and safety management planning to women and children at high risk.

Many of the young people known to Child Safety have underlying mental health needs. My staff work to ensure children and young people with acute mental health issues are supported to address their harmful behaviours and the underlying causes of their behaviours in partnership with Queensland Health services, including Evolve and acute mental health services.

We know that every young person’s circumstances are unique and the help we provide to keep them safe needs to be targeted to their individual needs. I have said since first being appointed to this role two years ago that we must always continue to learn, evolve and reform. We owe it to Queensland’s children. Child safety practices and procedures must always be open to change, and we are always making ongoing improvements to ensure our system is as robust and strong as children deserve.

The appointment of Dr Meegan Crawford in 2020 as Queensland’s first Chief Practitioner to lead our child safety officers to implement best practice and to make sure that when vulnerable families come into contact with the child protection system they receive the support they deserve has been a vital reform. It is why our systems and practice review team is required to undertake case reviews for children who have died or suffered a serious physical injury and were known to the department in the year prior to their death or injury, whether they were in our care or not, to understand what happened to the child and to determine if any changes are needed to how we work with children and young people.


Our systems and practice reviews are also considered by the independent Child Death Review Board, chaired by the Queensland Family and Child Commission Principal Commissioner. This board also considers other agency reviews, such as those from police, Queensland Health and Education Queensland, to identify ways to improve the child protection system.

We all want to see children and young people in the system provided with the support they need and connected to appropriate services. That is why we committed more than \$1.9 billion in the state budget to child and family services. This funding includes new funding to employ an additional 89 frontline child and family service workers to drive down case loads and boost services to our most

vulnerable children and families. Since 2015, the Queensland government has funded an additional 782 child and family services staff. This investment, and the significant work of the department, has seen the average case load per funded full-time child safety officer sit at 16.3—down from a maximum of 21 under the previous government.

We all want Queensland children, young people, their families and communities to be safe and resilient and to have the opportunity to contribute and thrive. We will continue to work each and every day to improve our system to serve the needs of Queensland's most vulnerable children, young people and families.


Scams Awareness Week

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.09 am): Queenslanders are losing money to scammers at an alarming rate. We know that scammers are becoming more sophisticated and more people are falling victim to them. This week is Scams Awareness Week and this year's theme is 'How to spot a scam'. This is a very good reminder to Queenslanders to be extra vigilant and to know what to do if they think they have been scammed. Alarming, Queenslanders reported more than \$58 million in losses to scammers last year, which is almost double the reported loss of the previous year. This year is even higher, with Queenslanders already reporting losses of more than \$68 million.

When a Queenslanders is in need we know that Queenslanders dig deep, but alarmingly scammers are being increasingly opportunistic following natural disasters, especially when it comes to fake charities. With the severe weather events at the start of this year which saw parts of our state experience devastating flooding, Queensland has seen a huge increase in losses to fake charity scams. This year alone Queenslanders have reported higher losses to fake charities than any other state or territory—in fact, five times reported losses in New South Wales. That is why my message to anyone looking to donate to a charity is to make sure they are a genuine charity. You can check an organisation's credentials at the Queensland government's website check a charity to make sure your money is going to the right place to help those in need. If you are thinking about starting up a charity, make sure you register properly and have the right authorisation to collect donations.

With the rising cost of living it has never been more important for Queenslanders to know where their money is going and prevent further losses to scammers, so we need people talking, sharing their stories and raising awareness about scams. A simple conversation could stop a friend, family member, neighbour or even yourself from falling victim to a scam. Talking about it not only helps reduce stigma around being scammed but importantly it can prevent scams from happening in the first place because if Queenslanders know how to spot a scam, they can stop a scam.

Hooning

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.11 am): I commend the Queensland Police Service on its relentless efforts to keep the community safe by using some of the toughest laws in the nation when it comes to cracking down on hoons. The Queensland Police Service continues to roll out its multimodal approach to disrupting and dismantling hooning networks. With funding from the Palaszczuk government, the Queensland Police Service is also investing heavily in cutting-edge technologies and tactics to detect and prosecute hoons wherever they offend.


Since the beginning of the year the Queensland Police Service has issued almost 1,100 type 1 hooning offences, while recently Operation Uniform Elderberry was another example of the Queensland Police Service's efforts to crack down on hooning. The operation began in June and resulted in: almost 60 vehicles being impounded; more than 2,000 fines being issued; 219 drivers caught driving unlicensed; and 92 drivers testing positive for drug driving. This was a major, coordinated police operation and I want to again commend the Queensland Police Service for their relentless efforts. One instance that demonstrates the effectiveness of our hooning crackdown is that, just one day after police received an online complaint about hooning, the Queensland Police Service executed search warrants and subsequently seized two vehicles used for hooning. Not only was the driver charged and his licence confiscated but he was also sentenced to six months imprisonment.

Police advise that Queensland's tough anti-hooning laws have transformed the ability of police to apprehend and prosecute offenders. Under these laws passed by this government—also known as owner onus or driver deeming laws—the registered owner of a car must prove they were not the driver of the vehicle at the time of the offence or else they will face the consequences. This significant legal

advantage for the Queensland Police Service sets Queensland apart amongst other Australian jurisdictions, and this government makes no apologies for this tough approach. Hooning is inherently dangerous and an offence which the community will not tolerate. That is why we are continuing to send a strong message to hooners. Anyone committing hoon related offences can expect significant fines and possible imprisonment of up to six months, as we heard in the example I outlined earlier. Hooners also face having their vehicles impounded, immobilised, forfeited or even destroyed.


I can announce that in coming weeks a soon to be concluded new agreement between the Queensland Police Service and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services will see forfeited hoon cars destroyed by firefighters undertaking road crash rescue practise. The message to hooners is clear: do the wrong thing and face the consequences. Hooning is dangerous and we will be relentless in our efforts against it.

ABSENCE OF MINISTER

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.15 am): I advise the House that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads will be absent from the House today due to illness. I therefore advise the House that the Deputy Premier will take questions on behalf of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads during question time today.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING COMMITTEE


Report

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (10.15 am): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 29 of the Education, Employment and Training Committee titled *Subordinate legislation tabled between 17 August 2022 and 12 October 2022*. It relates to the Education Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022. We should see a lot of happy P&Cs as a result of this. I commend the committee's report to the House.

Tabled paper: Education, Employment and Training Committee: Report No. 29, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 17 August 2022 and 12 October 2022 [[1846](#)].

NOTICE OF MOTION

Satellite Hospitals

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (10.15 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House calls on the government to properly name its seven medical facilities under the Satellite Hospitals Program given they will not have:


- (a) overnight beds;
- (b) 24-hour opening hours;
- (c) an emergency department; and
- (d) an operating theatre.

and indicate on what dates each will be open, noting the Premier's 2021 commitment to have each facility completed and operational by May 2023, and what emergency transfer processes will be in place if someone arrives needing critical care.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, question time will conclude today at 11.16 am.

Youth Crime

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.16 am): My question is to the Premier. Today the opposition will give the power of question time to victims of the youth crime wave gripping this state. On behalf of these brave Queenslanders, how many more innocent people need to become victims before the government starts listening?

Ms PALASZCZUK: As we have said many times in this House, youth crime is a very complex issue. We understand and acknowledge there are concerns out there in the community. We are constantly addressing this issue by making sure our frontline police have the resources they need and are deployed to the places across Queensland the commissioner sees fit. That is why the police minister has increased the number of frontline police across this state.

Government members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right, not sacked. We remember when those opposite sacked the middle rung of police officers in this state. We remember the cuts and we remember the sackings.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Member for Nanango, the public remembers that as well. This government has introduced the presumption against bail in this state. As has been stated many times, we acknowledge there is a cohort of 10 per cent that continues to repeat offend. We also know that there are targeted programs that have been rolled out across the state. Notably, following on from Stronger Communities in Townsville we have seen some programs that are seeing results, similarly in Cairns.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members to my left, the Premier is being responsive to the question asked. I would like to hear the answer.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I was there in Rockhampton where we have a joint co-responder model, where police are going out with youth justice officers and together they are addressing that cohort, that 10 per cent of repeat offenders. We also have an assistant commissioner who has been allocated by the Police Commissioner looking at the specific issues to do with youth crime. We also acknowledge that those young people who are found guilty are sent to detention facilities, and we have invested in increasing the detention capacity in this state. Finally, to the Leader of the Opposition, let me say this: we have invested \$500 million, which is the largest amount of money ever invested by a government. Those opposite used to send them to boot camps. The member for Kawana sent them to boot camps.

(Time expired)

Youth Crime, Breach of Bail

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Premier. Russell Field's son Matt, daughter-in-law Kate and unborn grandchild Miles were killed by a teen who was driving drunk, on drugs, in a stolen car and out on bail. I ask on behalf of the Fields: will the Premier put deterrents in the system and make breach of bail an offence for repeat young offenders?

Ms PALASZCZUK: We have a presumption against bail. This is stronger than anything those opposite are saying in this House. They should tell the truth about presumption against bail. They are saying something that is unworkable.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: These are serious issues and they do not deserve screaming and yelling from those opposite. They need to be addressed in a serious and calm manner, but we are not going to get that from the Leader of the Opposition because the Leader of the Opposition sat around a cabinet table—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am trying to answer a question and I am rudely interrupted by a former opposition leader. Perhaps the member for Broadwater can talk to the families about the failed boot camps that the member for Kawana put forward. That is right—up in the middle of nowhere.

Any tragedy, whether it involves a young person or an older person behind the wheel, is a tragedy and I think everybody in this House would acknowledge that. We have put in place strong laws. We will continue to roll out more police. We will continue to look at those co-responder models that are working well in many communities with the support of those committees that have been set up as well.

Ms Grace: Works better than boot camps.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. The only answer they had was to cut police and put in place a boot camp that the Auditor-General said was absolutely damning. We also heard the police minister in this House just talk about stronger hooning laws in this state.

Mr Janetzki interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: The government is continually putting in place actions to help stem the—

Ms Simpson: It's not working.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Like boot camps? There we go; there is a slogan for the member for Maroochydore. We will continue to increase our frontline personnel because at the end of the day people want to see the police out there with the resources they need to do their job in this state.

Cost-of-Living Rebate

Mr KING: My question is to the Premier and Minister for the Olympics. Will the Premier update the House on how many Queensland households are benefitting from the Palaszczuk government's \$175 cost-of-living rebate?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Kurwongbah for the question because he knows that one of the most important issues facing Queenslanders at the moment is the pressures of cost of living. We know that there are small ways in which we as a government can help, and where we can we are actually doing that. Nothing speaks more strongly than our strong commitment on this side of the House to give people a \$175 rebate on their electricity bill. I can advise the House today that since 31 August Queensland's five largest retailers have provided the \$175 rebate to 1.4 million Queensland households. Queenslanders are starting to see that rebate coming through on their bill.

As a government, we made that decision. We made the decision that the public have their energy assets in public hands and the dividends should be returned back to them. In other states, there is no return or dividend; in this state, we are able to do that because we kept our energy assets in public hands. This represents an extra \$243 million in the pockets of Queenslanders. That is fabulous news. Over the last four years, owning our assets has delivered Queensland households a \$575 dividend.

We know that every dollar counts. It is very important for people. The member for Kurwongbah has spoken to me about the families in his electorate. We have been out there across the state, in my electorate and in every electorate. People know that this helps families, and that is exactly what good Labor governments do. We listen, we respond and we look after people—unlike those on the other side. We know what their plans were, and the member for Clayfield knows this all too well. Their plans were to sell our energy assets, and that would have been an absolute disaster. Look at what has happened in other states where they do not control their assets. They are seeing record energy prices.

Mr Nicholls: \$130 rebate during the first month in office. Water rebate—remember that?

Ms PALASZCZUK: But, because we own our assets, the member for Clayfield will also get a rebate. His family will receive the \$175 rebate. You can thank us, member for Clayfield. More importantly, families across the state who are struggling and doing it tough know that that \$175 means the world of good to them.

Youth Crime, Cairns

Mr NICHOLLS: My question is to the Attorney-General. Jenelle from Cairns was out to buy milk and bread from the shops when she was hit by a stolen car. I ask on behalf of Jenelle: when will the government take action to fix the out-of-hand crime crisis so people in Cairns are not terrified to go to the shops and go out in public?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for the question. The Premier has outlined today the extensive changes that we have already made when it comes to ensuring that young offenders are held to account. On this side of the House, we will always take an evidence-based approach to ensure that, when we deal with this small group of repeat offenders, we continually make sure they are held to account. The government took swift action to amend our youth justice bail laws to send a very clear signal to all Queenslanders that our government is about strengthening our laws.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Members to my left, the Attorney-General is being responsive to the question asked as I hear it. I would like to hear her response. You will cease your interjections.

Ms FENTIMAN: The youth justice minister made significant changes, including the presumption against bail for youth offenders charged with certain additional offences. More and more young people are being denied bail. Under those opposite, 10 per cent of applications for bail in the Childrens Court were refused. That is under those opposite. Since the introduction—

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, member for Clayfield.

Ms FENTIMAN: These are the stats! Since the introduction of these new laws in early 2021, 20 per cent of applications for bail have been refused—double the proportion. These were changes that were introduced last year, and already we are seeing more young offenders being refused bail. Collectively, the amendments in the act reinforce the importance of community protection and demonstrate our commitment. We have also said that the court must take into account the commission of any further offences whilst on bail as an aggravated factor during sentencing.

Let me explain this once again: breach of bail, as an offence, did not work because you had to have been found guilty of committing an offence whilst on bail and then the court could not actually sentence someone to additional penalties because that would be a double penalty. However, if you make it an aggravated factor on sentencing, you get tougher sentencing. It is pretty clear. We have also—

Mr Nicholls interjected.

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

Ms FENTIMAN: Importantly, we have also amended the Youth Justice Act to make it clear that the community must be protected. All of these changes taken together mean more young repeat offenders are getting denied bail and are in detention.

(Time expired)

Service Delivery

Mr TANTARI: My question is of the Premier and Minister for the Olympics. Can the Premier please update the House on investments to improve frontline services in Queensland and advise of any alternative policies?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Hervey Bay for the question. The member for Hervey Bay knows what happened in his electorate under the LNP where there were savage cuts to the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service, including the sacking of 120 nurses and midwives. They cut the Wide Bay QBuild. They cut funding to the Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre. They cut funding to the Hervey Bay 60 and Better Health Ageing Program. They cut funding to Youthcare Hervey Bay. They do not have a good track record in Hervey Bay.

In contrast, we are investing in Hervey Bay with the brand new emergency department, upgrades to schools and upgrades to roads. This government invests in the front line and in services. Under our government, we have increased frontline staffing levels by 5,700 teachers across Queensland; 1,300 teacher aides; 10,600 nurses; 5,000 health practitioners; 3,100 doctors; 1,100 ambulance officers; 730 police officers and 200 firefighters with a lot more on the way as announced by the Minister for Emergency Services. We are now going even further. We are recruiting 6,100 new teachers; 1,139 new teacher aides; 2,025 more police personnel by 2025, backing our frontline police; and 9,475 more health workers by 2024. We value the workers in our state. We value our frontline workers.

I was interested to hear what the Leader of the Opposition said two years out from the poll. He said that he was looking at formulating a debt reduction plan to take to the next election. We know what that means—sell the assets, cut the staff! We have not seen one single plan from those opposite. Just last week, we announced another plan—Towards Tourism 2032. However, the Leader of the Opposition went further and said, ‘We will have our fully costed plan, not just about debt reduction, but a service delivery strategy.’

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Oh, here they come!

Mr Smith interjected.

Mr Harper interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: There we go! They are some words from the Leader of the Opposition! We have heard it all before; we know what it means. Lazy opposition—the most well-resourced and no plans! What was the opposition member’s point? Nothing!

(Time expired)

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

Youth Crime

Mr JANETZKI: My question is to the Minister for Children and Youth Justice. Ken from Toowoomba had his car stolen and now advocates for victims. Ken has collected 29 stories from local victims, including children who need psychological help to deal with being terrorised in their beds. I ask on behalf of Ken: when will the minister listen and change the Youth Justice Act to protect innocent children in their own homes?

Ms LINARD: I thank the member for the question. I have listened to Ken. I spoke to Ken; we had a very long conversation. The member knows that, in fact, I went to Toowoomba and offered to meet face to face with that constituent because I and this government will always listen to the voices of those who have experienced offending. Ken and I had a very good conversation where he shared his experiences. He also shared the feedback, as the member raised, of others who have experienced crime. I read that document because I said I would and I always will. We had a conversation about the things that we are doing in the system. He is a very intelligent man. I really enjoyed that conversation, member. He is obviously one who you have spoken to. Ken acknowledged—I hope he will not mind me saying because all conversations, in my view, are private and privileged—that he believes that the system is working for most young people who come in contact with it. We know it is a small cohort. We know that those who are low to moderate—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. The Leader of the Opposition will cease the interjections and, in fairness, it is not Ken's question; it is the member's question. Members of the public are not—

Ms Grace: Yes. Hear, hear!

Mr SPEAKER: Order, member for McConnel. Also, members, the minister is being responsive as I hear her response to the question asked. I ask that you hear the response.

Ms LINARD: Ken acknowledged that he also believed that the system works very well—we are talking about a small cohort of young people—for those who are low to moderate acuity. We know that the programs and interventions work for the majority of young people. However, we also talked about the need to really focus on and address that small cohort of serious repeat offenders. We know that. We know it is a small cohort; we know it is a particularly challenging cohort. Ken shared his ideas with me. I shared with him the significant changes that our government has made—and they are significant—and he gave me his feedback about some additional things that he thinks we can do as a government. I appreciated that conversation, as I appreciate all conversations. Whether it is Ken or any other victim of crime, whether it is young people or adults across Queensland, I want to respectfully—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms LINARD: I am trying to respectfully acknowledge the voices of those who are sharing their experiences, but, as always, those opposite are yelling at me, interjecting and playing politics. The community does not want your politics. You have no plan. You have no policies. You have absolutely no idea.

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair.

Ms LINARD: Mr Speaker, they have no plan, no policies and absolutely no idea, so they play politics. However, the Queensland community does not want their politics. What they want is action, and we have shown action. We are seeing more young people being held in detention and for longer. We will continue to invest in evidence-based reforms because we will always keep the community safe and do more if more is needed. While we are focused on action, they are focused on cheap politics.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Toowoomba North, your interjections were designed to interrupt the minister. I was not going to do that. You are warned under the standing orders.

Regional Queensland

Mr SMITH: My question is of the Deputy Premier. Can the Deputy Premier please outline to the House what the Palaszczuk government is doing to plan for growth in Queensland's regions, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Bundaberg for his question. I know how focused he is on good planning for his region in particular to deliver and ensure that there is affordable housing in Bundaberg. He made a valuable contribution to the Housing Summit. I know he has provided strong feedback to the Wide Bay-Burnett Regional Plan and will continue to work to make sure the community has its say on that very important plan.

Planning is important. Good planning is how we can ensure that there is sufficient affordable homes for the Queenslanders who are here now and the Queenslanders who are moving here. It is how we can make sure we can create jobs for them close to where those homes are. It is how we can make sure people can get around between their homes, work, school and where they recreate, and it is how we can make sure they have the services they need like schools and hospitals. Central to our plan for Bundaberg is the new Bundaberg hospital that we are building. I know it will be very much valued by their community.

On this side of the House we know that planning is important, so I would like to advise all members that today is World Town Planning Day. I am sure all members will join with me in celebrating World Town Planning Day. Of course, for me as the planning minister, every day is World Town Planning Day because town planning plays a critical role in shaping our communities. Planning is important. However, we learnt last week that the Leader of the Opposition and the LNP only have one plan. It is the same old plan. It is a plan to make cuts. They have the same old plan to make cuts; they are just going to do it a little bit less fast. It is the same old plan for cuts, just a little bit less severe.

Public servants would still have to live in fear; they would just have to live in fear for a little bit longer. When you have the same plan, you will get the same results. If you cut the housing program, as those opposite did, you will end up with fewer houses. If you plan to cut health staff, as they did, you will get less health care. Indeed, if you cut the planning department, as those opposite did, then you will get fewer affordable houses. Queenslanders are only now recovering economically from the cuts those opposite made and now they are pledging to do it all again.

Youth Crime, Police Resources

Mr LAST: My question is to the Minister for Police. Aggy owns a business in Hervey Bay which has been broken into six times since August. Like many Queenslanders, Aggy is concerned that only a handful of extra police have been added in the past year. I ask on behalf of Aggy: where are the extra police the government promised to help protect businesses in the middle of a crime wave?

Mr RYAN: I start by acknowledging Aggy and the experience that Aggy has had. That is unacceptable. Of course, everyone is sympathetic towards people who are impacted by crime.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr RYAN: Again, we are acknowledging the pain and suffering of people and those opposite wish to bring down the tone. This government takes community safety very seriously. It is why we have strengthened laws. It is why we have some of the toughest laws in the nation across many different areas, whether it is child sex offenders, organised crime or youth justice. It is also why we are investing in the front line.

Dr Miles interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The Deputy Premier will cease his interjections.

Mr RYAN: This government made a historic—

Dr Miles interjected.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Deputy Premier and Leader of the Opposition, you are both warned under the standing orders for quarrelling across the chamber. I have given enough notice.

Mr RYAN: This government made a historic investment in the Queensland Police Service before the last election. There are 225 extra police personnel over five years. In comparison, those opposite went to the election with a commitment of barely hundreds, which the Queensland Police Union president, Ian Leavers, acknowledged. If those opposite had won the election that would have meant police officers being sacked across the state. That is what that would have meant.

This is a government that takes community safety very seriously. Of course we know about the attitude of those opposite towards health workers in regional areas; they call them duds. When it comes to their alternative in relation to community safety, they are the duds. They have dud efforts on a dud plan. It is an opportune time to remind the House that back in January last year the member for Burdekin said that the LNP would have a crime plan. That was 669 days ago, almost 96 weeks ago or 22 months ago. What did he say? He said that the state opposition was working on a crime plan, which would have changes from the controversial plan, and they would have it done in six months. It was over a year ago the member for Burdekin promised that—dud efforts on a dud plan from a dud opposition.

They have no serious commitment to this; this government does. We will strengthen laws. We are increasing resources. We take this seriously.

Health Infrastructure

Mr HARPER: My question is of the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. Can the Treasurer update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is investing in health infrastructure in Queensland, and is the Treasurer aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Thuringowa for his question. The member for Thuringowa knows how important good, quality healthcare services are to the people of Queensland, particularly regional Queenslanders. I want to commend the member for Thuringowa for his 30-year recognition of service award from the Queensland Ambulance Service.

Our government knows the importance of good health services. That is why we are investing \$530 million to expand the Townsville University Hospital, which will serve the member's electorate and the electorates of other members in North Queensland. That will deliver an additional 143 beds to that community. We are also delivering better hospitals including satellite hospitals—seven new satellite hospitals in South-East Queensland—because that is what Labor governments do. We deliver better health infrastructure and better health services and we do it without cutting, without sacking and without selling.

When we look at the clear difference that exists between the Labor Party and the LNP there is no clearer distinction than in health care. We know what the LNP did. They did not want to expand hospitals. They did not want to open hospitals. They wanted to close them. Just ask the people of Moura and Eidsvold. The LNP closed the Wynnum hospital, the Barrett adolescent centre, the Biala sexual health clinic, the Moreton Bay nursing care unit and the Cairns Base Hospital surgical theatre. Now we see the Leader of the Opposition talking again about a 'debt reduction plan' and a 'service delivery strategy'. That is code in the clearest possible terms for the people of Queensland about cutting, sacking and selling, and it was not just the healthcare system.

When the LNP was in government the Leader of the Opposition was a minister in the Newman government. He cut 110 senior police officers from more than 300 police personnel. The Leader of the Opposition was part of the government that cut funding for police equipment by \$23.7 million. The Leader of the Opposition was part of the government that cut police monitoring of more than 1,700 sex offenders and, of course, the Leader of the Opposition slashed youth justice funding by nearly \$10 million. The people of this state will not be conned by the Leader of the Opposition when he says he stands for a stronger, safer Queensland because the evidence is to the complete opposite.

Of course, not only did he cut funding; the Leader of the Opposition wasted public funding when they established their failed LNP boot camp for youth justice offenders, a program that they gave to an LNP donor; they wasted almost \$17 million in a massive cost blowout. The people of this state will not be conned; they will not be conned by the Leader of the Opposition. He will cut, he will sack and he will sell and he will cut youth justice funding as soon as he gets the chance.

(Time expired)

Youth Crime

Mrs GERBER: My question is to the Premier. After the Premier said parents need to take more responsibility for young criminals, the opposition was contacted by parents from Townsville and the Gold Coast who have repeatedly pleaded with the courts to act to provide consequences for the actions of their wayward daughter and son. I ask on behalf of these parents: when will the Premier listen and give police and the courts the tools they need to fix the youth crime wave gripping this state?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I say to the member for Currumbin that she is correct: the courts have the power to sentence. They listen to the information put before them. The politicians do not make those decisions. That is called separation of powers, member for Currumbin. As we have said in this House, we have taken tougher action on bail by creating a presumption against bail. The courts have the power to administer that and can make that decision. I am advised that more young people are being remanded in custody—a direct result of our tough laws.

We are rolling out strike teams and co-responder models. Since 2015 we have increased the number of youth detention centre beds by 33 per cent. We are investing \$500 million into early intervention programs, and police are appealing more decisions where bail should not have been granted. Where police have appealed a Magistrates Court decision on bail to the Supreme Court, almost 100 per cent of matters were either successful on appeal or the application was withdrawn with a successful outcome. These are the facts. We know that those opposite do not like the facts.

We heard the Treasurer talking about failed boot camps. We heard from the police minister about the cuts to police that those opposite made. Let's not forget the cuts to youth justice conferencing. The program was abolished.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: I agree with the police minister: we are still waiting to see your plan.

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair, Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The shadow ministry is lazy. They could have a competition to see who can produce the first policy plan: 'We'll give you a box of chocolates.' The first shadow minister to produce a plan will get a box of chocolates. They are so lazy. There are no plans and no private members' bills.

(Time expired)

Kindergarten

Ms PUGH: My question is of the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Can the minister update the House on the Palaszczuk government's commitment to Queensland families for free and cheaper kindergarten, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for the question. I know that, as her little one is growing up and will be in kindergarten in a few years time, she well and truly understands the benefits of a good start for children. Early education is the key to achieving that. We have delivered cost-of-living relief in spades for families. From next year we are investing a billion dollars over the forward estimates, with cheaper kindy for 40,000 families. That will mean savings of up to \$4,500 a year. Many families will benefit from reduced costs—if not free. This is another way that we are delivering on good jobs and better services in our state.

We have worked very closely with the sector to get this right, and the response has been tremendous. As usual, the only people who do not like it are those opposite. Goodstart Early Learning policy director John Cherry said—

This is unambiguously good news for Queensland families. Combined with the federal government's cheaper childcare changes taking effect next year, the cost of attending kindergarten in a long day care system will fall dramatically.

Lady Gowrie CEO Louise Jackson, who was excited about the kindy savings, said—

We know the early years are incredibly important and we want every child to experience the benefits of kindy.

...

It helps lower costs and enables all children to participate in kindy—a great start in life, and their education.

That is absolutely terrific. The Australian Childcare Alliance Queensland's Majella Fitzsimmons has also said 'the impact will be massive'. I could not believe Raja's face when he learned that their family will be saving \$3,600. Amol will be saving a similar amount for his son Advait.

However, you cannot please everyone in this House. It was only last sitting that I had the member for Moggill—my shadow—firing off tweets, criticising and saying we were 'failing to prioritise investment in our kindergartens'. What rock is the member for Moggill under? We have made announcements of a billion dollars over the forward estimates. We are investing a billion dollars over the forward estimates. That means 40,000 families will benefit. I said that nice and slowly so that it would sink in. I tell you what: you have to be scared of those opposite, who said they are ready to tackle frightening debt. Let me tell you, the only people frightened by the prospect of those opposite getting onto these benches are the people of Queensland, because all they do is cut, sack and sell.

(Time expired)

Youth Crime, Breach of Bail

Mr PURDIE: My question is to the Premier. Angus Beaumont's killers openly bragged about breaching their bail conditions on social media after they murdered Angus. When their breaches were reported, the police said that there was nothing they could do as breach of bail is not an offence for juveniles in Queensland. I ask on behalf of Angus's parents, Ben and Michelle, who are with us here today: when will the government listen and make breaching bail a disincentive for young criminals so that no other families go through what they have?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I acknowledge their presence here today. I hope that they have seen the entire question time, because it is very clear that we are investing in more police to make sure that police are tackling these very complex issues in the community. Secondly, we have put in place a presumption against bail. The opposition is peddling something that does not work and does not exist. In fact, they voted against our presumption against bail. The courts have the tools they need to enforce decisions. I am quite sure that the Attorney-General would be happy to sit down—

Ms Fentiman: I'm meeting them today.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you—and talk about presumption against bail. The police minister is increasing the number of police out there. These are serious issues. We take these issues seriously. The opposition is peddling something that does not work and does not exist. I say to those opposite: put together a plan. You are a lazy opposition. There is two years to go until the election, and we still do not hear a plan from them.

Regional Queensland, Health Workforce

Mr HEALY: My question is of the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Can the minister advise how the Palaszczuk government is building its regional health workforce, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for Cairns for his question. He understands the importance of investing in health in the regions and is a tireless advocate for health services in Cairns and Far North Queensland. The Palaszczuk government is very proud of what we have delivered since we came to government. We have rebuilt after the savage cuts made by the LNP in the brief time they were in government. The LNP shamefully sacked around 4,400 health workers when they were in government, in just one term. Since 2015, the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service has hired an extra 1,092 frontline staff: 243 doctors, a 52.4 per cent increase; 695 nurses and midwives, a 35.6 per cent increase; and 154 health professionals, a 29 per cent increase.

These health workers will be crucial for the new and improved health facilities that we are building in Far North Queensland such as the \$250 million Cairns Hospital redevelopment with 96 extra beds and \$70 million for the Cairns mental health unit and the Atherton Hospital redevelopment. These staff are part of the almost 20,000 health workers that we have hired since coming into government in 2015. While we talk up our health service and congratulate our health professionals for their great work, those opposite talk them down. In the last parliamentary sitting week we heard the shadow health spokesperson saying that we only employed 'duds' in regional Queensland.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Mudgeeraba.

Mrs D'ATH: The member has not come in here and apologised, has not sought to withdraw, has not said it is misleading. However, she did put a statement up on social media that same day trying to clarify what she meant. The problem is that you cannot find that anymore because—oops—it has gone. Oops!

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Mudgeeraba!

Mrs D'ATH: Oops: the member for Mudgeeraba's own statement clarifying what she meant about 'duds' has been removed.

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Minister for Health continues to use a prop. She either needs to table the document—

Mr SPEAKER: Will you be tabling that, Minister?

Mrs D'ATH: I am happy to table that. There is not much to see: it is, 'Oops!' It has gone!

Tabled paper: Extract from the webpage of the member for Mudgeeraba, Ms Ros Bates MP, indicating page could not be found [1847].

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Logan and member for Pumicestone, you have had a great double act this morning, but you are both warned under the standing orders.

Mrs D'ATH: What I am very concerned about are the comments by the Leader of the Opposition that its management of debt in government would be to ensure it cut wasteful spending and those opposite go on to say that they 'will not cut government services, but people want more doctors and

nurses'. We could not agree more. When they say 'employ more doctors and nurses and cut the waste in our health system', sorry, but I just want to make sure that I am not plagiarising here. One is from the 1 November briefing—

Ms Bates interjected.

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

Mrs D'ATH:—from the Leader of the Opposition; the other is from the progress report on government commitments in July 2012 under the Newman government. Is the leader plagiarising the Newman government? I do not know.

(Time expired)

Hughenden Irrigation Project

Mr KATTER: My question is to the Premier. Last sitting the Premier told this House that the government was absolutely committed to progressing the Hughenden irrigation project, but in a response water department officers smirked and contradicted this position to advise that HIPCo would never realistically secure the water licence it needs under the extraordinary conditions that that imposed. Given both the federal and state government accepted the detailed business case, will the Premier show leadership and intervene to follow through on this commitment to progress HIPCo?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. I am happy for the member to meet with the minister. My understanding is that there is still a tender that is afoot and I would not be listening to what anyone from the department is saying if there is a tender afoot.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No, in relation to that. That is why—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No. Excuse me. They may not be aware of the tender process, so—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left!

Mr Krause: You're a disgrace.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I find that offensive and I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Scenic Rim—I will beat you to the punch, Premier—the member will withdraw that statement and the member is warned under the standing orders.

Mr KRAUSE: I withdraw.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am very happy for you to meet with the minister—

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair, Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, for the member to meet with the minister about this issue with regard to the tender process going forward, and of course the minister will have the appropriate departmental people in attendance.

Energy Industry

Mr SKELTON: My question is of the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement. Can the minister update the House on the capacity of Queensland's energy system and outline the benefits of public ownership, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for Nicklin for the question. I know the member for Nicklin was pleased to hear that Queensland's energy system is both healthy and manageable. The member is also pleased that his constituents right across his electorate are right now receiving our \$175 cost-of-living rebate off their energy bills, making their energy bills amongst the cheapest residential power bills in the nation when we take into account that significant return from public ownership.

We have heard the LNP say that there is an inadequate electricity supply here in Queensland. The member for Broadwater has said that Queensland cannot meet its peak demand at around 10,000 megawatts. Let us get some facts on the table. I invite members of the House to get their

calculators out and I will go through our capacity of energy here in Queensland. We have over 4,000 megawatts of rooftop solar—much of that in the electorate of Bundaberg—846 megawatts of wind, 570 megawatts of pumped hydro, 473 megawatts of bioenergy, over 3,100 megawatts of gas and 8,119 megawatts of coal. That adds up to nearly 21,000 megawatts of capacity. In fact, with our wind and solar combined, it is eight gigawatts. That could power around 2.4 million homes. I am advised that there is even a one-megawatt co-generation plant in the western suburbs powered by raw sewage. That is one megawatt worth of power more than Angus Taylor added.

We see plenty of raw waste from the LNP, but we know it has no plan on energy. Its plan is to actually cut energy supply. It cut three gigawatts of energy supply. We talk about risk of blackouts. On the weekend it was the member for Broadwater who was completely blacked out. In fact, he had not done his homework. He showed up and called for an independent assessment into the incident at Callide five days after that independent assessment investigation was actually launched by Workplace Health and Safety Queensland. Then the member for Broadwater said, 'The government needs a plan on energy.' Well, member for Broadwater, here it is: we released it over a month ago—the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan.

Mr SPEAKER: The member will put that down or table it.

Mr de BRENNI: Then at 11 am on Saturday the member for Broadwater claimed that there were supply shortages and price impacts, but what was the wholesale price when he was saying that? Was it \$300 like gas power? Was it \$200 like you get from coal? It was in fact negative \$52.88. Those opposite are not serious about supply. They have literally no idea. They do not understand the energy system. That is probably why they are so committed to selling it.

(Time expired)

Environmental Upgrade Agreements

Ms BOLTON: My question is to the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement regarding the introduction of the long-awaited environmental upgrade agreements for commercial properties. Given the advocacy over multiple years for EUAs for residential properties, why does it appear they have not been included in the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for the question and I thank the member for obviously reading the plan—the one that the member for Broadwater is yet to see, something the member for Broadwater ought to do. I know that the member for Noosa is a really strong advocate for the introduction of the environmental upgrade agreement framework. The environmental upgrade agreement framework is a key commitment under the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. We know that buildings, commercial buildings in particular, are some of the significant sources of emissions due to their energy use. I know that the Noosa Shire Council is also a strong supporter of our plan to introduce environmental upgrade agreements. If we are going to move forward with our commitments we need to make sure that we partner with organisations like local government, so I welcome the support of the Noosa Shire Council.

Environmental upgrade agreements are a financial instrument that have been designed particularly to assist commercial building owners. They were designed to assist those commercial building owners who found it difficult to attract capital at a particular time in our economic history to enable them to get the finance that they needed to finance the upgrade of key systems such as large air-conditioning and large lighting systems and the like for those buildings that are large energy users to enable them to replace lighting with modern, low-energy LED lighting; to upgrade old air-conditioning systems to newer modern, efficient systems; and to deliver upgrades to building management systems, including a reduction in their energy use and their water use.

These are upgrades that save money and reduce emissions. That is why our government has committed to delivering the environmental upgrade agreement arrangements. In many cases it is commercial building owners who find it most difficult to do that, as opposed to residential building owners. However, if the member for Noosa—in fact, if any member of the House has some additional information they would like to bring to the attention of the government in terms of how those environmental upgrade agreements can be extended to residential homes then we are, as always, keen to listen. We are keen to engage with those communities. I can inform the House that our government will be holding consultation in 2023 on the delivery of the environmental upgrade agreement framework and are more than happy to receive ideas and recommendations from the member for Noosa or any member of this House.

Waste Management

Ms LAUGA: Happy World Town Planning Day! My question is to the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs. Can the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is taking action on waste and recycling through policy and investment and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms SCANLON: I thank the member for the question. It is National Recycling Week and we have just announced a massive expansion of our Containers for Change program. We have done a lot in this state we should be proud of. In the member's electorate we have helped fund the new resource recovery centre in Yeppoon, we have banned single-use plastic items and we are creating the largest single investment in recycling and jobs in Queensland's history. To deal with problematic waste streams we are funding infrastructure to deal with solar panels, tyres, plastics, glass—the list goes on—and we are tackling food and organic waste with an aim to halve it by 2030 by investing in large-scale composting infrastructure and FOGO trials. We are doing kerbside collection trials in the member's electorate, food rescue grants and school organics grants. We are doing important work in the e-waste and textiles space as well.

That is what we on this side of the House are doing, but we know that the passion for recycling is not a bipartisan issue. We have talked extensively about the bizarre fringe views of the member for Callide on Containers for Change, a program I thought was pretty universally accepted. We also know what the track record is of those opposite when they were last in government: repealing the waste levy, turning Queensland into the dumping ground of the country.

There are some things those opposite appear to want to recycle and that is candidates. The Leader of the Opposition could not hack it in Townsville so was recycled on the Gold Coast. He knocked off a young woman, but that is not unusual for the Liberal National Party. Then we read in the paper that they want to recycle that illustrious political name, Andrew Laming. I do not know if he is going to have enough time; he seems preoccupied arguing with the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority, seemingly every media outlet and even anyone who comments on his Facebook page. The Leader of the Opposition says he wants fresh new faces. I think he needs to own up to Queenslanders whether he will intervene in the preselection of people like Andrew Laming at the next state election or will he keep the circular economy going in the Liberal National Party.

We also want to know what else those on that side of the House want to recycle. Will it be their plan to sack workers—in the 31 October interview we heard the Leader of the Opposition say he would cut wasteful spending; the same commitment those opposite made prior to the Newman government getting elected when they sacked 14,000 Queensland public servants—or will they recycle their energy asset plan like they did last time? In fact, recently on TV when he was asked about his government's track record his response was that they were too quick—not that they were wrong; that they were too quick. Newsflash to the Leader of the Opposition: slow asset sales are still asset sales. Maybe he can have a conversation with the shadow minister, because it is very clear that there are no policies there. They might need to recycle a couple of others. On this side of the House we take our responsibilities seriously.

(Time expired)

Minister for Health and Ambulance Services

Mr BLEIJIE: My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Did the minister change the timing of the last parliament's sitting so the minister could go on a booked Melbourne Cup cruise?

Government members interjected.

Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order

Mr SPEAKER: Member, I do not think that a question relating to portfolio responsibilities has been asked. I believe it relates to her function as Leader of the House, which is why the member was not in the seat.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my right! Member, as I said the minister's portfolio responsibilities were not contained in that question. The question would seem to be about a function of her role in the parliament. I rule the question out of order.

Mr Butcher interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gladstone, I do not need your assistance.

Emergency Services, Investment

Mr RUSSO: My question is to the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services. Can the minister please update the House on the government's infrastructure investment in the police, fire, emergency services and corrective services portfolios and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have one minute to respond.

Mr RYAN: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Thank you for your generosity with time as well. Can I thank the very considered member for Toohey for his question. We have a strong commitment when it comes to delivering for the front line: for emergency service workers, for the Queensland Police Service, for corrective services. We have a very strong record when it comes to investing in the infrastructure that they need to do their jobs—record budgets delivering record investment right across the state.

There has never been a time when more money has been spent in regional Queensland for emergency services facilities and police facilities than under this Palaszczuk government. We have a strong commitment to rebuilding police stations right across the state. It is insightful to see the projects that those opposite committed to when they were in government. The only police infrastructure project that they committed to in the first two years of government was at Broadbeach. No wonder the Leader of the Opposition had to knock off a woman to get there.

Mr SPEAKER: The time for question time has expired.

MOTION

Business Program




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

1. That, in accordance with standing order 172, the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 3), the Appropriation Bill (No. 3), and the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be considered as cognate bills for their remaining stages, with:
 - (a) separate questions being put in regard to the second readings;
 - (b) the consideration of the bills in detail together; and
 - (c) separate questions being put for the third readings and long titles.
2. That the following business will be considered this sitting week, with the nominated maximum periods of time as specified:
 - (a) the Building Units and Group Titles and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, a maximum of three hours to complete all stages;
 - (b) the Coal Mining Safety and Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, a maximum of four hours to complete all stages; and
 - (c) the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 3), the Appropriation Bill (No. 3) and the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, to complete all stages by 5.55 pm on Thursday, 10 November 2022.
3. The following time limits for the bills listed in 2. apply:
 - (a) the minister to be called on in reply:
 - (i) for the Building Units and Group Titles and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Coal Mining Safety and Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 45 minutes before the expiry of the maximum hours for those bills;
 - (ii) for the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 3), the Appropriation Bill (No. 3) , and the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 5.10 pm on Thursday, 10 November 2022.
4. If the nominated stage of each bill has not been completed by the allocated time specified in 3., or by 5.55 pm on Thursday, 10 November 2022, Mr Speaker:
 - (a) shall call on a minister to table any explanatory notes to their circulated amendments, any statement of compatibility with human rights or any statement relating to an override declaration;
 - (b) shall put all remaining questions necessary to either pass that stage or pass the bill without further debate;
 - (c) may interrupt non-specified business or debate on a bill or motion to complete the requirements of the motion;
 - (d) will complete all stages required by this motion notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders.

There are a number of important bills to be debated this sitting week. There will be no lost hours as a result of suspending the sitting of parliament, as much as those on the opposite side might want to carry on about the hours. This week we will be debating the appropriation bills, the Betting Tax and

Other Legislation Amendment Bill, the Building Units and Group Titles and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Coal Mining Safety and Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. If we get through all of those that we have set in the business motion there are other bills on the *Notice Paper* equally important to be debating. We have a lot to do in our last two sitting weeks of the year. I look forward to listening to the debate of members of parliament on those important bills.

Hopefully we will get to a point with the business motion and program where we can mature, like the Victorian model, which will see us simply say these are all the bills we are going to debate this week and if they are not completed by the end of the week the questions will be put. We are not quite there yet. We still have to prescribe set times for each bill because I do not think those on the other side can manage their business to ensure that they do not just stack out the first bill and then realise that they will not get to speak on the other bills on the *Notice Paper*. I am more than happy to move this motion in my name and ask that all members support it.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (11.18 am): It will come as no surprise to the Leader of the House that the LNP opposition will not be supporting this motion. Given it has been some time since we have recapped why we are in this position, it is probably worthwhile having another look at it. We have a government bereft of any plan—

Government members interjected.

Mr POWELL: Carrying around a document does not mean you have a plan. Since this government came to power we have seen the number of sitting days and the number of sitting hours reduced year on year. Do not take my word for it. A recent parliamentary research brief showed that in the lower houses of all Australian parliaments, for those that have a bicameral system, the federal government sat for 67 days; the Western Australian and South Australian governments sat for 52 days; Victoria, which the Leader of the House wants us to mirror, sat for 48 days; New South Wales sat for 42 days; Queensland then comes in next at 40, just above Tasmania and the ACT at 36 and 33 respectively.

In a state the size of Queensland, with a population the size of Queensland's and with the complexity of issues that Queensland faces, surely we can meet for more time and more often than the ACT and Tasmania? We are seeing this government display an unwillingness to sit in this chamber. We have less days and we have less hours. Sure, we are starting to mature and, with the passing of the Queen, we did need to postpone and reschedule a sitting week. That has necessitated what I would consider to be some improvements. We are now sitting late on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, which allows more members of parliament the opportunity to speak. This is not about managing who speaks on which bills; it is about ensuring that every democratically elected member of parliament in this chamber has the democratic right to speak on whichever legislation they wish. We are also sitting on Fridays, which again has allowed more members of parliament to speak. We are nearly there. I acknowledge that, in the last sitting, out of three debates only one or maybe two were guillotined. Why? Because by sitting later, by sitting longer and by sitting more often, every member of parliament has an opportunity to have their say on the legislation they want to speak to.

What are we lacking? What is the one thing that could improve things? We could sit later on the Friday as well. If we did that then I am sure we would not need to guillotine any debate this week. We could have members speaking on the building bill, which is first up, and then we could go to the coalmining legislation and, ultimately, the cognate debate—as they have chosen to do—on the appropriations and the betting tax bill. All the speakers who want to speak to those bills could do so.

When we debated the changes to the sessional orders and pulling up stumps on Friday, I made the comment that I thought it might have been because the Premier had a red carpet event to attend. I commented that somewhere around the state of Queensland there was a red carpet that the Premier needed to be on on the Friday. As the member for Kawana put it, were the sessional orders changed for Friday to reflect the travel arrangements of the Leader of the House? No-one is going to say that a member of this House does not have—

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. One, it is not relevant to this motion and, two, I take personal offence and the member should—resign, actually—withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): The member has taken personal offence. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr POWELL: I withdraw. No-one suggests that any member of parliament does not deserve a holiday. All members of parliament work very hard.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order is on relevance. This is not relevant to the motion.

Honourable members interjected.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members will stop quarrelling across the chamber. Member, I will ask you to come back to the substance of this motion. The matters that you are raising relate to another motion. This motion is about the business of the House for this week.

Mr POWELL: As I was saying, we would be able to address the business of this week were we to sit longer. We would be able to address the *Notice Paper* and the legislation that sits on that *Notice Paper* were we to sit longer. We have said from day one that we are happy to sit late each night and we are happy to sit late on Fridays. We are happy to sit here as long as is necessary to ensure that every member of parliament has the opportunity to speak. I echo the question: if the government has changed sessional orders to accommodate a holiday rather than ensuring that we can get through the legislation that—

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I have already taken personal offence to that comment and it has already been withdrawn. The member has deliberately restated it. He should withdraw.

Mr POWELL: I withdraw, Mr Deputy Speaker. Again, we are almost there. If this parliament sat later and longer and if it sat for more days then these business program motions would not be necessary. If we are to be mature like Victoria, as the Leader of the House has said, we need to start sitting as long as the Victorian parliament does.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the next speaker, I remind the House of those members who are on a warning: Nanango, Toowoomba South, Clayfield, Bundaberg, Thuringowa, Toowoomba North, Broadwater, Murrumba, Currumbin, Logan, Pumicestone, Mudgeeraba and Scenic Rim.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (11.25 am): I relish this opportunity to make a cameo appearance in this debate. At the outset I state that I support the business program motion moved by the Leader of the House. It is part of the orderly process set out and provided for under sessional orders to manage the business of this House, as happens in every parliament in the world. I will address that point for a couple of moments before coming to some of the debating points made by the Manager of Opposition Business.

Let me make it clear: this is a practice that takes place in every parliament in the world. We hear cries from the other side of the parliament that somehow this is a degradation of democracy and that somehow it is an attack on our Westminster traditions. This practice happens at Westminster. This practice happens in the House of Commons. The programs are set, the voting times are set and you have a mature opposition that manage their business. You have a capable opposition that manage their contributions. You do not have a bunch of people who are incapable of managing their own team. You do not have a bunch of people who are actually too lazy to make an intellectual contribution but throw up their hands, throw the toys out of the cot and have a whinge every Tuesday morning about this process. You do not have that.

I come to the matters raised by the Manager of Opposition Business in his contribution. He went through the statistics on the sitting days and sitting times of other jurisdictions. He does not have the intellectual rigor to point out that, in comparison to those jurisdictions that have more sitting days than we do, ours is a unicameral parliament and, therefore, we do not have a process whereby legislation comes back to this House. Each bill actually takes longer to be dealt with in those parliaments than in this chamber. That is embarrassing evidence that there is a lack of understanding of parliamentary procedure and parliamentary commitment. This is an embarrassing process.

In those jurisdictions throughout the rest of the country that have a business program process what happens is that the opposition take it seriously and commit to it. They understand that they need to manage their own business. I think this week we are seeing some evidence of people managing their own business as there are only six opposition speakers on the bill that we will start debating this morning. They are obviously managing their time. I hope this is further evidence of a transition to seeking to and deciding how they manage their time.

There is a final point that I want to make in relation to the contributions to the debate this morning. One of the contributions contained an appeal to sit longer on Fridays and that comment was made in the debate around this week's sitting program. Let us be clear: we know that, under the sessional orders, we are not sitting on Friday of this week. We are not sitting on Friday because, of course, it is Remembrance Day. The lack of respect shown by those people opposite to those people who have paid the ultimate sacrifice is disgraceful.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take deep personal offence and I ask that the minister withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take some advice.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Nanango! The member on their feet did not name you personally.

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

AYES, 50:

ALP, 50—Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Madden, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, 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, 33—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Pair: Bailey, Camm.


Resolved in the affirmative.

BUILDING UNITS AND GROUP TITLES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 28 October (see p. 3268), on motion of Ms Fentiman—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (11.34 am), continuing: In resuming debate on this bill, I again thank the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee for its consideration of the Building Units and Group Titles and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. I also take the opportunity to thank the stakeholders who made submissions to assist the committee in its consideration of the bill as well as stakeholders who participated in earlier consultation undertaken by government during development of the bill. I am pleased to note that in its report about the bill which was tabled on 12 August 2022 the committee recommended that the bill be passed. I acknowledge that the member for Noosa raised some issues in a statement of reservation included with the committee's report. I will address those issues.

At the outset, I emphasise that the government appreciates the importance of Queensland's community titles sector. Community titles provide a wide range of housing and investment choices for an increasing number of Queenslanders. The government also recognises that body corporate issues can be complex and often attract a range of views and perspectives from stakeholders. The community titles sector needs to be supported by frameworks based on modern, fair and transparent standards of governance as well as effective protections for owners. This is why the government is undertaking an extensive reform program for Queensland's community titles legislation.

As promised in the lead-up to the 2020 state election, the government has established a community titles legislation working group. The group is comprised of peak stakeholder representatives to provide advice to government about how best to address many issues and challenges facing unit owners and bodies corporate. I am also pleased to note that as part of the budget the government committed an additional \$2.45 million over three years for the Office of the Commissioner for Body Corporate and Community Management, which will be used to support implementation of the reforms contained in the bill we are currently debating.

Before I speak to the specific objectives of the bill amendments, I would like to briefly acknowledge the problems and issues being experienced by some of the people who will benefit from this bill. I again refer to the unit owners and residents at Couran Cove Island Resort on South Stradbroke

Island. Members may remember that I briefly mentioned some of the residents of Couran Cove at the previous sitting. I want to acknowledge a number of them who have been very active in lobbying for changes and have met with me about the challenges they face: Beck Haesler, Shelley Stumbles, Daniel Purser, Michelle Kelly, Anthony Duncan, Andrea Gannon, Allan Cleveland, Claire Cleveland, Michelle Bowden, Dave Bowden, Gabrielle McCosker, Matthew O'Connor, Michael Reichle, Karen Angel and many others. I know that some of them are here again today to hear the debate of this bill.

Couran Cove is one of the developments regulated under the legislation that this bill will amend. As some members would be aware, unit owners at Couran Cove have experienced significant problems in recent years including disruptions to privately provided essential utility services, ongoing disputes and court actions, and allegations of large amounts of debt owing to and between bodies corporate at the development. Problems at Couran Cove escalated recently to the extent that privately supplied water and electricity services to some residents were disconnected. I am deeply concerned for those residents affected by disconnections, particularly those who are elderly or who are vulnerable and have health problems. I thank staff in my department and also Minister Enoch's department for reaching out with information about emergency assistance to people affected.

I want to make it clear that the bill is not an intervention into specific issues and disputes at Couran Cove, many of which are subject to judicial or quasi-judicial processes. Similarly, I want to make it clear that I have not intervened in, or expressed a view on, any of the legal issues at Couran Cove. This bill does aim to support unit owners and residents in relevant developments, including Couran Cove, by fostering a better body corporate governance framework that provides more confidence in body corporate decision-making and more scope for unit owners to have a say in decisions that affect them. I know that many unit owners and residents at Couran Cove are appreciative of the government's efforts to improve circumstances for developments like theirs and are eager to see the bill passed.

An incident having occurred in the public gallery—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Visitors in the gallery, there will be no applause.

Ms FENTIMAN: As I outlined in my introductory speech, the main objective of the bill is to improve the operation of the Building Units and Group Titles Act 1980, which I will refer to as BUGTA, and the Mixed Use Development Act 1993, which I will refer to as the MUD Act. The clear focus of the bill is making body corporate governance arrangements under these two acts fairer and more transparent for unit owners. The bill also makes minor unrelated amendments to the Fair Trading Act 1989 to enable the Office of Fair Trading to issue infringement notices for breaches of consumer protection provisions of the Australian Consumer Law relating to gift cards.

As members may recall, most community titles developments in Queensland operate under the Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997, also known as the BCCM Act. However, prior to the commencement of the BCCM Act, several complex community titles style developments were established using a combination of specific planning legislation such as the MUD Act and BUGTA. Those developments did not transition to the BCCM Act in 1997 and continue to operate under specialised planning laws including BUGTA.


The bill contains targeted reforms aimed at addressing the most pressing deficiencies in the MUD Act and BUGTA. In many instances, reforms contained in the bill are based on existing provisions and approaches of the BCCM Act. For example, the bill contains provisions to facilitate information and education services for unit owners and bodies corporate operating under BUGTA. The bill also aims to make dispute resolution services more accessible, by providing simpler arrangements for making applications and clarifying how disputes are resolved. Most importantly, the amendments in the bill also mean that where a community body corporate has an arrangement to provide essential utilities, it must take all reasonable steps to ensure the continuity of those services—for example, by undertaking necessary repairs and maintenance as quickly as possible.

As a member of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, the member for Noosa raised several points in a statement of reservation that I would like to address. The member noted the growth of the community titles sector and advocated for additional funding for the Office of the Commissioner for Body Corporate and Community Management. I appreciate, and agree with, the member for Noosa's recognition of the continuing importance of information, education and dispute resolution services provided by the commissioner's office given the huge growth that we have seen in the community titles sector. As I mentioned earlier, the government has committed almost \$3.5 million in additional funds for the commissioner's office to implement the reforms contained in the bill, along with the government's rental reforms as they relate to bodies corporate.

The member for Noosa also pointed out that stakeholders have raised a range of issues that are not covered by the bill. The member is correct that stakeholders have raised a wide range of issues and concerns about not only BUGTA and the specified acts but also the BCCM Act and its regulation modules. The Community Titles Legislation Working Group established by the government is considering a significant number of those matters, including potential further reforms to harmonise BUGTA and the BCCM Act. However, the amendments in this bill have been prioritised to address serious deficiencies in BUGTA and the MUD Act. They are complex pieces of legislation and we have prioritised the most pressing concerns. Our Community Titles Legislation Working Group continues to look at all of the issues faced by community titles in Queensland. Further legislation will be progressed.

Finally, the member for Noosa was concerned that the bill did not include provisions to allow bodies corporate to recoup costs when undertaking debt recovery proceedings. Debt recovery under the BCCM Act, including issues raised by stakeholders about recovery costs, is one of the topics being considered by the Community Titles Legislation Working Group. It is important to note that this analysis and consideration is to be completed before including any new cost recovery provision in BUGTA or other acts, based on the existing BCCM Act provisions.

In summary, this bill contains important, targeted amendments to improve the operation of BUGTA and the MUD Act. These amendments will facilitate better services for unit owners and make body corporate governance fairer and more transparent. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (11.44 am): I too welcome those residents, investors and owners at Couran Cove who are here today, and in particular a frequent correspondent of mine, Mr Daniel Purser, who managed to find my email address and sends emails to me at all hours of the day and night. I am equally happy to respond to him at all hours of the day and night, including last night. To Daniel and David Bowden, who came to see me to make sure I was fully across all the issues in relation to this legislation, and all the other, as they are described, Couran Cove warriors, welcome. I hope that after three hours of debate on this bill you walk away from parliament thinking that at least someone has listened to you and that the Parliament of Queensland will do something for you. Welcome along. I hope you enjoy the rest of my speech.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: In doing so, you will join my many colleagues in this place who will enjoy it as well.

The LNP will be supporting this bill, of course. As we consider the bill, we might reflect on the words of Sir Peter Delamothe, the Liberal member for Bowen—and that is saying something—and minister for justice and attorney-general, who, in 1964, when introducing the very first Building Units Titles Bill, said—

It is not within human power to make neighbours live together in harmony.

I think that is as true today as it was 58 years ago. Because of that we find ourselves delving into the arcane depths of body corporate law. It is vital we recognise the importance of effective community title legislation for the many hundreds of thousands of owners of lots in community title schemes as well as the owners of lots in complex schemes covered by various pieces of special purpose legislation.

In its 2017 options paper, the Commercial and Property Law Research Centre at QUT said—

Bodies corporate are often referred to as the 'fourth tier of government'. Like a government, bodies corporate provide services and create laws (in the form of by-laws). Unlike a government, however, bodies corporate are made up of private individuals who voluntarily enter into agreement with other private individuals to share the costs of owning and maintaining private property. The mixture of individual ownership of lots and collective ownership of common property creates unique challenges for balancing individual and collective rights. If some individuals fail to follow the rules or pay their share of the expenses, this can have dramatic consequences for the other individuals in the community.

I am sure there are many members in this place who have had representations from constituents who live in community title schemes dealing with the conflicts that inevitably arise and the obligations and consequences when people do not do what they are obliged to do.

This bill is important as it addresses longstanding shortfalls in the way in which bodies corporate in mixed use developments that rely on provisions in the Building Units and Group Titles Act, BUGTA, are managed. The recent history of community title legislation helps explain why this bill—and hopefully the others that the Attorney-General has mentioned to follow—is needed. Some considerable detail is provided in the explanatory notes. For those who want to really go into the depths of it, I recommend those. Perhaps I can save people the agony of reading those and they just have to have the agony of listening to me.

I say recent history because it is a history that I clearly remember. When I first started having an involvement with bodies corporate as a very young and enthusiastic articulated clerk, BUGTA was only three years old. When the BCCM Act came into being in 1997, a large part of the legal work I was involved with was strata titling. I was involved in one of the earliest CBD strata title office developments at 344 Queen Street—which is where the first Merlo coffee shop was located. As similar types of development and more complex plans emerged, the limitation of BUGTA became more obvious. As acceptance of the provisions of the 1994 Land Title Act grew, including the establishment of an electronic register and the virtual abolition of paper titles, the reality of the need for new community titles legislation grew.

As the explanatory notes helpfully point out, most of those early developments were simple subdivisions of land or buildings with a single body corporate, so they were quite straightforward. You either had lots that were divided along a line and they were group titles lots, or you had units created by the walls, ceilings and floors going up in a building and they were building unit lots.

Complex developments could be created but they relied on special planning acts to provide for the establishment and governance of an overarching hierarchical structure for development subdivisions and associated bodies corporate, combined with the BUGT Act to provide for the establishment and governance of individual subsidiary layer subdivisions and their associated bodies corporate. The special acts created the overarching planning regime and then they incorporated the BUGT Act, which dealt with the management issues for each of the subsidiary schemes in those larger more complex developments. In effect, the special acts set out the planning and high-level structural matters and the BUGT Act covered governance matters and had to work hand in hand. They had to work in conjunction. One of those special acts is one we are dealing with here today which is the Mixed Use Development Act, which was originally passed in 1993.

After the BCCM Act commenced in 1997—which was the replacement, if you like, for the BUGT Act—most developments under the old BUGT Act transitioned to it. For a variety of reasons, complex schemes did not and they remained under the old structure. There were good reasons for that at the time. There was a fear that, in transitioning, some of those matters would not be covered by the new legislation. There was a good and proper understanding for those in complex schemes, particularly the developers of those complex schemes, about what they were going to be entitled to do in further stages of development.

Since then, as the BCCM Act and its regulations have been amended and updated, there has been only limited reform to the BUGT Act and the MUD Act. Having been set, if you like, back in 1993 and 1980, it was sort of left alone. There was no real attention paid to advancing the cause of complexes under both of those acts. This means that while those BUGT Act developments that transitioned to the BCCM Act have benefited from enhancements to that act since its commencement, schemes in complex developments that remain regulated under a mix of the BUGT Act and the MUD Act have not. Time has taken its toll on those complex scheme developments. It has been apparent for many years that the provisions in BUGTA required significant changes to bring it into line with modern community title living needs and expectations. This is in fact recognised on page 2 of the explanatory notes to this bill under the heading 'Deficiencies of the BUGT Act and MUD Act are increasingly apparent'.

The former LNP government recognised this problem almost a decade ago and, as a result, in August 2013 commissioned the QUT Commercial and Property Law Research Centre to conduct an independent review of Queensland's property laws. The review explored a range of issues involving community titles schemes and, after extensive and lengthy consultation and options papers issued over three years, it resulted in three reports being delivered to this government in 2017 and 2018.

The first report dealt with body corporate governance issues including by-laws and debt recovery. It was released in 2017. The second report dealt with procedural issues including voting procedures and meeting procedures for bodies corporate. It was released in 2017. The third and final report provided recommendations for consistency between the Body Corporate and Community Management Act—that is the current act—and BUGTA. It was delivered to government in 2018. That final report contained seven recommendations. The question is: why has it taken so long—four years—for this Labor government to act? That is also the question that I think many long-suffering residents and owners in mixed-use development schemes have been asking and it is a question that is unanswered.

While this is not directed to any one community scheme, the example of Couran Cove sets out the problems that this delay has caused most starkly. Mr Purser will be referred to a number of times in my speeches but he is a victim of his own activity by turning up and speaking at the committee

hearings. Mr Purser, an owner at Couran Cove, gave evidence to the committee and is a very strong supporter of the changes in this legislation. He finds it difficult to believe that these changes have taken so long to be brought on. In fact, he was so frustrated that in the last sitting week of this parliament he re-sent a letter outlining the issues at Couran Cove that he originally sent to the member for Redcliffe as then attorney-general on 4 June 2019. This was his plea to the Leader of the House back then—

Please push the BUGTA bill to the top of the list for final debate! This has been dragging on way too long! It was already a problem in 2019 when I wrote to you then and it certainly hasn't got any better!

What is the problem? Here is an outline of the problem as one owner of a unit at Couran Cove told me. They said—

One company owes our body corporate over \$14M. That debt has been accumulating over many, many years. That is \$14M of budgeted expenses including daily repairs and maintenance and long-term sinking fund projects on buildings, water systems, sewer treatment facilities and generators, which is money that obviously isn't available to be spent. Due to a critical shortage of funds, the island is falling apart around our ears. Regular power outages, substandard water quality and sewer overflows have become the norm. At the same time as owing money, the same people behind the unfinancial entities are getting themselves and their friends and business associates onto the island body corporate and controlling the big decisions, even though they are hopelessly unfinancial due to unpaid levies. Some of these decisions include offering themselves discounts not available to other owners, preventing debt collection processes to be taken against themselves to collect unpaid levies and also blocking the appointment of legal practitioners to defend the regular onslaught of legal actions brought about by the same parties.

This is a foul witch's cauldron of problems all brought about because the legislation was not properly updated when it ought to have been—people owing large amounts of money, restricting others from being able to get on to bodies corporate but using their positions themselves to be able to block those very same bodies corporate from recovering the debts that they owe! The owner goes on to say—

The new Act changes will hopefully make these conflicted people ineligible to hold body corporate positions and put the power back in the hands of the mums and dads to who have to pay their levies.

In evidence to the committee Mr Purser said—

It has been a long time coming since the 2018 property law review regarding the inconsistency between BUGTA and BCCM was released.

It has been a long time indeed for the many ordinary mum-and-dad owners and investors who have paid their way.

Other evidence to the committee reinforces the difficulties unit owners at Couran Cove have faced over that time. Indeed submitters were thankful to the Attorney-General and the working group for bringing this bill forward and for finally acting. I acknowledge that there is a great degree of relief amongst those unit owners and I am sure others in similar circumstances. There are about a dozen other complex schemes covered by this type of legislation. This bill is certainly welcome, but equally it is abundantly clear the problems the bill hopefully addresses have been ongoing for 'many, many years'. It has been an ongoing concern for the LNP and it is why I questioned the Attorney-General in estimates in 2020 about progress on the implementation of reforms to property law and body corporate legislation. At that stage—that is now nearly two years ago—we were advised that a new community titles working group headed up by the deputy director-general of liquor, gaming and fair trading would be leading the process of bringing about change.

Unfortunately, while all this has been going on, the residents of those mixed-use development schemes have continued to pay the price. As any review of the media shows, residents at Couran Cove have certainly borne the brunt of those delays. In June 2020, a service provider—this is someone who provides electricity to the island—associated with the resort manager—that is, the person who manages the resort—bought a \$15 million claim against the body corporate. This is despite the fact that associated entities of that very same service provider—the person suing for \$15 million—owed the body corporate millions in unpaid levies. It effectively denied the body corporate the capacity to pay the service provider, and the service provider then chose to sue the body corporate! The situation was so farcical that the utility supplier to the island cut off gas supplies because maintenance had slipped so badly the gas lines had become unsafe. The result was residents had no gas for hot water or for cooking, and the residents were advised to go out and buy butane camping cookers!

Amid a plethora of claims and counterclaims, residents also could not rely on the body corporate manager and were told to get their own legal advice at the cost of thousands of dollars—again, obligations that a properly run body corporate should have accepted and taken on themselves. Regrettably, the situation has deteriorated. Originally I had written 'in the last five weeks' since this bill was set to come on for debate. Two weeks ago I changed it to 'seven weeks'. Now it is nine weeks!

Only six weeks ago on Wednesday, 28 September electricity was cut off to many of the ecocabins lived in by residents. Distressing scenes of elderly residents sitting on top of electrical boxes to stop contractors disconnecting the power were reported in the *Gold Coast Bulletin*. I table a copy of that report.

Tabled paper: Media article, undated, titled 'Police called to Couran unrest' [1848].

Only five weeks ago there were reports of water being cut to residents' homes without warning. I table a copy of that report from the *Gold Coast Bulletin* as well.

Tabled paper: Media article, undated, titled 'Power axed, water cut and Couran Cove residents scared to speak' [1849].

It is not the purpose of this legislation to determine the rights and wrongs of any one development or dispute. The dispute at Couran Cove is complex, difficult, difficult to follow and, quite frankly, a lawyer's picnic. It is the purpose of this place to pass fair, proper, and modern laws that enable such disputes to be resolved and, to the greatest extent, resolved quickly and economically. Realistically, ordinarily residents cannot afford the costs of lengthy disputes, nor should they be expected to bear the costs of such a large burden simply to live in their own homes in a community titles scheme.

I do say that, despite this legislation being welcome, it is to this government's shame that it has taken so long to get this bill brought forward. I note there is still more to come that has been delayed for far too long as well. I also note clause 2 of the bill provides that parts 2, 4 and 5 and schedule 1 commence on a day to be fixed by proclamation. These are the operative parts. These are the parts of the legislation that the residents who are in the gallery today and others in bodies corporate need to have in place in order to resolve their circumstances. I ask the Attorney in her response to the debate to shed some light on when she expects royal assent to be given by the Governor to this legislation because this bill needs to be brought on before the Executive Council for royal assent as a matter of urgency after it passes this place. Many people are waiting anxiously for these parts of the bill to come into effect. As we have seen, even a delay of nine weeks since the bill was first expected to be debated has led to further grief and trouble in some of these developments.

I also ask whether the Attorney can confirm that all necessary procedures, forms and practices are in place to facilitate these changes. It is important that the process and system is in place so that we do not just have a piece of legislation that says, 'This is what is to happen,' but that the forms and processes and staff are in place so that when an applicant turns up on day one there is an answer and they are not told to 'come back in 10 days time when we have the form ready' or 'We don't have someone trained to deal with this matter.' It needs to be in place and ready to go once the bill receives assent and comes into effect.

I also want to urge on the Attorney that sufficient funds be made available to ensure the body corporate commissioner can deal with complaints and disputes when they inevitably arise following the proclamation of the new laws. I have already noted there is \$2.5 million—but it is important to note that is over three years—allocated to the office of the body corporate commissioner. Will that \$2.5 million, just over \$700,000 a year, be sufficient to address the issues and make sure there are sufficient resources in place to deal with the matters that are contemplated by this legislation? Is it a sufficient amount? Someone at a scheme said to me—

We know that the conflicted people have already started transferring properties to 3rd parties in anticipation of the new Bill—

so those people who have been doing the wrong thing have already started taking action because they know this bill is coming through—

and we know there will be more fights coming up and cutting through red tape when they start crying and filing to the Body Corporate referee. Something you could agitate possibly is to lean on the AG and demand that they have dedicated resources available to deal with the conflicted people as a result of the changes. We would really hate to see these new applications put on the end of the queue as we are already seeing blow out of over 6 months in current referee applications.

I ask the Attorney-General on behalf of those people to please make sure there are adequate funds and resources made available so that disputes are not left languishing at the end of a long line.

Laws with no real prospect of speedy application or power of enforcement and resolution would be a cruel hoax on owners who have waited so long for help. In this respect I note the comments in the explanatory notes about the cost of implementation, including the provision of information and education services and a period of implementation and adjustment by referees. We know that is going to have to happen, but we want to make sure it happens in the fastest time possible. It may well be the case—and perhaps the Attorney can answer this—that steps have already been taken, training is already underway and that referees are aware of the changes brought about by this bill. The explanatory notes also note that it is expected there will be a modest, but not insignificant, rise in dispute resolution applications, so there will be an increase and there needs to be resources to deal with that.

There is much in this bill that will hopefully go a long way to resolving disputes more promptly and fairly, and provisions of the bill that address a number of the most common complaints about the existing situations are peppered throughout. There are obligations on bodies corporate to act reasonably and new definitions are inserted in both BUGTA and the MUD Act provisions covering a plethora of defined terms such as 'associates', 'electable persons', 'service provider' and 'relevant body corporate debt', amongst others. These are new terms that need to be worked out and decided by referees in matters of dispute.


Importantly, new section 32A inserted by clause 8 of the bill provides that the body corporate may recover as a debt any levy contribution that is not paid within 30 days. A body corporate can take action after 30 days to recover a debt, but subsection 2, more importantly, says the body corporate must start proceedings to recover any contribution levy that has been outstanding for two years and 30 days. They must start taking action after two years and 30 days. This is an important change that goes some way to ensuring bodies corporate are maintained on a sound financial footing and that defaulting owners do not get a free ride from those owners who are doing the right thing. Again, this is exactly the situation that has been occurring at Couran Cove.

Another clause I want to highlight is clause 35 of the bill, which amends section 172 by inserting provisions that protect small lot owners from the capricious actions of a substantial undeveloped lot owner who fails to pay levies and therefore renders a subsidiary body corporate unfinancial and hence unable to participate in body corporate meetings of the scheme. Again, this is what is happening at Couran Cove. Clause 35 amends section 172 by providing provisions to protect those small lot owners in certain circumstances.

I also want to briefly acknowledge changes to the Fair Trading Act to give the Office of Fair Trading infringement notice powers consistent with powers already able to be exercised by the Commonwealth in relation to the use of gift cards issued in Queensland. Those changes are uncontroversial and bring Queensland law into line with the rest of the country.

While this bill may not be the final word and there are hopefully further steps in reforming the community titles sector to come, we do not want to let the pursuit of the perfect be the enemy of the good. While not perfect, as many submitters have said—and I acknowledge the very many submitters including organisations, solicitors and others involved in the administration of bodies corporate—this bill will go a long way to fixing some of the immediate and most pressing problems that are being experienced by owners as well as some of the longer term issues that have been festering for far too long.

As I said at the beginning, I want to thank everyone who made contributions, those who contacted me and those who have carried on the fight for a long time against sometimes seemingly impossible odds to provide safe homes, accommodation and the provision of basic services to people. Congratulations! Hopefully, today part of that battle will have been resolved in your favour and you will see a far better outcome and experience a far better outcome than you have to date. We will be supporting the bill.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (12.09 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Building Units and Group Titles and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. The Building Units and Group Titles and Other Legislation Amendment Bill was introduced into the Legislative Assembly and referred to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee on 21 June 2022. The policy objectives of the bill are to: improve the operation of the Building Units and Group Titles Act 1980 and the Mixed Use Development Act 1993 with a focus on making body corporate governance arrangements fairer for proprietors; and provide for effective and consistent enforcement options for gift card requirements under the Australian Consumer Law in Queensland. The committee, in its report No. 30 which was tabled in the Assembly on 12 August 2022, has recommended to the Assembly that this bill be passed.

Stakeholders and subscribers were invited by the committee to make written submissions on the bill, with 15 submissions being received by the committee. I would like to thank those subscribers and people who appeared before the committee to give evidence. The submissions received by the committee for this inquiry traversed a broad spectrum of body corporate related issues, some outside the scope of the bill. There have been successive Queensland acts providing for community title style developments since the mid-1960s. These acts have allowed for land or buildings to be subdivided into individually owned freehold lots and common property. The arrangements covering the community title style developments were established to provide a governance body for these developments. Over time, the governance for these developments became more complex.

The Body Corporate and Community Management Act allowed for the establishment of complex, multilayered community titles schemes, including developments intended to be progressively subdivided over a series of stages. Prior to the commencement of the Body Corporate and Community Management Act, several complex, multilayered community titles scheme developments were established using a combination of specialised planning laws in conjunction with the Building Units and Group Titles Act. These specialised planning laws, also known as the 'specified acts', include the Mixed Use Development Act 1993, the Integrated Resort Development Act 1987 and the Sanctuary Cove Resort Act 1985.

In these complex and multilayered developments, the overarching body corporate may have been responsible for the provision of essential utility services, including, for example, sewerage services, electricity, gas or water. The predecessor to the Body Corporate and Community Management Act was the BUGTA, which did not cater for these types of complex developments. Basic community titles schemes established under the BUGTA transitioned to the newly commenced Body Corporate and Community Management Act. However, because of the substantial level of complexity and risk, multilayered developments did not transition to the Body Corporate and Community Management Act and continue to be governed by both the relevant 'specified act' used to establish the scheme and the Building Units and Group Titles Act.

Historically, the proprietors of multilayer schemes under the Mixed Use Development Act and other specified acts have generally not benefited from those original or subsequent Body Corporate and Community Management Act improvements. Evidence provided to the committee and the department during the public consultations for the exposure draft of the legislation highlighted concerns around a lack of requirements to ensure acceptable levels of probity in governance processes and a lack of protections for proprietors.

Identified deficiencies in the current legislation revealed issues such as: conflicts of interest that influence body corporate decision-making; frequent and costly disputes and court proceedings; corporate interests owing large debts to subsidiary, that is, lower level body corporate, thus preventing, under debtor voting prohibitions, the subsidiary from participating in governance decisions made by the overarching 'parent', that is, a higher level body corporate; disruptions to privately provided utility services; and problems accessing government services and assistance for Building Units and Group Titles Act or Mixed Use Development Act issues.

At the public hearing, the committee heard from witnesses, some of whom gave their evidence as individuals who had experienced issues when trying to resolve outcomes that arose from one or more of these identified deficiencies. Mr Daniel Purser, one of the individuals who appeared as a witness at the hearing, stated—

I am a long-term owner and also a committee member of a body corporate in an extremely troubled BUGTA MUD development. Here today I represent hundreds of owners of our community. I warmly welcome the amendments put forward in bill to BUGTA. I am no lawyer, but in the way that I read the changes I believe that the benefits are numerous.


...

I also strongly agree with the tone of some of the other submissions you have read that suggest that the BCCM is also not perfect and that there are some shortfalls in these BUGTA changes. However, these changes are a huge step in the right direction and will make a real difference for all owners in our building group where a lot of owners and residents are elderly, disabled or just straight-out vulnerable. These changes will give us all a voice. It has been hell. I would like to thank the Attorney-General and her team for taking the initiative of introducing these changes as it has been a long time coming since the 2018 property law review regarding the inconsistency between BUGTA and BCCM was released.

Targeted stakeholder consultation was also undertaken by the department of justice during the development of the bill including with the Community Titles Legislation Working Group, which includes key stakeholders such as the Strata Community Association of Queensland, the Queensland Law Society and the Australian College of Strata Lawyers. While there were some initial concerns about the potential for some measures in the draft legislation to have unintended consequences, these were addressed through a refinement of the proposals in the bill during the consultative period.

Key aspects were identified as being essential to achieving the objectives of the bill. These were: supporting information and education services; enhancing dispute resolution; obligations of bodies corporate; committee eligibility; subsidiary body corporate representation and voting; committee decision-making; financial management; and information disclosure. The proposed bill includes amendments for improving body corporate committee governance, including: a requirement to act reasonably; provisions to prevent conflicts of interest by tightening up committee membership and committee voting eligibility; and provisions to ensure important information about body corporate governance activities is given to proprietors.

The proposal under the bill whereby a person may not be elected as a voting member of a committee or executive committee if the person or an associate of the person owes a debt to the body corporate or an associated body corporate, or is a body corporate manager for the body corporate or an associated body corporate, was welcomed by the stakeholders and communicated with the committee during the inquiry. This process will provide the opportunity for the people most affected—that is, the unit holders themselves—by the actions, or inactions, of the body corporate to have a voice in their body corporate. The amendments support the financial viability of bodies corporate by placing restrictions around the use of inappropriate offset arrangements to satisfy levy contributions in place of monetary payments and by putting in place appropriate debt recovery time frames. The amendments will also prevent proprietors in subsidiary schemes, especially resident lot owners, from being excluded from participation in community body corporate governance solely due to debts owed by owners in their subsidiary. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (12.19 pm): The member for Clayfield has covered a great deal of the substance of matters in relation to this bill, but there are some other matters that I would like to point to. Before I do that, I acknowledge the people in the gallery watching this debate today who have been very much affected by the issues that are being resolved by this bill. Thank you to all of the submitters to this inquiry, including those who attended the committee's hearings to give evidence to the committee. It is not saying too much to remark that the content of this bill is a little dry at times, but it shows how important it is to those people who are here in the gallery that they have attended parliament not once but twice now in order to see the passage of this bill, such has been the impact of the problems that are being fixed by this bill.

During the committee's hearing, the value of the committee process was shown. We traversed a lot of ground, some of which was relevant to this particular bill, but we also touched on a lot of other things that should be the subject of future reform. I urge the Attorney-General to bring forward further reforms, especially to the BCCM Act, but other acts as well, as soon as possible because there was a wide range of issues identified throughout the committee process that were not in this bill, but were very important nonetheless to those submitters and which spoke to a large number of problems that need fixing in the BCCM and other acts.

Mr Bowden, who appeared before us at committee, said—

I have got to admit, I am a little surprised by you guys. You are really good. I was not sure what to expect here today.

I thank Mr Bowden for his compliments to the committee, especially to the work carried out by the member for Currumbin and the member for Noosa, and the government members of the committee as well, in exploring all of those issues. I think we all learnt a great deal throughout that process. The Attorney-General could look at our report which sets out a very long list of other issues raised in terms of a way forward for future reform. Thank you, Mr Bowden, for that compliment. You were a very good witness as well.

The bill deals with a lot of legacy issues from legislation which has been in place for a long time and, as is the normal course, there were many complex issues raised by stakeholders. I would like to associate myself, as I said, with a lot of the comments from the member for Clayfield. This bill deals with only a small number of these issues, predominantly around body corporate governance arrangements, transparency and dispute resolution, particularly with complex developments at Couran Cove, Sanctuary Cove and Hope Island. They are complex arrangements. As I said, this legislation addresses some of them, but there are others which need to come in the future, including provisions to deal with the recovery of costs for bodies corporate, when they need to take action to recover debts.

A recurring theme throughout the inquiry was the issues faced by bodies corporate where people do not pay their levies that are due, people do not pay contributions that are due, and that that body corporate is forced to take legal action or other action of an adversarial nature to recover that money. However, there is presently no provision to allow those costs to be recovered. That is a problem because there is no disincentive for people not to pay their dues and then have legal action taken against them, like there is in the ordinary course of litigation in business. It is worth noting that whilst most stakeholders were broadly in favour of all the amendments, there was a lack of consensus about what could be done to strengthen the laws and how those amendments would function.

I want to touch on a couple of those issues in relation to this bill. There was some conjecture about some of them. The bill preserves the voting rights of unfinancial subsidiaries to participate in the decision-making of community and precinct bodies corporate where a subsidiary is unfinancial because the owners of undeveloped land in the subsidiary have failed to pay their contributions. This is a real issue for those people who lose all their representation due to the actions of a recalcitrant landholder


in a multilayer body corporate. It is pleasing that the bill will address that issue. Similarly, the BCCMA allows referees in a dispute to order moderate costs of up to \$2,000 where a dispute resolution is found to be frivolous, vexatious, misconceived or without substance. There is some disincentive, but that is a very moderate disincentive to making those type of claims.

I also touch on the fact that there was some opinion in the committee process that the requirement for body corporate committees to act 'reasonably' is too open to interpretation. Certainly many members would be able to relate to that. The concept of what is reasonable can be interpreted very widely. Of course, many members in this House would be able to relate to that in our own practice of dealing with each other across the chamber. What is reasonable to one person is not reasonable to another, and so it is in the relationships of business. As the member for Clayfield pointed out, when one of the bills was introduced 58 years ago, it was noted that you cannot legislate that people will be able to get on with each other, so there will always be these type of disagreements, and that concept of being required to act reasonably can be very open to misinterpretation.

I have already mentioned the issue of there being costs orders for dispute resolution applications. There is a whole shopping list of things that need to be brought forward very quickly by the Attorney-General. When we see that in Queensland there is a very large number of people living in body corporate scenarios—apartments and complexes—where this legislation applies, there should be no more delays of the type we saw bringing this bill forward. Four years is a long time after a review process has been completed for legislation to be formulated and, even then, legislation that does not deal with all of the issues that would have been raised throughout all those reviews.

The fact that it took some very direct action by residents affected, including those from developments like Couran Cove, to bring about this bill speaks volumes about the priorities of the government. They only deal with things when problems get to be very acute, when it is super urgent, whereas if they were more organised and actually gave more priority to the things that need to be fixed for these communities in terms of regulation that affects so many people in Queensland who live in body corporate scenarios, then they would have headed off some of those problems before they became so acute. These are not new problems; they have been around for a very long time.

We will not be opposing the bill. It goes a long way to fixing some of those very drastic problems. There is a whole big list of things that need to be fixed in addition to that body corporate legislation, and the Attorney-General should bring forward another bill to deal with those issues so that the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee can review that and get all those submissions in, in order to bring another bill forward to fix all those issues.

 **Mr HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (12.28 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate around the Building Units and Group Titles and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. On 22 July this year, the committee held a public hearing and six separate individuals or entities gave evidence. This was in addition to 15 written submissions received on 28 June. Thanks as ever to the secretariat staff who worked so hard to bring these hearings and submissions to a smooth and organised process so that they could be properly considered. Thanks also to my fellow committee members.

To the casual observer, the contents of this bill will not set the world on fire, but make no mistake, they are absolutely vital. The solitary recommendation of the committee is that the bill be passed. The objectives of the bill are very straightforward. There are identified deficiencies in the BUGT Act 1980 and the Mixed Use Development Act, or MUDA, of 1993 which this bill seeks to fix. The committee was advised by the department that while the amendments contained in the bill are generic and not intended to be a direct intervention in disputes arising at Couran Cove, consideration has been given to representations of Couran Cove proprietors about what they perceive as the deficiencies in the MUDA and BUGTA. They adversely impact on fair and transparent body corporate governance in relevant developments which result in detriment to proprietors.

I will now touch on a few of the proposed amendments. The changes will capture such things as proposed amendments that in many cases are modelled on existing BCCM provisions to address the identified deficiencies of BUGTA and MUDA to increase transparency and fairness of body corporate governance for proprietors—that is to say unit owners—in relevant developments. The changes facilitate body corporate access to dispute resolution services by relaxing the current requirements. The bill relaxes the special resolution requirements in relation to applications for a referee's order under BUGTA's dispute resolution provisions. This change will make it easier, for example, for a subsidiary body corporate to seek a referee's orders to resolve a dispute it is having with a community body corporate. The bill provides greater flexibility for dispute referees.

The bill expressly requires community and precinct bodies corporate and executive committees—under MUDA—and subsidiary bodies corporate and committees—under BUGTA—to act reasonably when executing their functions including making or not making a decision, which is similar to the BCCM legislation. This approach is largely based on the BCCM legislation with some exceptions.

Crucially, the bill strengthens provisions governing debtors and the composition of committees under BUGTA and executive committees under MUDA. Service contractors, letting agents, body corporate managers and persons owing debt along with prescribed associates of that person will not be eligible for election to the committee in recognition of the potential for related conflicts of interest which could impact the performance of their duties.

While it is good and correct to hear from the department and while it is entirely appropriate for those of us on the committee to wax lyrical about these changes, I think in this instance it would be very useful and very instructive to hear from those members of the public most affected. In this instance, I will speak of Mr Daniel Purser. In the public hearing of 22 July Mr Purser made this contribution as part of his submission to the public hearing. He stated—

Good morning distinguished members of the committee. I am a long-term owner and also a committee member of a body corporate in an extremely troubled BUGTA MUD development. Here today I represent hundreds of owners of our community. I warmly welcome the amendments put forward in bill to BUGTA. I am no lawyer, but in the way that I read the changes I believe that the benefits are numerous.


...

... these changes are a huge step in the right direction and will make a real difference for all owners in our building group where a lot of owners and residents are elderly, disabled or just straight-out vulnerable. These changes will give us all a voice. It has been hell. I would like to thank the Attorney-General and her team for taking the initiative of introducing these changes ...

There were also the words of Mr David Bowden of the Eco Body Corporate Committee, Couran Cove Island Resort. He stated—

We are very encouraged by the detail contained within the Building Units and Group Titles and Other Legislation Amendment Bill as it addresses many of the key problems that have crippled Couran Cove over the past several years.

With such sincere and heartfelt endorsement from submitters who have a lived experience of BUGTA and the MUD Act, I enthusiastically commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (12.33 pm): The main legislation for bodies corporate in Queensland is the Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997 used for governance of subdivisions such as apartment buildings. However, even now as we have heard, some developments remain under the old legislation. The Building Units and Group Titles and Other Legislation Amendment Bill aims to improve the operation of the older Building Units and Group Titles Act, or BUGTA, and the Mixed Use Development Act 1993, which is the MUDA, with a focus on making body corporate governance arrangements much fairer. It does this through supporting information and education services, enhancing dispute resolution—and we heard a lot of those at our hearings—providing clearer obligations of bodies corporate, improved rules for committee membership and decision-making amongst others, which were all very welcomed. However, as outlined in my statement of reservation in the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee report, there are three main concerns in relation to the bill. Even though the Attorney-General has mentioned these with reassurances, I will briefly recount them.

Firstly, the funding relating to this bill was provided in the 2022-23 budget. The government committed an additional \$2.5 million over three years for the Office of the Commissioner for Body Corporate and Community Management to implement the reforms in this bill. However, no additional ongoing funding was provided for the office of the commissioner, which has been under extreme duress due to the increase in Queenslanders living within bodies corporate, leading to delays in resolutions. A funding increase for the office of the commissioner is warranted and needed.

Secondly, there was the limited scope of the bill, which only addresses a fairly narrow, though very important and prioritised, set of issues in the old acts. In saying that, the issues it does address have been welcomed—and we heard earlier from the gallery—by body corporate members of the Couran Cove Island Resort and others, which are administered under the old acts and which have had many difficulties over some years. No doubt there will be celebrations on the passing of these amendments.


However, the submissions—including from my electorate—during the committee's inquiry highlighted a broad range of other issues in the body corporate area that are of major concern and must be addressed. These included the long-term contracts for body corporate managers, procedural issues such as timing for the circulation of minutes and notification of committee meetings as well as who is eligible to be elected to the committee or be a non-voting member. The Attorney has mentioned that

the government has established a community titles legislation working group, CTLWG, to provide advice on key community titles related issues and to promptly address the issues that this bill has failed to do.

Lastly, the bill introduces a new requirement for bodies corporate to commence proceedings to recover a levy debt. Strata Community Association Queensland raised a significant problem with this provision in that, without the ability to recover costs, the body corporate is obliged to incur significant costs which may place the body corporate in a worse financial situation. Again, it is appreciated that the Attorney mentioned the CTLW group and that they will be investigating this. It has also been reassuring that this will not be applicable until this part of the bill is resolved.

As has been raised previously, the practical functioning of the committee system and processes as well as time lines are other examples of the need for review as part of greater efficiencies and outcomes for Queenslanders. I thank our chair, the member for Toohey, fellow committee members, our extremely hardworking secretariat and all submitters as well as witnesses to the hearing. They shared their stories and it was really sad to hear many of them because of what has been occurring. However, it has been good to hear how this bill will assist.

Hopefully, the other changes that are needed will be on the way shortly and all can finally see some light at the end of what has been a very long, dark tunnel. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (12.37 pm): I rise also to make a contribution to the Building Units and Group Titles and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This bill contains amendments to improve the operation of the Building Units and Group Titles Act and the Mixed Use Development Act which, as others have said, are shortened to BUGTA and the MUD Act. The focus of these amendments is on making body corporate governance arrangements more transparent and fairer for proprietors, for example unit owners, in relevant developments.

Currently, there are over 500,000 body corporate lots in more than 50,000 community title schemes across Queensland. For anyone who has been on a body corporate or been managed by a body corporate I think it is fair to say that where we can establish a clear legislative framework, particularly around the expectations of bodies corporate, the role they play, the boundaries of that role, their expectations and transparency and how they communicate with their stakeholders, that clarity really will, in my view, help with preventing disputes for all parties. We heard during the inquiry of the need to make appropriate reforms to clarify their role.

The Strata Community Association of Queensland, whose membership represents around 80 per cent of the lots in Queensland, was largely supportive of the bill. Their view was that it strikes an appropriate balance in most areas between ensuring appropriate governance and protecting harmonious community living by ensuring that genuine conflicts of interest, frivolous and vexatious disputes and appropriate definitions of associates have been accounted for. This bill makes a vast improvement to those acts.

There are several important drivers for the bill. Stakeholders are concerned that BUGTA has not kept pace with the modern body corporate legislation and, as a result, proprietors and BUGTA developments do not enjoy the same protections as unit owners in the body corporate schemes. I think it is fair to say that the experience of proprietors at Couran Cove has illustrated why this reform is so important. For those unfamiliar with the Couran Cove case, it was well documented in the media how proprietors were without access to basic services—water, electricity and gas—for months. Although this bill is not designed to be a direct intervention in or response to those various disputes at Couran Cove, this dispute has helped to highlight the deficiencies in the MUD Act and BUGTA, particularly when compared to Queensland's body corporate legislation. Many of the amendments contained in the bill are based on existing provisions of the body corporate act and will go some way towards offering similar protections towards all proprietors.

I want to talk briefly to a couple of the key reforms that I understand will make a tangible difference to proprietors particularly. The first is in the area of dispute resolution. It will make it easier for bodies corporate to access dispute resolution services. Currently bodies corporate need a special resolution to initiate a proceeding. This bill relaxes that requirement under BUGTA. This change will make it easier, for example, for a subsidiary body corporate to seek referee orders to resolve a dispute it is having with a community body corporate. The bill provides referees with greater flexibility by ensuring they observe natural justice and act in a less formal and technical manner.


Secondly, amendments will expressly require bodies corporate and committees under BUGTA and the MUD Act to act reasonably when carrying out their functions, including making or not making a decision. Critically, the bill includes requirements that where a higher level body corporate enters into

an agreement for the provision of amenities or services and it is an essential utility service, which is prescribed as water, gas, electricity or sewerage, it must take all reasonable steps to ensure continuity of that amenity or service.

On the issue of conflicts of interest, potential conflicts of interest affecting committees are also addressed directly through new provisions requiring committee members to declare and refrain from voting on matters on which they have a conflict of interest. In relation to preserving subsidiary voting rights, the bill includes amendments that will preserve the rights of unfinancial subsidiaries to participate in the decision-making of community and precinct bodies corporate where the subsidiary is unfinancial due to the failure of the owners of undeveloped land in the subsidiary to pay the required contributions.

The bill requires that notices of committee and executive committee meetings be provided to committee members and proprietors prior to their meeting. It also requires that minutes of the committee and executive committee meetings, as well as general meetings, be provided to proprietors within 21 days of the holding of the meeting.

Finally, to minimise any potential increase in unmeritorious dispute resolution applications being made due to particular measures of the bill that expand grounds for dispute, it makes it easier to apply for dispute resolution or generally to increase awareness of rights and responsibilities. The bill allows referees to order moderate costs against an applicant who makes an application that is frivolous, vexatious, misconceived or without substance. This bill is a great step towards resolving some of the issues under the various acts, and I commend it to the House.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (12.43 pm): It is a pleasure to rise and speak to the Building Units and Group Titles and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. I note that there are members of the public from Couran Cove here today in the parliament. I hope that they are still here and can see that the parliament can work together, especially through the committee system, to bring legislation that benefits Queenslanders. I know that it has been a significant issue for them, even though the bill itself is not specifically addressed to them. I thank the Attorney, the shadow Attorney and other members for their contributions. I especially thank the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee for report No. 30 of the 57th Parliament dealing with this bill.

As we have heard, the policy objectives are to improve the operation of the Building Units and Group Titles Act 1980—BUGT Act—and the Mixed Use Development Act 1993—MUD Act—with a focus on making body corporate governance arrangements fairer for proprietors. I was interested to note that these were complex multi-owner developments. The explanatory notes mention the MUD Act, the Integrated Resort Development Act 1987, the Registration of Plans (HSP (Nominees) Pty Limited) Enabling Act 1980 and the Registration of Plans (Stage 2) (HSP (Nominees) Pty Limited) Enabling Act 1984. Mr Deputy Speaker Hart, you may be interested to know that that refers to the Paradise Centre in my electorate of Surfers Paradise. I think the electorates of Southport and Surfers Paradise have more bodies corporate than nearly all the other electorates in the state combined. That has been a significant issue—

Ms Grace: I think it's a photo finish with my electorate!

Mr LANGBROEK: McConnel is now catching up! I have asked questions on notice to try to get a breakdown of all of the bodies corporate. I have been saying for many years that I understand Southport and Surfers Paradise have the highest number of bodies corporate, but it is difficult to get a complete breakdown, partly because of the different definitions and different legislation covering them. There is no doubt that I have lots of bodies corporate in my electorate.

The HSP Nominees issue is interesting for me because Eddie Kornhauser, who was the founder of the Paradise Centre, was a patient of mine as a dentist. The cheques I would receive from him were always in the name 'HSP Nominees'. I can say that I miss those cheques! I do want to acknowledge the contribution of the Paradise Centre. In fact, it is been a significant issue recently in terms of the new beachfront dining that has been designed to improve the amenity of central Surfers Paradise after COVID. What the Paradise Centre has done has led to some re-energising of that precinct towards the beach. It is something that Mayor Tom Tate and the council have encouraged, and the Paradise Centre has made that contribution. Of course, that is occurring under the legislation that covers their particular body corporate.

The second issue that this bill deals with is to provide for effective and consistent enforcement options for gift card requirements under the Australian Consumer Law in Queensland. As is mentioned in the explanatory notes, the ACL gift card provisions prohibit post-purchase fees on gift cards, require a minimum three-year expiry date for gift cards and require the expiry date of the gift card to be prominently displayed. I welcome those measures.

Many of us, especially as we get older and our children have a dilemma as to what to give us, receive gift cards. Especially if you use a portion of it in a purchase, you are never quite sure about the rules when you go to get the rest of the gift card as to whether it is still valid. I see that page 10 of the explanatory notes states—

The relevant clauses ... achieve the policy objectives by making consequential amendments to the infringement notice provisions in the Fair Trading Act to specify that the Commissioner for Fair Trading (Commissioner) can issue an infringement notice if the Commissioner has reasonable grounds to believe that a person has contravened a gift card provision in the ACL ...

...

... the Bill ensures the penalties associated with the Fair Trading Act infringement notices align with the amounts prescribed for these offences in the Competition and Consumer Act 2010.

That is a more minor part of the bill, but I now turn to the most important part. I am regularly contacted by residents dealing with body corporate matters. I am first to acknowledge that most of those matters fall under the BCCM Act. Many of these matters are usually straightforward and pertain to developments of land or buildings with a single body corporate. There are, however, a number of developments on the Gold Coast—Couran Cove on South Stradbroke Island, Sanctuary Cove, Hope Island and the Rhode Island complex in my electorate at Clear Island Waters—where complex body corporate schemes are in place and issues around body corporate governance arrangements, transparency and dispute resolution are far more complex. That, of course, goes along with the Paradise Centre, which I have already mentioned. There are often complaints by proprietors that the developers and operators of these complex schemes use the loopholes in legislation for their own financial advantage or to try to gain control of bodies corporate.

I want to table articles that I think the member for Clayfield may have tabled as well. They are titled '89, alone, power less' and 'Couran Cove "nightmare"' from the *Gold Coast Bulletin* of 24 September 2022 by Melanie Whiting highlighting how residents of Couran Cove, who include the sick and elderly, have become collateral damage of a complex scheme consisting of five bodies corporate on the island.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 24 September 2022, titled 'Part blind elderly island resident left without electricity in Cove sage: 89, alone, power less' [[1850](#)].

Tabled paper: Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 24 September 2022, titled 'Couran Cove "nightmare"' [[1851](#)].

It has been reported that residents of at least 16 homes in Couran Cove have been living without electricity for more than a week over claims of money owed by one of the bodies corporate within the complex body corporate structure. One of those residents was 89-year-old Janne Pitt, who is partially blind and has been unable to wash her clothes, take a shower or charge devices in her home. This is just disgraceful. The desperate situation unfolding in Couran Cove highlights the urgent need for law reform. This bill will bring some immediate relief to the residents of Couran Cove, but I note the concerns of the shadow Attorney that lawyers will be looking forensically at this legislation to see if there is some way for clients to potentially get around some of the provisions.

Unit owners find it difficult to fund complex and costly litigation against developers and operators and are clearly at a disadvantage. Issues unit owners face include: non-payment of levies, exclusion of subsidiary bodies corporate, non-representation of owners, failure to deliver essential services, conflicts of interest and recovery of costs. This legislation goes some way in addressing all of these issues. The government has indicated that there are further stages of amendments to come in tranche 3. I note the concerns that these were based on reports that came back to the government in 2017. However, no time frame has been provided to date for future tranches. I also note that page 2 of the committee report under 'Government consultation on the bill' states—


As advised by the department:

While the amendments contained in the Bill are generic and not intended to be a direct intervention in disputes arising at Couran Cove, consideration has been given to representations of Couran Cove proprietors about what they perceive as the deficiencies in the MUD Act and BUGT Act that adversely impact on fair and transparent body corporate governance in relevant developments and which result in detriment to proprietors.

I note that most stakeholders are supportive of the bill and the LNP is not opposing it. The Strata Community Association is largely supportive of the bill, ensuring that genuine conflicts of interest, frivolous and vexatious disputes and appropriate definitions of 'associates' have been accounted for. With the number of lots under strata schemes increasing, we need a government that is quick to act and that takes the lead on these issues rather than waiting until they get to crisis point.

I will finish as I began. In my electorate of Surfers Paradise there are a growing number of residents living in apartments and complexes. The government continues to work through a review begun by our government. It has led to minor changes, as we heard from the Attorney-General, but we

are seeing issues under the BCCM Act, as referred to by the committee, such as that QCAT members are making individual decisions on vexed issues such as smoking on balconies in unit complexes because of the lack of will to reform the BCCM Act. I note what former attorney-general Peter Delamothé of the Nicklin government said in 1964. It is very hard to legislate for neighbours to have to get on with each other, but it is going to be an increasing issue as we have more and more people living in this type of accommodation. We also need action on the BCCM Act, which is also increasingly out of date.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (12.53 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Building Units and Group Titles and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. In doing so, I want to acknowledge the great work of the Attorney-General and the committee which brought this forward. I also want to acknowledge the residents and the representatives of Couran Cove, some of whom join us today, for their great advocacy in this space.

As we have heard before, the overall objective of the bill is to improve the operation of the Building Units and Group Titles Act and the Mixed Use Development Act. The focus of the legislation is to make body corporate governance arrangements fairer and more transparent for proprietors such as unit owners. This bill also adds to the Palaszczuk government's reform agenda for growing our community titles sector and will deliver a suite of modern and more streamlined laws governing corporate bodies in Queensland. All Queenslanders who own units in community title schemes should enjoy the same rights and protections regardless of the legislative framework that the property is governed by.

The Building Units and Group Titles and Other Legislation Amendment Bill bridges the gap between the protections and support that unit owners and community title schemes under body corporate legislation enjoy that those in older schemes managed under the Building Units and Group Titles Act and the Mixed Use Development Act do not. The amendments proposed in the bill will make governance arrangements in these older schemes fairer for unit owners, and of course fairness underscores everything we do on this side of the House. The reforms will also facilitate easier access to government information and support and provide more accessible and flexible processes to help unit owners resolve disputes. It will be clearer for unit owners or Queenslanders considering purchasing a unit in a community title scheme what they can expect from the body corporate, including that corporate bodies will act reasonably, ensure continuity of essential utility services where it has undertaken to do so and are obligated to take action to remain financially viable. Ensuring all unit owners can access government information and education to assist them understand and manage their investment in a community titles scheme will help to make purchasing a unit in an older scheme more attractive and easier to manage.

Encouraging and supporting investment in community titles schemes will help Queenslanders access safe, secure and affordable housing. The reforms proposed in the bill broaden and enhance protections for unit owners in older community title schemes who have fallen behind and not benefited from the incremental improvements delivered by the body corporate act. This could help reduce the financial and emotional stress experienced by some unit owners in community title schemes by making bodies corporate more transparent and accountable for their activities and decisions and providing more flexible, accessible dispute resolution processes to help unit owners and bodies corporate resolve issues.

The Palaszczuk government is focused on delivering better protections for Queenslanders right across the housing continuum. Through the Queensland Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021-2025, we have also committed to key reforms with respect to retirement villages and manufactured homes and strengthening tenancy laws to provide greater certainty and security for Queenslanders. This important work builds on key protections delivered as a result of our stage 1 rental reforms that commenced last month. The first stage of the Palaszczuk government's rental law reform strengthened laws to ensure safety, security and certainty for Queensland renters by: ending without-grounds eviction and providing appropriate approved reasons to end a tenancy; making it easier for renters to have a pet; ensuring renters have confidence that their rental property is safe, secure and functional by prescribing minimum housing standards; and ensuring people experiencing domestic and family violence have options to end a tenancy quickly and with limited end-of-lease costs.

All of this came into effect on 1 October this year and we are using a staggered approach for other elements regarding those things that I have just mentioned. The department is working closely with key stakeholders to ensure all parties understand their rights and responsibilities under these stage 1 reforms. I mention all of this because it is about ensuring that we have fair processes in place right across the housing continuum. On top of that, we are ensuring that we are building more social and affordable homes. As has been mentioned in this House many times, we are investing a new record

\$3.9 billion in social and affordable housing in Queensland. That will mean that, since coming to office in 2015, the Palaszczuk government across a number of programs will have commenced more than 13,000 social and affordable homes by 2027. We are very much focused on delivering an increased supply of social and affordable housing through that investment, partnering with the community housing sector, private industry and members of the community.


Overall, these key housing reforms, including the Building Units and Group Titles and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, make it easier for Queenslanders across the housing spectrum, whether they be renters, landlords, investors, home owners or retirees, and contribute to housing stability and security for all Queenslanders. I want to once again acknowledge all of the work of the committee and the Attorney-General for bringing forward this bill and acknowledge all of those residents and representatives of various locations across Queensland who will benefit from the changes in this bill. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Ms Enoch, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 12.58 pm to 2.00 pm.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): We have reached the halfway point in this term of government. Today during question time we saw a government without a vision, without a plan—a government that is running out of puff. In response to questions, ministers barely lasted 30 seconds before going on the offensive and trying to run the same old scare campaign. This is a government that will be a decade in the wilderness by the time of the next election, a government that after seven and a half years cannot articulate a vision for the future, a government that continues to put politics over people. That was shown during the lead-up to the federal election campaign when on a number of occasions the Premier injected herself into that campaign and said a change in government would deliver fifty-fifty health funding. That was the same election campaign where the now Prime Minister said governments do not get better in their fourth term. Only one of those statements has proven to be correct.

Let me list some of the achievements of the opposition in the last two years: we have exposed the crisis of Queensland Health—we have shown that under this government ambulance ramping is at 44 per cent, three times what it inherited; we have exposed what happened at Caboolture, at Mackay, the lack of birthing services at Gladstone and satellite hospitals in name only; we helped families locked out of Queensland; we put a spotlight on youth crime that is running out of control; we forced a Fitzgerald analysis into the CCC and a Coaldrake review into the Public Service and we are going to keep fighting until there is a review into the government; we called for and secured a royal commission into the forensic services lab when those opposite said we were politicking; we stood up for the homeless and we said that if the Premier was not willing to convene a summit we would; we killed the renters tax; and we exposed \$220 million of Wellcamp waste that was used to make a political point to save the Deputy Premier's credibility.

On the last weekend of October we took to the streets. While those opposite were talking about themselves, we went and listened to Queenslanders. I want to thank all of our volunteers. I want to thank every member on this side of this House. We were on street corners from the north to the border. We were out in places like Longreach and everywhere in between. Queenslanders told us they want better services. They want to know that if their relative falls and breaks a hip maybe, just maybe, an ambo will not be stuck at the end of the ramp and might turn up in their hour of need. They want to know that if someone breaks into their home while their child is asleep maybe there might just be a blue uniform with the laws to back them up. They want to know that when it is time for their daughter to buy her first home she might be able to do so. They want to know that a vulnerable relative might have a social house put over their head. They want to know that they can turn on the power point and electricity will be affordable, reliable and sustainable. They want a government to act with integrity. They want an economy that works for everyone, and cost of living remains front and centre.

Our approach for the next two years will be the following: the government has stopped listening to Queenslanders—we will listen harder than ever; the government is only interested in how things look—we will be relentlessly focused on how they are for Queenslanders; the government is slow to address problems—we will seize every opportunity to act on their behalf. That means more Queensland

Health crisis town halls; that means more scrutiny in question time, even when those opposite feign all manner of reasons why they should not be put under scrutiny; and that means more focus on this government's failures inside and out of this House.

Today we took up the fight on youth crime. Question after question was asked on behalf of Queenslanders—Queenslanders in Cairns who have experienced a rise in crime the likes of which they have never seen before and, as the shadow Attorney raised, a resident is fearful to go out to get milk from the shop. We raised issues from mums and dads who have wayward children and want laws to be able to put them back on the straight and narrow. We raised issues from families that will never again hold a son or daughter. We raised them because they asked us to. We will continue to give them a voice. Those opposite will run through all manner of the words we heard today. We heard the word 'complex' many times. We heard the word 'reviews' many times. We even heard the Premier say it is only 10 per cent of offenders. If it is only 10 per cent, deal with it—fix it up. How can you sit in this House with the eyeballs of—


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Comments will come through the chair.

Mr CRISAFULLI: How can the government sit in this House with the eyeballs of Queenslanders who have lost loved ones on them and not feel the need to act? How can the government believe that laws they changed when they immediately won office have not led to a generation of young offenders who know their way around? Question after question came forward on behalf of Queenslanders. If you boil it down, it is about consequences for actions. A good system allows those who stray early in their journey of crime to be given every opportunity to turn their life around—with compassion, with decency, with the ability to get educated, to get employed. For those repeat habitual offenders—the 10 per cent—eventually the government has to acknowledge that after 7½ years the laws they changed have led to a Queensland that is not as safe as it once was.

The questions we asked today were on behalf of Queenslanders; they wrote those questions. Feel free to cast barbs at us, but in doing so the government is criticising families who want and deserve action. The Premier is walking away from the responsibility of the legislation the government introduced. Today we heard the Premier talk about politicians not making these decisions. Courts enforce the government's laws. The government makes the law. Every day judges are not given the tools to do their job. Queenslanders will judge this government.

They have seen it time and time again. They have seen what occurs when a government waters down laws for political favours and to buy political favours from mates. Queenslanders are living it. They are living it on the border towns, they are living it in the Far North, they are living it in the west, they are living it in Brisbane, they are living it on both the Sunshine and Gold coasts, and they are living it in Townsville and Mackay. We can tell the stories. We can point to the changes that are needed. We can talk about the government's so-called tough laws that had GPS trackers fitted to barely anyone. However, in the end, the best synopsis comes from Ben Beaumont, a man who will never again have the opportunity to hug his son. He said, 'Under Labor's youth justice laws there is no better time to be a juvenile criminal.'

Leader of the Opposition, Achievements

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (2.10 pm): On the weekend at the Labor state conference, I had the chance to reflect on what a great opportunity it is for Queenslanders to have a Labor Premier and a Labor Prime Minister. It demonstrates that the Australian and Queensland people know that only Labor governments unlock our potential and make society fairer. For the first time in a decade we have a Labor government in Canberra and a Labor government in Queensland fighting for working people and not against them. We are united on the principle that governments should shape a fair and more equitable society; that if you work hard you should have every opportunity to succeed; that if you get sick you should have access to public health care; that education is the great equaliser and every child should have access to it and the opportunities it brings; and that no matter your gender, sexuality, race or background you should be treated equally.

Our Labor values unite us. They drive our government and they ensure that we deliver for Queenslanders every day that we are in government. Right now we are working to get more Queenslanders into housing. We are revolutionising our energy system, creating more jobs and creating cheaper power for households. We are working together to deliver a world-class Olympic and Paralympic Games and to harness all of the opportunities that that brings.

However, everything we have achieved would be at risk of being undone if the LNP were to return to government. The Leader of the Opposition says he is absolutely certain that he will win the next election. I suspect that is more a reflection of his ego than his chances. I note there are not many others on that side who share his confident self-belief, his proclaimed invincibility, his delusion. The Leader of the Opposition listed some of his supposed achievements. Let us run through some of the achievements of the Leader of the Opposition two years after he said things would change and that things would be different.


Let us start with the made-up story about the laptop. That was the first time I know of when an opposition has earned such a stunning rebuke from the CCC that they had to issue a report about his made-up claims. He said they were goons. What did the CCC say? He made that up! He said there was a seized laptop. What did the CCC say? He made that up!

They opposed the health response but they supported a quarantine facility at Pinkenba that still is not open despite a \$500 million bill to taxpayers. They never once called for fifty-fifty health funding until, the day after the election, all of a sudden that seemed like a great idea. Another achievement was when they offended our regional health workers by calling them duds. I know they have always bagged our health system and now they call our regional health workers duds.

They have a shadow cabinet that cannot meet, which is quite an achievement. It is no wonder they have no achievements or plans to speak of. They are more interested in fundraising than they are in Queenslanders. They keep spending their time on cash for access, including going to the Star casino the very week we announced a review into that casino's operations. They had a chance to bring in some new blood, to bring in some renewal and, dare I say, to bring in a woman, and what happened? We have the new member for Callide!

The Leader of the Opposition's confidence might reflect his ego, but it is misplaced because Queenslanders know the consequences of an LNP government for Queensland: cuts to services, sacking public servants and the destruction of our frontline workforce. That is his only plan and he keeps saying that it is his only plan.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.15 pm): Happy World Town Planning Day. Let us look at the record of the minister who just spoke because he is the planning minister. He wants to lecture parliament about records, so let's talk about the waste of over \$200 million for the white elephant that sits at Wellcamp. That is his record and not the LNP's. That is his waste and his record. What about lot approvals in Queensland going down under his watch? What about the housing crisis under his watch? What about the health crisis caused by him, as health minister, giving a hospital pass to the current health minister? He will not mention any of his record on World Town Planning Day, but we certainly will.

While we are talking about records, let's look at the health record of this government. The Melbourne Cup is the race that stops the nation. Now it is also the race that stops the health minister in her tracks and from performing her duties. First we had the Premier cancelling cabinet to go on a superyacht and now we have the health minister knocking off parliament early to go on a Melbourne Cup cruise. That is what is happening: the Premier cancels cabinet for a superyacht and the health minister cancels parliament early to go on a Melbourne Cup cruise. This Labor government is all at sea. They are all at sea.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the comments made and I ask the member to withdraw.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! I will deal with the point of order. The member has taken personal offence. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. This government is lost at sea. This government is running a leaky boat. That is what is happening. What is it with this government and boats? They appear in every bit of controversy. The Premier goes to the Whitsundays to be on a superyacht and, rather than dealing with the Queensland health crisis, the health minister chooses to go on a Melbourne Cup cruise.

Mr McCallum interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bundamba, you need to be in your own chair.

Mr BLEIJIE: Where are the priorities of this health minister?

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence and I ask you to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. On the passing of Her Majesty, the sitting days of parliament changed and we agreed to sit for an additional three days. In the first week we sat until 6 pm on Friday, so we can do it. Then all of a sudden, in the next sitting week, on a motion moved by the Leader of the House standing orders were changed. In my contribution on the debate of that motion I asked why we needed to knock off early. The LNP members were happy to stay here. We were all here. We are not like the CFMMEU and have to knock off and go for pub drinks on a Friday arvo. We were happy to stay here, do our duty and discharge our obligations. We were happy to stay as we had the week before.

I ask the question: why was one o'clock chosen? The Leader of the House spoke in that debate. She never disclosed to this House, on moving and speaking in support of that motion, that her luggage was packed and downstairs and that in three hours she would be on a cruise down to the Melbourne Cup.

Ms FARMER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member has repeatedly made personally offensive comments which the Leader of the House has asked him to withdraw.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I will hear the point of order in silence.

Ms FARMER: The member continues to do so. I seek your guidance on how often the member can continue to do the same thing.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Opposition members interjected.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Currumbin, you are warned. I asked to take that point of order in silence and you continued to interject. There is no point of order.

Mr BLEIJIE: As I say, we were happy to front up to parliament. We all were asking the question: why was one o'clock chosen? Why specifically did parliament have to finish at one o'clock on that day? It is now abundantly clear to everyone. This morning the health minister asked the Manager of Opposition Business not to raise this issue. Why not? Why can the health minister not be held accountable for doing her job? God knows, they have mentioned plenty of members on this side for similar things. We will not cop that or stay silent because it would be convenient for the health minister.

I will give the health minister a little advice. She was questioned at the press conference yesterday about where this issue came from. I say to her: do not look to the opposition; look closer to home. Look to your own leaky boat. It is leaking against the health minister at a rate that my tinny could not keep up with. My 90-horsepower tinny could not keep up with the amount of leaking that is happening against this health minister! Why? They have lost confidence in the health minister. Queenslanders have lost confidence in the health minister. She has her priorities all wrong. She would rather be wining and dining on a cruise ship than dealing with the health crisis that Queenslanders want the health minister to deal with.

(Time expired)

Energy and Jobs Plan

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (2.22 pm): We are delivering for Queenslanders now and into the future. We are delivering good jobs and better services and protecting and enhancing our great Queensland lifestyle. One of the key ways we are doing this is through our signature Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. It is a plan that puts Queenslanders first and foremost. It is a plan that will deliver jobs, investment and economic growth through more clean, cheap and secure power. By 2032 it means that 70 per cent of Queensland's energy supply will be renewable, and that increases to 80 per cent by 2035. It will create Australia's largest energy SuperGrid that will transport clean energy from the regions to power our homes, businesses and industry while creating over 100,000 new, good industrial jobs in hydrogen, renewables, manufacturing and critical minerals.

Approximately 95 per cent of the \$62 billion of investment under this plan will be invested in regional Queensland. Best of all, it keeps Queensland's energy assets in the hands of Queenslanders. The fact is that more cheap, clean power delivered through continued public ownership has put downward pressure on our power prices whilst delivering over \$11 billion in investment and 8,000 jobs in construction alone since our election.

It is through our continued commitment to public ownership that we are able to deliver real cost-of-living relief to everyday Queenslanders right now. We have delivered a \$175 rebate this year alone and a total of \$575 since 2015, thanks to continued public ownership. That is what Labor governments deliver. In fact, our approach has been so successful that it is now being adopted by other states, who are now seeking to return to public ownership of power assets. Victoria and South Australia are making moves back to public ownership following failed privatisation of energy.

Here in Queensland we have a state LNP that is addicted to privatisation. It has a record of cutting, sacking and selling. When last in government, the LNP tried to sell our energy assets. They defunded large-scale renewables of publicly owned—

Opposition members interjected.


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

Mr McCALLUM: They do not like it. They do not like to be reminded that they scrapped the Office of Clean Energy entirely—gone—and the Office of Climate Change—gone. What did they deliver for everyday Queenslanders? A 44 per cent increase to electricity prices. Queenslanders were swift and firm in their rejection of the LNP and its privatisation agenda. It is an agenda that the LNP has never once apologised for. It is an agenda that the LNP still has. We just saw the Leader of the Opposition say that the LNP will devise a debt reduction plan. That is LNP speak for asset sales. They are also going to deliver a service delivery strategy. Translation? Service cuts.

It has been entirely predictable to see LNP members attempt to politicise the current events at Callide Power Station. They have called for an investigation even though two are already underway. It is easy to see straight through the insecure, insincere veneer of concern for the workers and the power station when it is the same workforce and power station that they tried to privatise. In contrast, under our energy plan Labor is looking after the workforce through a \$150 million job guarantee and the first-ever Energy Workers' Charter.

The truth is that the LNP will always see our energy assets and our energy workforce as expendable. They will try to privatise them again the first chance they get. I challenge the LNP to either publicly rule out privatising our energy assets or finally come clean to the people of Queensland.

Youth Crime

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (2.27 pm): It was Friday, 13 March 2020 when Ben Beaumont was climbing into bed and his wife, Michelle, was up, frantically texting and trying to call their 15-year-old son, Angus, who was overdue coming home. They received a call from the Redcliffe Hospital—a call that every parent or grandparent in this place, across Queensland or across the globe dreads but hopes and prays they never get. It was a call from the hospital to say that their son was being resuscitated and that they needed to get there urgently. There was no explanation as to why. Not long after their arrival they were taken into a room, asked to sign a form to hand Angus's body over to the Coroner and told it was now a police matter. It was some time later that they found out the incident that unfolded leading to this tragedy on Friday, 13 March 2020.

I met the Beaumonts only a few months later in 2020. I have met a lot of victims of crime in my time and a lot of families who have been left distraught by crime. I am in awe of the strength, courage and resolve of Ben and Michelle Beaumont. I was honoured to have them in parliament today as we asked some questions of the government. I will get to that shortly. One question they asked me back then and one question they continue to ask is: could this have been avoided? Could their son still be alive? We know that Angus was not an angel, but he had had no previous dealings with the police. He had no criminal history. He had no previous interactions with the youth justice department or Child Safety. He was a good kid from a good family.

In stark contrast are the two boys who murdered Angus. I will read from the *Courier-Mail*, which outlines some of the highlights of their criminal history. It states—

The boy who inflicted the fatal blow was ... 14 ... has a serious criminal history since age 13 and was found with a kitchen knife at a Redcliffe Skate Park. In January 2020 while on bail for other offences, he committed an armed robbery of a 14-year-old boy. He was on bail for that offending when he killed Angus. He will be released in March 2026, when he is aged 20.

The second teen, then 14 ... On the eve of his murder trial while on bail he stole an Audi A3 and led police on a chase at speed and on the wrong side of the road. His violent criminal history began when he was 11, including setting the Redcliffe Youth Centre ablaze. In November 2018 he was involved in extorting a mother who was pushing a pram on the street—

apparently, with a knife—

threatening to kill her baby. He was on bail for offences of violence at the time.

What alarms me, what alarms the family and what alarms my old colleagues in the police and the community at large is that these young offenders were given bail after committing the murder and were at large in the community. They also continued to breach bail. One of their bail conditions was that they not associate with each other, which they proudly breached and bragged about on social media. I table a picture from their social media accounts that was shared with me by the Beaumonts.

Tabled paper: Extract from a Facebook account, undated, in regards to juvenile offenders [1852].


One of the bail conditions for these two young offenders, after murdering Angus in cold blood, was that they not associate with each other. They breached that bail condition and were bragging about it. In that post they brag about the murder. I understand that they also did a rap song bragging about the murder they committed. That brought me to ask the Premier a question about that this morning. When the family reported this to the police, reported this to the courts and reported this to the authorities, they were told there was nothing that could be done because breach of bail is not an offence for juveniles in Queensland.

I acknowledge the Premier's answer. She mentioned reversing the onus of proof for the presumption of bail. That was one of the points of the five-point plan that this government announced after the fatal incident at Alexandra Hills on Australia Day last year. Why are they not talking about the other four points? It was announced as a youth crime crackdown. They came in here talking tough on crime. How have the other four points gone? I can tell members that police are chasing the same young offenders every night. We have a revolving door youth justice system. More and more people are becoming victims of crime. We need to do everything we can to support the Beaumont family in their cause. It is something I have been fighting for for a long time. It is one of the reasons I, and my colleagues on this side, ran for parliament.

As we heard from the opposition leader earlier, we will continue to fight for consequences for actions. We need to give the police and the courts the laws and powers they need to keep us safe. The breach of bail offence would on this occasion have given the police or the courts the power to take action, detain these kids and bring them to justice before they committed another offence.

It is also about early intervention. A litany of crimes were being committed. Where was the early intervention? That is something we need to talk about. Please sign the Beaumont's petition that I proudly sponsored.

Liberal National Party, Health System

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.32 pm): I rise today to continue speaking about the same theme I spoke about last sitting week—that is, the LNP's continual criticism of our hardworking Queensland Health staff. It is clear that the LNP is going to continue to undermine the work of our Queensland Health staff yet offer nothing but criticism. Let us keep examining their four dot points that they call a plan.

One of the dot points is better resources. The LNP still has not shown us how they would deliver better support or more support to Queensland Health than this government. How are they going to do more than this? We have seen from this government 15,000 new frontline workers since 2015, 9,000 frontline staff in Queensland Health this term, three hospitals, 11 hospital expansions, the new cancer centre, 200 more beds at Caboolture Hospital, 200 more beds at Redcliffe Hospital and Jacaranda Place in Brisbane's north. The truth is that the LNP could never deliver more resources than Labor. They never could and never will.

One of the other dot points is more control to doctors and nurses. Let us examine this a bit more. I searched for this policy online. I found one that said that they would give more control back to local doctors and nurses through local health boards. That policy is from 2012. Mark McArdle said that before the 2012 election. They have been recycling the same dot point, masquerading as a policy, for 10 years. We know that that 2012 dot point ended disastrously.

We know what happened from 2012 to 2015. The LNP's stewardship of the health system in that term of government will be remembered for generations as a disaster. Queenslanders know that they alienated doctors and nurses. They sacked 4,400 healthcare staff, including 1,800 nurses and they closed the Barrett centre. They do not believe in allowing our doctors and nurses to be in control. We heard last sitting week that they do not support allowing doctors to make decisions on where they allocate patients in their birthing and obstetric wards. They are recycling a phrase. They have no policy.

Another dot point in their plan that I touched on previously is real-time data. I heard the member for Buderim speaking on ABC Radio during the last week or so. He said, 'If you can measure it; you cannot manage it.' It is very clear that Queensland Health staff are measuring it and are managing it.


Let us look at what the minister said recently. The number of people getting elective surgery rose in the September quarter. Some 33,000 elective surgery procedures were done in that time, but that was a time when 300,000 staff days were lost due to COVID or illness. On 31 July, 800 Queenslanders were in hospital with COVID. There was a 7.1 per cent increase in ED presentations in that quarter. I love this statistic: 100 per cent of category 1 patients were seen by clinicians within two minutes of presentation to an ED.

The LNP can see how our hardworking staff are managing the system. They can go to www.performance.health.qld.gov.au. The data is there. It shows that we are managing the system and we are managing the system better than they could ever hope to do. I wish they would stop talking down our Queensland Health staff.

The LNP's third dot point, which I have talked about before, is better triage. I still do not know what this dot point means. It concerns me. I think this means kicking people out of our emergency wards. They would say to patients, 'You're not too bad; why don't you go to the private hospital down the road or across on the other corner. Why can't you have this procedure done elsewhere?' This is where they apply their free-market ideology to the healthcare system. We have seen that done time and time again. They have never explained what this dot point means, especially what it means for the staff of Queensland Health.

In conclusion, the LNP offer no policy and no plan. All they offer is a half-baked ideology. Their supposed four-point plan has zero new dollars, zero new staff, zero new beds and zero new ideas. They do not have a plan. All they have is an empty slogan.

Pullen, Mr T

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (2.37 pm): Tomorrow, Zane Trey Lincoln will be released from prison. He is the last of six people convicted of the manslaughter of Tim Pullen and the only one still incarcerated. That finishes tomorrow. His release continues the anguish of Tim Pullen's Mackay family—mum and dad, Leanne and Gary, and his three sisters, Angela, Sherry and Lisa—which started over 10 years ago when Tim was cruelly killed. Whilst the killers were trialled and convicted, Tim's remains have never been found. These callous killers refused to provide details of Tim's final resting place. This refusal has only added to the pain and heartbreak of the Pullen family.

Members of this House will recall Gary and Leanne Pullen were at the centre of the no-body no-parole laws championed by the LNP opposition and eventually adopted by the government five years ago. The Pullens approached me as shadow minister at that time when they realised that the proposed laws did not include the conviction of manslaughter. Through their lobbying and that of the LNP opposition, the government made amendments that made sure the crime of manslaughter would be included in the no-body no-parole laws. This was a good result.


The House will also recall at the time the disgraceful behaviour of police and corrective services minister, Mark Ryan. In an effort to grandstand, he inferred to the Pullens that two of Tim's killers—Kister and Oakley—would be caught up in these laws, ensuring that they would serve their full sentences, but that was not true. A brave public servant, a whistleblower, advised the media that Minister Ryan knew before the new law was enacted that the parole decision had been made and that these two would be released early. That whistleblower was subsequently sacked by the government. In my 10 years in parliament I have not seen a more shameful act by a minister. To have the Pullens and other victims' families stand with him and the then attorney-general Yvette D'Ath, during a press conference, giving them false hope and using them as political pawns, was a disgrace.

Tomorrow night the Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group will hold their annual Night of Recognition event in Parliament House. This is a group that no-one wants to be eligible for membership. These brave people support those who have suffered the unimaginable tragedy and advocate for the rights of victims' families. They played a major role in the introduction of the no-body no-parole laws, and I want to thank them for their work.

It would be very easy to refer to Gary and Leanne Pullen as ordinary Queenslanders, but they are not. They are extraordinary people—resilient and courageous. They are fighters. Their son's killers have now been released but only two served their full sentence for manslaughter, and that is only because of the Pullens and other victims' families campaigning for new laws. Thankfully Lincoln, who will be released tomorrow, will be immediately deported to New Zealand as he is not an Australian citizen—a policy that we should be eternally grateful to Peter Dutton for, and heaven help any government that tries to reverse it!

The Pullen family have lived a nightmare for the last 10 years. They have been through the courts. They have watched from afar. They have lobbied for new laws and they have had success in that particular endeavour. The Pullen family have one final hope—that is, to know the whereabouts of their son and their brother's remains. I don't think that is too much to ask.

World Town Planning Day

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.42 pm): Today, 8 November, is World Town Planning Day. I offer a happy World Town Planning Day to all urban and regional planners right across Queensland, Australia and, indeed, the world.

Planning is a dynamic field that is all about improving quality of life and creating vibrant communities in which people love to live, work and play. Good planning creates more accessible, equitable, efficient and beautiful communities. It provides adequate housing and services. It gives future generations realistic and fair opportunities. It helps communities, governments and the private sector envision how their community can grow and develop.

I acknowledge the President of the Planning Institute of Australia Queensland, Shannon Batch, an old uni colleague, and also the General Manager of PIA Queensland, Matt Collins. I look forward to celebrating at the PIA annual awards for excellence with them this coming Friday.

Today, a secret report about the former coalition government's sports rorts scandal has been released. It has absolutely slammed the decision-making process behind the grants scheme and its 'lack of transparency'.

The investigation by former secretary of the prime minister and cabinet department Phil Gaetjens also found there were significant shortcomings when coalition senator Bridget McKenzie awarded a community sporting grant to a gun club she was a member of. Documents released under freedom of information reveal that there was a serious lack of transparency for applicants regarding how grant money would be allocated. The complete investigation has now been released only now after the FOI commissioner ordered the Prime Minister's department to make it public.

The investigation was launched after a damning Auditor-General's report found former sports minister McKenzie's office overlooked sporting grant applications of merit in favour of those in marginal LNP electorates. 'This lack of transparency coupled with the significant divergences between projects recommended by Sport Australia and those approved by the minister has given rise to concerns about the decision making,' the report states. 'Those submitting grant funding applications had, in my view, a right to more fully understand the basis on which the funding decisions were being made,' Gaejens reported.

Unlike those opposite and the federal LNP, Labor is transparent about infrastructure projects and we deliver. Last week I met with a local builder who has been completely financially crippled as a result of a grant of \$5.8 million through the Morrison government's Regional Jobs and Investments Packages Fund for the Hidden Valley Harvest project at Yeppoon. This is a project which was funded by taxpayers' money but which has never been completed and has sent local builders into financial ruin. This funding program was reviewed by the Australian National Audit Office in 2019 and it found that the LNP's eligibility and merit assessment processes 'were not to an appropriate standard'.

The audit report went further and stated, 'The Ministerial Panel most often cited incorrect scoring by assessors as the reason for not agreeing with departmental funding recommendations. Those applications were not re-scored.' The audit further found appropriate checks and controls were not in place for eligibility and merit assessments. 'An assurance review contracted by Infrastructure identified that applicant claims were being taken at face value without appropriate scrutiny,' the audit report said.

How on earth can \$5.8 million land in the bank account of grant recipients without appropriate scrutiny and, when it goes belly up, why did the LNP not investigate? Maybe because former minister Andrew Robb was a director? Maybe because former minister John McVeigh did not want to investigate his mates?


Under this federal Labor and state Labor government, there is none of this pork-barrelling like the LNP is renowned for—like the \$300 million Building Better Regions Fund, where nearly 90 per cent of the funding was spent in coalition and marginal seats. This is just one in a long line of rorts from the Morrison-Joyce government—sports rorts, car park rorts, Safer Communities rorts and the Building Better Regions rorts.

The numbers do not lie. Barnaby Joyce, Scott Morrison, Michelle Landry, Matt Canavan and the LNP clearly prioritised their own seats over worthy projects in other parts of the country. We know that former LNP ministers made decisions based on playing favourites, based on reasons that were not fully explained to those applying for grants, nor did they keep proper records of decisions. The only thing Scott Morrison, Barnaby Joyce, Michelle Landry and Matt Canavan cared about when they were in government was diverting funds for their own electoral purposes—like the \$660 million of taxpayer funds which was spent on 47 car park projects or like the \$5.8 million Hidden Valley Harvest project in Yeppoon that never happened but the taxpayer money has disappeared.

Unlike the LNP, we do not have colour-coded spreadsheets with marginal LNP electorates prioritised for funding. The LNP could never be trusted with taxpayer money. They used it like Monopoly money, spending on projects that would only benefit them in their own electorates. There was no transparency and there was no accountability. Local people in Central Queensland have been hurt by the LNP's rorts and all of us in this place should be very concerned about holding the former Morrison government to account.

(Time expired)

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (2.47 pm): I want to talk about something that is often difficult for us to consider, and that is domestic violence and coercive control that continue to be amongst the most common and distressing of behaviours victims have to endure and police and courts have to deal with. We are constantly told how much is being done and how much is being spent by this government to address this problem.

I am here to report that much more needs to be done in getting the simple things right—the basics of communication and court processes—not just ticking boxes, issuing media releases but actually showing some care for those involved in the system. I fear it is currently all talk and the recommendations of the *Hear her voice* report are not being implemented as they should—in particular, recommendations 88 and 89.

I want to report from a pretty immediate experience of people very close to me. The daughter of great family friends of ours experienced a harrowing and upsetting domestic violence experience only two weeks ago. My daughter, who is her best friend, was with her at the time. The incident was reported to the police, and let me say the police were very good. Immediate orders were issued, evidence and statements were gathered, and the charges were set down for hearing in the Magistrates Court last Tuesday. It is here where the system fell down, where getting the simple things right simply did not happen.

Police had urged our friend to attend the DV court in Brisbane at the Magistrates Court complex for the hearing. My daughter accompanied her as a support person, along with her mother and brother. This is my daughter Katie's version of events—

I recently supported my closest friend at the Domestic and Family Violence Court in Brisbane Magistrates Court. After her presence was requested by police, and being told it would be beneficial to her case, she made the difficult decision to attend the hearing for a DVO order and face her alleged perpetrator. When we arrived at 8:30am, my friend checked in with the court and requested to speak to a Duty Solicitor. We spent a total of four hours, waiting for someone to provide us with information about the case and when it would be heard.

I might add that they were provided with a safe room but our friend's brother, who had come along, could not go into the safe room. He had to wait outside in the court where the alleged perpetrator was. Katie continues—

The only clear information we ever received in those four hours was that her perpetrator had checked in that morning and that the case would not be called until my friend had spoken with the Duty Solicitor. As we found out at 12.30 pm when the solicitor finally spoke with my friend, the matter had been mentioned and adjourned at 9:00 am that morning. Half an hour after we arrived! Those four hours spent waiting at the court were filled with anxiety and fear, it was incredibly upsetting and this was made only worse by the fact no one provided us with any information. While the alleged perpetrator had been able to get in, get the matter adjourned and then get out within half an hour, my friend waited, feeling like a prisoner, unaware of what was going on. Thankfully, my friend has many support people and her situation, while awful, is not as horrendous as many other victims of domestic violence; I can only imagine how distressing, traumatising, upsetting and frustrating the experience in the DV Court would be for those victims. If there is one court that ought to prioritise the wellbeing of victims, it is the DV Court, where victims are the most vulnerable and in the most life-threatening situations. The fact that it failed my friend so tremendously is shameful. In light-hearted terms, the court system that day was a "flop"; but the very sad reality is that it showcased how severely flawed the system is; it is disorganised, unprofessional, uninformative ... As is said often but remains true as ever each time 'justice delayed is justice denied.'

You will have to forgive her that; she is studying to be a lawyer. This is what our friend told me about her feelings when she got to court. This is at 8.30 in the morning—

I was then already panicking about seeing the perpetrator and had started crying, to which the person who had checked us in and the security personnel had offered to let me wait in the safety room away from the perpetrator.


That is a good thing. She continues—

Then 4 and a half hours and zero communication later she finds out it's a mammoth waste of time, energy and emotional effort. Now no matter the reason why—and I am sure there will be reasons—it is clearly unacceptable that this has happened, because this is what it means, and again I quote—

Throughout the more than four hours I waited there, I was incredibly anxious and stressed as I feared facing the perpetrator and had no information on what was going on. I also faced multiple other women who were highly distressed from their own domestic violence matters, which was incredibly upsetting.

This situation is unacceptable. Despite all of its grandstanding promises, it is clear the government still does not have a grip on the system. Until it does, all too often these situations will continue.

Williams, Ms K

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (2.52 pm): It comes as no surprise that I enjoy Oktoberfest. With my German heritage I do enjoy a beer or two. I did celebrate it again this year by attending the German Club. I also went to the RNA Showgrounds. I will never begrudge someone celebrating Oktoberfest, but what I do begrudge is Redland City Council mayor Karen Williams doing a paid gig at the Emu Park Oktoberfest instead of doing her job.

On 22 October this year under her stage name 'Heidi the Yodelling Queen' the LNP drunk-driving mayor of Redlands was doing a paid gig when the day before at a Chamber of Commerce event she had to give her apologies and give her report to another councillor. I table a picture of Councillor Peter Mitchell presenting the report on her behalf the day before.

She was not doing her job. She was doing another job, getting ready for her career after politics. I do not have a problem with what, but what I do have a problem with is that ratepayers are paying for this. The ratepayers paid for the mayor to do a gig up at Emu Park that she is getting paid for. I table a link to the yodelling video. Go and watch it. It is very—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Table it, please.

Mr BROWN: 'Heidi the Yodelling Queen' does a fantastic job of it. After the incident the mayor of Redlands deleted her Facebook page. So embarrassed is she that she cannot be the face of her own Facebook page. It is completely gone. Yet Emu Park Oktoberfest has a picture of Karen Williams on its page. So 700 kilometres away our mayor can be the face of the biggest drinking festival in Central Queensland—

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am sure you know what the point of order is in relation to—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I was moving to deal with that, but by all means please deliver your point.

Mr NICHOLLS: You are indeed very rapid on certain occasions, Mr Deputy Speaker, so I commend you.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take some advice.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not need the assistance of the House. Member for Clayfield, I will just clarify there was no intention to reflect on the chair.

Mr NICHOLLS: No, Mr Deputy Speaker, I was commending you.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I was moving to remind the—

Mr BROWN: I was tabling the document—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, resume your seat, please. You do not debate with the chair when I am giving a ruling. Member, you were waving a piece of paper around. I was about to tell you to stop waving the piece of paper around and table it. Simply holding a piece of paper and waving it around, particularly when you are referring to the pictures on it, can be considered to be using a prop. I would ask you to table that, please, and continue your contribution.

Mr BROWN: I table the document for the full benefit of the House and the member for Clayfield.

Tabled paper: Bundle of extracts from Facebook accounts, in relation to Emu Park Oktoberfest and Redlands Councillor, Mr Peter Mitchell [[1853](#)].

Here we have a mayor who is too embarrassed to have her own Facebook page, yet she can be the face of the Emu Park festival, which is near Yeppoon, 700 kilometres away. The LNP in Redlands takes the people of Redlands completely for granted, whether it be Andrew Laming or any other mayor. Who paid for the flight back? The mayor went to the LGAQ conference in Cairns and enjoyed the lovely pink gin cocktails the LGAQ conference offered. Who paid for the flights on the way back from Cairns to Rockhampton and back to Brisbane so the mayor could attend the Oktoberfest there? That is the big question the mayor needs to answer. If it was picked up by the ratepayers that is yet another reason why she should resign.


I say to the mayor: if you want to be 'Heidi the Yodelling Queen', Queensland is your oyster. Go right ahead, travel the whole state, tour as long as you want to—but resign. Resign and give the people of Redlands a chance to have a proper mayor, someone who has the decency to know when their time is up, someone who is not going to collect a pay cheque while they go touring the state getting ready for their next career move. It is an absolute disgrace that we have a mayor who has been done for drunk driving—and ordered to complete community service—who is now the face of the biggest drinking festival in Central Queensland. There are also questions to be answered here with regard to her travel. I say again: do the right thing by Redlands, stop collecting the pay cheque, come clean, resign and make sure the people of Redlands have a mayor they can be proud of. If you want to be the drunk-driving mayor who wants to be the face of Oktoberfest, do it in your own private life and not as the mayor of Redlands.

BUILDING UNITS AND GROUP TITLES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 3317, on motion of Ms Fentiman—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (2.59 pm): The Building Units and Group Titles and Other Legislation Amendment Bill goes some way to deal with the many, many complex issues that have been raised, predominantly dealing with body corporate governance arrangements, transparency and dispute resolution. This bill goes some way to addressing the problems many bodies corporate and owners have around non-payment of levies, exclusion of subsidiary bodies corporate, non-representation of owners, failure to deliver essential services, conflicts of interest and recovery of costs.

However, it is clear that there is more that needs to be done in this area. It is good that the government has indicated there are further stages of amendments to come in tranche 3. However, like all things with this Palaszczuk Labor government, the devil is in the detail. The state government has not provided a time frame for these further amendments. Considering how long residents and bodies corporate have waited for the amendments in the bill before the House today, I am very concerned that, without a time line, the government will again drag its heels on these very important further amendments.

One only has to look at the poor residents of Couran Cove to see the devastating impacts that the state government's delay in putting forward these changes has imposed on them. For them, their body corporate issues have become a complete and utter nightmare. Recent photos show that the once bustling resort is now home to piles of broken wood and dead tree branches, taped off communal areas and broken boardwalk bridges. Dozens of residents, including some who are sick and elderly and others who have young children, have experienced devastating conditions as a result of the island's complicated body corporate structure and this government's inability to fix the system when they called for it. They have five bodies corporate involved on the island. One 89-year-old woman who is legally blind in one eye had her electricity shut off. Ms Pitt told the *Gold Coast Bulletin* that she had been unable to wash her clothes, take a shower or charge any devices in her home. Ms Pitt said—

All I'm able to do really is just sit. It's like living through some sort of bad nightmare. I'm very much near the end of my life—it's a miserable way to be spending it. I have a gas stove but with my poor vision, I'm likely to burn myself as the kitchen is dark. We pay nearly \$500 a week in body corporate fees here, which includes electricity, but we haven't got any electricity.

Just last month, it was reported that conditions worsened, with some island villas and eco cabins losing their water supply. The living conditions which residents of Couran Cove have had to deal with are completely unacceptable. The experiences at Couran Cove speak to substantial discrepancies between the Building Units and Group Titles Act and the body corporate act in terms of body corporate governance arrangements and the protections in place for proprietors.

In my view, the fact that Couran Cove has deteriorated to this point—to the point where Couran Cove residents had to resort to standing on the beach with the words ‘Help No Gas’ dug into the sand—demonstrates just how slow the state government has been to move on this issue. It highlights that the government has failed to keep pace with the developments in modern bodies corporate. Residents at Couran Cove are not alone in dealing with major body corporate issues. Queenslanders in apartments and complexes are also feeling the effects of a government that has taken far too long to act on legislation to ensure equity and fairness in this area of property law.

In 2013, it was an LNP government that commissioned the Commercial and Property Law Research Centre at QUT to conduct an independent and broad-ranging review of Queensland’s property laws. After five years of research, the review was completed in 2018. There were 232 recommendations. However, since then, the government has shown a clear lack of progress in improving the complex developments that remain regulated under a mix of the Building Units and Group Titles Act and the Mixed Use Development Act. It has been four years since the QUT Commercial and Property Law Research Centre review was completed. It recommended greater harmonisation between the Building Units and Group Titles Act, the Mixed Use Development Act and the Body Corporate and Community Management Act.

Mr Power interjected.

Mrs GERBER: Member for Logan, I am not taking your interjections. While simple or single layer developments subject to the BUGTA that automatically transitioned to the BCCMA have benefited from that and the incremental reforms, counterpart schemes in complex developments, like Couran Cove, Sanctuary Cove and Hope Island, still regulated by a mix of all three acts, sadly have not benefited from these amendments. In fact, during the public hearing, we encountered one submitter who had been waiting so long for these changes that he was hesitant to suggest improvements. This witness is a long-term owner and also a committee member of a body corporate in an extremely troubled development. When I reassured the witness that it is the committee’s job to scrutinise and if necessary recommend improvements, he said—

I will stop talking because the more I talk the more you are going to scrutinise and maybe I potentially hold this up. That is definitely what I do not want to do!

We of course reassured him that anything constructive he had to say would benefit the committee and certainly not hold the process up. He did make some helpful points for the committee to consider, but I think this illustrates just how desperate people are for reform and just how slow the government has been to take on recommendations and enact reforms in this area.

Whilst most stakeholders were broadly in favour of the amendments, many stakeholders did suggest further changes were needed. The Australian College of Strata Lawyers submitted to the committee that BUGTA and MUDA should be brought in line with the Body Corporate and Community Management Act with respect to the limitations for by-laws. They submitted the ‘missing’ limitations, from section 180 of the Body Corporate and Community Management Act, should be introduced into BUGTA and MUDA and that there should not be any further delays.

Further, the Strata Community Association submitted that one important change that ought be made in this bill is to allow a body corporate constituted under the BUGTA to recover all costs reasonably incurred in the recovery of unpaid contributions. We heard from many submitters that the recovery of costs is a significant issue when it comes to levy recovery. The Strata Community Association relevantly pointed out that, as a body corporate cannot turn a profit, bodies corporate are unable to set aside a rainy day fund or contingency fund and that the current mechanism for cost recovery is litigation, which is very expensive. The association noted—

... one recalcitrant owner can be a significant disruption to the finances of a given body corporate. If bodies corporate under the BUGTA are to be obliged to pursue debtors as this Bill seeks to legislate, then it is only fair given the abovementioned factors that they are not out of pocket on a net basis for pursuing them.

The Strata Community Association also raised that the clauses in the bill altering requirements around voting at committee meetings could have significant unintended consequences. Specifically, the section recognises that a debtor member of the committee cannot vote at the meeting. However, when read in context with other amendments, the association submitted—

... there appears to be a drafting oversight which ought to be rectified.

Upon examination, these provisions allow an unfinancial committee to make decisions outside of meeting. This is a significant loophole which will allow for continued mischief. Ostensibly, unfinancial committees will be able to use votes outside committee meetings to continue to make decisions whilst failing to pay their contributions.

I would urge the minister to look at this and ensure this will not be an unintended consequence of the bill. Just on strengthening of the conflict of interest provisions, the Strata Community Association would also like to see the amendments in the bill to the conflict of interest provision make improvements, because at present the deficiencies in the Body Corporate and Community Management Act are carried over in this bill. The deficiency is that a conflicted member can remain a participant in discussion. In this regard the association noted—


Allowing people to silently “eyeball” others whilst making a delicate body corporate decision isn’t appropriate.

Allowing people who have a conflict of interest to remain in the decision-making space is not best practice.

The association would like to see the amendments in this bill improve the conflict of interest provisions by ensuring conflicted persons excuse themselves from the decision-making space—that is, the meeting room. Overall, the Strata Community Association, and indeed most of the submitters, are supportive of the bill. There are some discrete amendments that stakeholders would like to see, as I have outlined.

This bill will go some way to help with the issues at Couran Cove. It is a long time coming and Couran Cove residents and bodies corporate are very pleased this is finally happening. However, much more still needs to be done. Greater harmonisation between the Building Units and Group Titles Act, the Mixed Use Development Act and the Body Corporate and Community Management Act needs to happen.

The government has indicated that there are further stages of amendments to come in tranche 3. However, as I have already said, the government has failed to provide a time frame for these amendments. To ensure owners and stakeholders do not have to wait years and years for the state government to act on these issues, I encourage the government to set a time frame, set some KPIs and set some measurements around this so the review can happen sooner rather than later and these reforms can happen as the community expects them to—in a timely fashion.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnell—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (3.09 pm): I rise to support the bill. We went to the election in 2020 with a commitment that we would establish a Community Titles Legislation Working Group with peak stakeholder representation and that they would work through the issues that need to be addressed. In my electorate, I have Cathedral Place which is under a MUD Act. It is an act that happened quite a few years ago. My understanding is that the government at the time put it together to allow this mixed use development that was Cathedral Place. As others in the House have said, we want the right behaviour and we want people to get along in these places. It is very difficult to legislate for that, particularly when we see some of the terrible things that have happened in Couran Cove.

I just cannot believe that any development like that would do some of the things they are doing to residents. It is really easy to blame the government—it is all our fault—but, honestly, developments that would go to the extent of the examples which have been given in here is the path that we are trying to fix here. Unfortunately, I feel very sorry for the victims of that. We are all in here trying to work through it to do the right thing to make it better; there is no doubt about it. These pieces of legislation are clearly not working. They were cobbled together to make do for some of these developments. I do not know who owns Couran Cove. I know there are a lot of residents at Cathedral Place. There have been issues there, as there are often issues with the Body Corporate and Community Management Act covered organisations as well.

Like the member for Surfers Paradise, I have a lot of these big towers in my constituency, and there are often complex issues with varying views, but one thing that I think this legislative working group is doing very well is looking at ensuring that body corporate governance is fair and transparent for proprietors and unit owners and seeking the remedies that we need under the legislation.


I commend the Attorney-General and the committee for looking at this and those who made submissions. With this working group, there was targeted consultation on the bill. An exposure draft of the bill was released on 29 April 2022, so they did a pretty good job. They did it with a number of complex issues coming to them and produced an exposure draft of the bill. Remember, they did the consultation, the drafters had to put the bill together, and it went ahead. I think it was as timely as it could be with what we were facing back in 2020 and 2021; I think they did a pretty good job to have that ready. There were three weeks of public consultation. I want to thank all the submitters.

The most pressing of the deficiencies in MUD and the BUGTA, those that are not consistent with the BCCM, is what this bill is all about. We have some pressing issues that we need to get through quickly without looking at the gamut of all the other things that I would like to see in MUD as well. There are issues here that we want to address for people—and I acknowledge those in the gallery—that we

want to get done, and I think that this bill is targeting those in line with the working group and the recommendations that came out of the committee. We can grandstand and talk about timing and whatever, but we need to get this through. I am very happy to stand in this place today to support them.

The bill is targeted at critical deficiencies in the MUD and BUGT acts. It will support provision of information and education on dispute resolution options and requires bodies corporate to act reasonably in carrying out their functions. If some of these stories that are coming in here today are deemed to be a reasonable way that a body corporate should act, I will walk backwards and eat my hat. It is quite concerning that that is actually occurring—very concerning. Who are these people, I might ask? It addresses eligibility requirements for subsidiary bodies corporate, conflicts of interest, bad debt recovery time frames, preserving rights to vote, increasing transparency and accountability in body corporate governance, and just makes sure that they are operating in the interests of the unit owners, in the interests of those living there, and that we all treat each other as human beings in the long run.

It is a great step forward. Of course we would like to see more. Some urgent amendments to this legislation are required, and what the government is targeting is a priority, so I support that. There are many issues in my electorate that we can look at down the track, things like seller disclosure, by-laws—my goodness, how many do I get about pets—car parking, smoking on balconies, debt recovery, management rights, regulation of body corporate managers—well and good, but they are very complex. People have entered under a set of rules. We have to move diligently and with full consultation. This is a great step today. I commend the Attorney-General and the committee, and I commend the bill to the House.

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (3.15 pm): I rise to speak to the Building Units and Group Titles and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. It is clear from the small number of speakers on this bill that this bill is non-controversial. In making basically administrative changes to the Building Units and Group Titles Act 1980 and the Mixed Use Development Act 1993, this bill is one tiny step towards reform of body corporate law in Queensland, when what we need is urgent, meaningful change.

Our housing system is in crisis and body corporate schemes are not immune from this. At least 415,000 Queensland households live in community title schemes and most of these are run by bodies corporate. This includes people living in duplexes, residential unit blocks and high-rise accommodation complexes.

While in many ways our current laws allow for flexible arrangements where people can rent or own their home while sharing common property with other occupants, there are too many issues in body corporate schemes for this government to carry on with business as usual. To be clear, this bill essentially maintains business as usual.

Instead of business as usual, Queenslanders need urgent action on: building management statements; disaster planning; embedded networks; management rights and commissions paid to body corporate managers; the accreditation, licensing and regulation of body corporate managers; bullying in body corporate schemes; dispute resolution, including proper funding for the Office of the Commissioner for Body Corporate and Community Management; and the fact that bodies corporate have no control over residential buildings being used as inappropriate short-stay accommodation.

Building management statements, or BMSs, are an obscure feature of Queensland body corporate legislation which allows developers to retain control of body corporate schemes for up to 25 years with no transparency to prospective buyers about such arrangements. The government needs to step up to stop developers from using building management schemes to take advantage of unit owners. BMSs are being used to circumvent and undermine the integrity of Queensland's body corporate and community titles regime. This serious policy failure is hurting everyday Queenslanders.

Developers of mixed use—that is, residential and commercial—buildings are using BMSs as a legal tool to retain full control of these buildings, long after residential units have been sold. They may use this control to take advantage of residents by ripping them off, locking them into long-term management contracts and potentially evading insurance rules, fire safety rules and obligations to rectify defects. My colleague the member for Maiwar and I have become all too aware of the impact BMSs are having on everyday Queenslanders who have come forward to tell us about terrible situations happening in our electorates.

There are a number of simple reforms the government could make to protect Queenslanders, starting by requiring all sellers to disclose the existence of a BMS to prospective buyers. It could require any new BMSs registered under the Land Title Act to have specific and fair rules enacting democratic voting systems. Thirdly, the government could create a mechanism for lot owners to rectify or terminate

unfair or oppressive BMSs by application to a competent tribunal. Fourthly, it could expand the remit of the Commissioner for Body Corporate and Community Management to cover matters under a BMS, noting that the commissioner's office would need to be adequately funded to perform its functions. Finally, professional registration, accreditation and licensing of strata managers is also required.

This government needs to reform unfair and oppressive BMSs as a matter of urgency. Queenslanders' quality of life and their right to feel safe at home is at stake. South Brisbane is home to hundreds of apartment blocks, many of which flooded in February and are at high risk of future floods. These apartments have been approved by the Brisbane City Council under state government planning laws which have resulted in people, bodies corporate, their homes and possessions being at extreme—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Pause the clock. I am going to give you some warning that you are straying from the long title of the bill. I will ask you to come back to it.

Dr MacMAHON: Bodies corporate are now having to deal with the outcome of a broken planning system that has put the profit of developers ahead of the safety and wellbeing of residents. After the 2022 floods hundreds of residents, body corporate managers and I were out sweeping up mud and water from apartment buildings, clearing up flooded goods and supporting residents across the electorate. Many of these apartment blocks lost power for extended periods of time. In many cases this was because electricity infrastructure, transformers and switchboards for big apartment blocks are located in the basement. Many bodies corporate across South Brisbane are now on the hook for hundreds and thousands of dollars for fixing flooded systems and are now looking at options for raising electricity infrastructure. Many of these bodies corporate are now also doing amazing work preparing flood plans specific for their buildings.

It is worth asking: why is it that electricity infrastructure is in the basement, putting these bodies corporate at huge financial risk? From what we understand, it would be the preference of Energex to have this kind of infrastructure not in the basement but at the ground level where it is safely accessible and dry, but developers do not want this. Why would they waste space on ground level electricity infrastructure—

Mr NICHOLLS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Whilst these are significant issues, they are not covered by this legislation which deals with specific amendments to the body corporate legislation rather than planning laws about where substations are located.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for South Brisbane, your contribution is straying again from the long title of the bill. I will ask you to come back to it.

Dr MacMAHON: To clarify, these are issues that are facing bodies corporate in Queensland now.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I appreciate that, but it is not for discussion as part of the contents of the bill or the committee process. I ask you to come back to the long title of the bill.

Dr MacMAHON: Along with a range of measures to make sure that bodies corporate are not carrying financial and direct risk from future floods, there is a whole range of reforms that I am clearly not allowed to talk about now. I will continue. We need urgent action on embedded networks. Victoria has just—

Ms FARMER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I would like your guidance on whether the member has shown disrespect to the chair.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for South Brisbane, I am going to assume that there was no reflection intended in your comments. I will ask you to stick to your contribution.

Dr MacMAHON: We also need urgent action on embedded networks. Victoria has banned embedded networks and Queensland needs to urgently follow suit. These kinds of networks that occur most commonly in BMSs leave customers vulnerable to high electricity prices and it is often Queensland tenants and owner-occupiers who are—


Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for South Brisbane, I apologise. If your contribution cannot come back to the bill I will ask you to take a seat.

Mr SMITH: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. As the member does continue to stray I wonder whether or not a warning might be adequate.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bundaberg, I do not need your guidance, thank you. The member for South Brisbane has three minutes remaining. I will let her think about how she can make her contribution relevant. If she cannot, I will ask her to take her seat.

Dr MacMAHON: As with many other people in this place, I have hundreds of bodies corporate in my electorate. I have been outlining issues that are facing people who live in apartment blocks who are part of bodies corporate in my electorate and other parts of Queensland. The reform we have before us today is fine—bringing various different kinds of titles in line. However, there is a whole range of other measures that are not being addressed.

The review of Queensland's property laws has been going on for nearly a decade under two different governments. We really do not need more consultation to tell us that our body corporate laws need fixing. I have outlined a whole range of measures which I will not get to speak about today. We need a government to take action. To be clear, this is about the safety of residents in apartment blocks who are living under body corporate schemes where they do not feel they have a democratic say in what goes on in their body corporate and they do not feel safe in their apartment block.

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (3.24 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution in support of the Building Units and Group Titles and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This bill was precipitated in part by what happened last year, as we know, at the Couran Cove Island Resort, a multilayered development established under both the Mixed Use Development Act and the Building Units and Group Titles Act. For more than a month in 2021 residents were forced to go without gas due to a dispute between residents and the body corporate. These matters were compounded by complex commercial arrangements, allegations of large amounts of unpaid debts and body corporate governance issues amongst other matters. Earlier this year I met with a resident who owns property there. The resident said that individual owners were in a state of despair and that this was a true David and Goliath story. They felt the decisions that had been made within the complex were influenced by conflicts of interest held by business backed owners and they welcomed this legislation as a game changer.

While the problems around the resort highlight deficiencies within the building units and group titles and mixed use development acts, there are broader concerns about their operations which need to be resolved. Issues include conflicts of interest influencing body corporate decision-making, frequent or costly disputes and court proceedings, and corporate interests owing large debts to subsidiary or lower level bodies corporate preventing subsidiaries from participating in governance decisions made by the overarching body corporate due to debtor voting rules. This bill addresses the identified deficiencies of both acts through a package of amendments based on existing provisions of the Body Corporate and Community Management Act, which governs the majority of Queensland's body corporate based developments.


One of the key changes is clearly stating the obligations and duties of bodies corporate and requiring them to act reasonably when carrying out their functions. This is in line with rules that have been in place in the Body Corporate and Community Management Act since its commencement in 1997. The requirement to act will also apply to executive committees in making decisions on behalf of Building Units and Group Titles Act bodies corporate.

This bill will also work to prevent issues around the provisions of utilities like those that happened last year at Couran Cove. Amendments to the Mixed Use Development Act will ensure that where a community or precinct body corporate has undertaken to provide essential utility services, whether directly or through another party, it will be obliged to take all reasonable steps to ensure continuity of that utility service. It is only reasonable that that should be the case.

The new dispute resolution measures outlined in this bill will give referees greater flexibility in dealing with matters. Referees appointed to resolve disputes will be required to act informally, not use technical legal jargon and observe natural justice principles, and they will not be bound by rules of evidence. Bodies corporate under the Building Units and Group Titles Act will also be able to make applications to a referee for disputes with parties who are not proprietors without a special resolution authorising the application. This was not previously the case. While this change sounds technical, it will reduce the amount of time and money spent by bodies corporate wanting to resolve disputes. This will also improve outcomes for residents.

Taken together, changes to dispute resolution processes will facilitate access to a more flexible and informal process and work to help proprietors protect their rights. As part of a review of property law in Queensland, the Queensland University of Technology considered the issue of harmonising both the Building Units and Group Titles Act and the Body Corporate and Community Management Act. The Queensland University of Technology recommended an increased level of consistency between the two acts with consequential considerations for the specified acts. The implementation of reforms based on those recommendations would be a significant legislative undertaking, requiring a substantial period of further analysis, consultation and development.

Stakeholders who were consulted about this bill were clear on a need to harmonise the three acts. They also highlighted several issues not addressed by the bill, which was in urgent need of reform. This reform has been welcomed by residents of the Couran Cove Island Resort who, following the introduction of the Building Units and Group Titles and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, indicated, as I said earlier, that it was a win for their community. In an article dated 22 June this year, Couran Cove resident Bernie Woods said that the bill is going to close up some loopholes and allow people to have a say. For this and all the reasons I have outlined, I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (3.29 pm): I rise to lend my support to the bill, and I do so with one word in mind: hope. These changes give the residents of Couran Cove hope. After so many months and years of despair, that is the least this House could offer them. These changes are not perfect, but they are heading in the direction they need to. These changes are not perfect, but there may be opportunities for us to continue to improve it in the future. I want to use my contribution to thank the government and the committee process and I acknowledge the shadow Attorney-General for the way in which he has endeavoured to work towards this outcome.


I want to reflect on why legislation like this matters. The residents of Couran Cove have been subjected to some of the most distressing times you could possibly imagine. My office has been liaising with many of them and we have taken the opportunity to write to different attorneys-general to highlight what is going on. When you hear stories of pensioners without access to vital services, you know that something is not right. When you hear stories of everyday people who have made an investment in what should be an island paradise wondering how they are going to pay for services that they are not even receiving, you know that something is wrong.

I want to touch on some of the feedback we have received over time. It is my sincere hope that these changes to BUGTA can deliver for those residents. We heard from a resident who is sight-impaired who had services cut from her. We have had people with serious illness; we have had people who are aged or infirm. We have had meetings cancelled and rescheduled and allegations of insufficient notice given for key meetings. We have had a power generator on the island that has been unreliable at best. At what was once an idyllic paradise we have facilities and assets that you would never expect in a modern era. There are boardwalks in disarray and rubbish on the island.

We are not talking about a far-off impoverished country; this is on the Gold Coast. We all recall the promises when it was first mooted in the lead-up to Sydney 2000. It was going to be the centrepiece of a village that the eyes of the world would look at. It was going to be sustainable and one of a kind. Instead, it has been a boulevard of broken dreams. You cannot blame the people who just want an island paradise. They just want the services they are entitled to. So it is that I throw my support behind the changes. I am going to read some words from a resident of the island—

To the layman, so many dodgy things have been undertaken by the past and current resort owners but unfortunately have been wrapped up in constant threats and legal proceedings. With many owners being just mum-and-dad investors, we simply don't have the knowledge, money or power to stop these dodgy and simply unjust events from occurring.

I say to the residents of Couran Cove: we cannot promise you money or power, but we can promise you hope. We can promise you that we have listened and that we are serious about ensuring your idyllic island paradise can be somewhere you can truly call home. I place on record my support for the changes and stand ready to make further changes that may be required. If these changes mean that those who may have controlling interests walk away from the island, I ask the government to do everything in its power to listen and respond quickly, because this legislation gives hope but it will not give electricity and services if the government takes a back seat and walks away. We have to make sure that the services people have invested in and rely on are there, and we have to make sure that if further changes are needed we stand ready to make them.


 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (3.35 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the Building Units and Group Titles and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. It is an important bill. I do not have any scenarios in my electorate like Couran Cove, which we have heard so much about—the member for McConnell has talked to me a number of times about the situation with Cathedral Place—but I do represent a community that is increasing in density, so the issues addressed by this bill and the issues being considered by the Community Titles Legislation Working Group are extremely important to people who live in my electorate. The issues of fairness and transparency are at the heart of the matter. Although we talk about those concepts a lot in this House relating to a range of different issues, this particular bill directly impacts people's lives because, in the end, the roof that is over your head is fundamental to your quality of life and if things are not right there then a lot of other things are not right either.

We know that this bill amends the Building Units and Group Titles Act 1980 and the Mixed Use Development Act 1993. It gives confidence to unit owners by making sure they have fair and transparent body corporate governance and, where that is not happening, there are remedies available. It means that unit owners can enjoy the same protections and benefit from similar governance arrangements, regardless of whether their body corporate is subject to the body corporate act or to BUGTA. This builds on the Palaszczuk government's plan. It is a progressive plan; it has been in effect for a number of years. Many people have referred to the QUT review. It is a substantial body of work and it has been fantastic to see that work being built on over the years and the thorough examination of the complex issues that are involved in these kinds of dwellings.

The Community Titles Legislation Working Group is important as it enables peak stakeholder bodies to consider the important issues that come across all of our desks on a regular basis such as by-laws, debt recovery, seller disclosure, regulation of body corporate managers, management rights, residential amenity, bullying and harassment, and termination of community titles schemes. The working group will also look at further harmonisation of the BUGTA and the BCCM Act as a later stage of work.

These are important issues. Bodies corporate and committees make a range of important decisions that impact on people's day-to-day lives. So many times, people who move into a block of units, townhouses or apartments just want to carry on with daily lives and find themselves on a body corporate or committee. They put their hands up for the job, probably knowing little about what a responsibility it is. It is vital that we have a regulatory framework that not only protects them but enables them to make really responsible decisions for the people who reside at their address.


More and more Queenslanders are living in units. In my own electorate units are being built where five years ago they would not have been built. They are being built on land where little old ladies brought up their families for the last 50 years. Once on that land there was a house and now it is a block of units with 10 people living there, and there are whole streets of them. Just last week the Brisbane City Council approved a new master plan for a very big parcel of land in my electorate, the old Bulimba Barracks site. Terri Butler, the former member for Griffith, former councillor Shayne Sutton and now Councillor Kara Cook and I have fought over many years to ensure that that development had a master plan with some statutory protection to make sure that it did the right thing by people, and that is just an example of how much work you have to do to ensure that people are protected. There is still a bit of that kind of land available in my electorate even though it is an inner-city electorate, so to introduce legislation like this which protects people and which protects the people who are making decisions is so important. I commend the bill to the House and look forward to further reforms.

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (3.40 pm): I rise to support the Building Units and Group Titles and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. My constituents Tony and Shelley, who are in the gallery, have been impacted severely by the Couran Cove debacle. They came in to have a meeting with me and I think I had to pick my chin up off the ground to totally understand the impact that this has had on their lives. It has just been absolutely traumatic for them outside of this whole crazy structure where people are paying into the body corporate and then taking money out to use for fees to fight the existing landowners. It is absolutely shocking what has been going on there.

There are other residents in the gallery today too—Tony, Shelley, Karen, Mick, Dave, Bernie and Margaret. For all of the residents at Couran Cove, it has just been shocking. There has been the restriction of access to basic utilities such as electricity, water and gas, and there has been sewage leaking and boardwalks that are absolutely dangerous. This has stopped seniors who live over there from doing things. It is absolutely shocking. Karen is unable to walk any distance without severe breathlessness. She has balance issues and she has had three falls. Her husband, Mick, also has the same issues. They have been denied the ability to have a buggy on the island, and that is the only form of transport. They live a kilometre away from the jetty. Living on an island is so complex and stopping mobility for the seniors who live over there shows that what has gone on is absolutely disgusting. Those people—they know who they are—should absolutely hang their heads in shame for what they have done to the residents of that island.

Margaret applied for a berth on the Z arm and the very next day the new neighbours who had bought a cheap block put in an application. They were approved within one week whilst Margaret has been told that they still cannot have access to a jetty. As I said, there are islands in my patch and the only way you can get to and from home is via the water. Denying people the opportunity to have a berth when there were over a dozen that were still spare with three refusals with no reason for the denial is just absolutely shocking. I am so pleased to see this legislation. I know absolutely how much it means


to those residents who have been impacted in the shonky scam set-up that has been going on. I look forward to seeing this bill pass as quickly as possible for all of those residents who have absolutely been traumatised by the body corporate that has been managing that structure because it is shameful. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (3.43 pm): I rise to support the Building Units and Group Titles and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This bill proposes amendments, in a fair few cases, modelled on existing body corporate and community management provisions to address the gap and the manifest inefficiencies of the BUGTA and Mixed Use Development Act and to bring forward reforms that will increase the transparency of the process and the fairness and equity of governance for unit owners in developments that are subject to this legislation. The bill includes unique measures that are not in the body corporate and community management legislation and expands the scope of how particular measures are adopted from the BCCM legislation and are applied under the BUGTA and MUD Act. It facilitates body corporate access to dispute resolution services. That is achieved by relaxing the current really prescriptive, overly complex and, frankly, unfair current requirements and it will make it much easier for people to be able to resolve a dispute, which is sorely needed.


So many speakers in their contributions to this bill have noted or spoken about the application of the BUGTA to the Couran Cove resort development on South Stradbroke Island. When one takes the time to look at the incredibly complex and layered arrangement of the bodies corporate, which includes the overarching community body corporate with four subsidiaries that had been established for parts of the physical site that had been further subdivided, it is incredibly opaque and incredibly complex. I want to acknowledge the horrible outcomes that the residents and former residents of Couran Cove have been subjected to. These are just truly horrible and heart-wrenching stories. It is good to see that there will be substantial progress as part of the reforms in this bill which will restore fairness and equity to these kinds of developments. Indeed, there is support from many stakeholders for the reforms that are contained in this bill. It has been acknowledged that this is part of an ongoing reform process that the government is committed to in order to ensure that there is fairness and equity when it comes to these kinds of developments.

I was particularly pleased that these reforms are going to empower people through better information and education services where there will be education and information services that are comparable to those that are already provided under the Body Corporate and Community Management Act. That is empowering people to be able to represent themselves or to make informed decisions when it comes to the matters that fall under the purview of this regulation, and that is absolutely essential, particularly when we consider that the BUGTA arrangements are very complex and that the gap between the body corporate management legislation and BUGTA has become wider and wider over time. That has led to a situation where it has been quite uneven and unequal when we consider ownership under either the body corporate act as compared to the BUGT Act. Fundamentally, it is not fair. It is not fair for the owners who are hardworking people who have made a significant investment into their property. I think that this is very worthwhile reform. I commend the bill to the House.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): I call the member for Rockhampton and issue some advice: you have one minute.

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (3.49 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Building Units and Group Titles and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I will only talk to the dispute resolution recommendations contained in this bill. This is an area that has blown out to extended times and can lead to a lot of stress and mental health issues. Having worked in the housing industry for over 30 years, I have come across many occasions where disputes are taking place, whether it is between occupants in the dwellings or between occupants and the body corporate, for example for upgrades or maintenance or the external areas—the list goes on with some of these disputes. We need to pass this bill. It is essential for the wellbeing of all people who reside in these dwellings. I commend the bill to the House.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member. Well done. Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time limit for this stage of the bill having expired, I call the Attorney-General to reply to the second reading debate.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (3.50 pm), in reply: I thank the honourable members of the House for their contributions to the debate and their support for the amendments in this bill. As members have noted, these amendments will make body corporate

governance arrangements fairer and more transparent. The bill will ensure unit owners in those developments are provided with more of the protections and services that owners in developments under the more contemporary BCCM Act receive. The amendments in the bill were substantially informed by the circumstances of owners directly affected by the deficiencies in the acts that the bill proposes to amend. In addition, the development of amendments included in the bill benefited from substantial consultation with relevant stakeholder groups, resulting in several improvements being made as a direct result of stakeholder feedback. I would like to once again thank all owners and stakeholder group representatives who provided invaluable assistance during the bill's development. In particular, I again want to acknowledge all of the owners at Couran Cove for their tireless advocacy on this issue. I also want to briefly acknowledge all planners on World Town Planning Day today. Planners do vital work to ensure community titles schemes work appropriately and are in line with complex arrangements.

I will now address matters raised by honourable members during the debate on the bill. I thank the member for Clayfield for his support of the bill. I agree with the member's view that the amendments to BUGTA and the MUD Act contained in this bill should commence as soon as possible. That is why I have ensured that, subject to approval by the Governor in Council, these amendments are slated to commence on 1 December 2022.

The member also raised the issue of the QUT Property Law Review, which has closely considered issues around harmonising BUGTA with the BCCM Act. I am pleased to report that the Palaszczuk government has continued to do substantial work to implement the Property Law Review, which is looking at an impressive range of body corporate issues. Property law is complex and very technical. It is critical that government be diligent in its consideration and ensure any solutions appropriately address the many issues that are faced by community titles schemes without inadvertently causing any unintended consequences.

I would point out that the member for Clayfield failed to mention that the Palaszczuk government has already dealt with substantial parts of QUT's review of body corporate issues. In 2020, the five regulation modules that support the BCCM Act by providing the all-important procedural and administrative rules under which schemes operate were reformed, with four remade and one amended. The reforms to the regulation modules implemented either in full, or in part, 64 of QUT's recommendations about important procedural and administrative reforms to the legislation which ensure owners are better protected. Those reforms also modernised procedural requirements by allowing for the adoption of new technologies such as electronic voting. These were important reforms and the owners of more than 50,000 lots under the BCCM Act are now benefiting from them.

In addition, as I highlighted in my second reading speech, the government has formed the Community Titles Legislation Working Group to provide advice to government about further body corporate issues. We committed to considering all of those issues before the working group and, following work on reforms to the BCCM Act, it is expected the working group will then provide advice on the further harmonisation of BUGTA and specified acts with the BCCM Act.

As I stated earlier, the reforms in this bill are not intended as a direct intervention into disputes at Couran Cove, but they will clearly benefit the owners and residents. Of particular relevance are the measures designed to address conflicts of interest, like improving committee member eligibility requirements and preventing committee members from voting when they owe debts to bodies corporate. These reforms, based largely on existing provisions of the BCCM framework, will help to ensure that committee governance is conducted in the interests of proprietors, rather than vested interests.

Reforms in this bill will help ensure the ongoing viability and sustainability of bodies corporate under BUGTA and MUDA. Contributions are the lifeblood of bodies corporate and if they are not paid bodies corporate can be left without the financial resources to administer and maintain the scheme. The losers are those owners who are paying their contributions. For that reason, the bill includes amendments to BUGTA to require that bodies corporate take action to recover contribution debts where a contribution has been owing for a specified period. This is another sensible reform that is based on existing requirements under the BCCM Act.

A more ambitious reform relevant to debt provisions is provided by amendments that preserve the voting rights of subsidiary bodies corporate in certain circumstances. As the requirements currently stand, where a subsidiary is unable to meet its financial responsibilities to a higher level body corporate, that subsidiary cannot vote at meetings of the higher level body corporate, which leaves the subsidiary

unable to have a say in vital decisions that impact not only the subsidiary's future but also the entire development. The bill will ensure that where those debts are owing because owners of undeveloped lots have not paid their contributions, the subsidiary body will still be able to vote at meetings of a higher level body corporate.

We also heard members opposite claim that the government has not appropriately resourced the Office of the Commissioner for Body Corporate and Community Management. I say again that in this year's budget we committed \$2.5 million over the next three years to the commissioner's office to ensure they were able to properly implement these changes. While we will of course look at further funding if required, I note that my department dealt with this at length as part of its contribution to the committee's inquiry.

In his contribution to the second reading debate, the member for Scenic Rim raised the issue of reasonableness in relation to adjudications by the BCCM commissioner, but failed to mention that he asked the department about this issue in July and was provided a detailed response. As the department noted at the time, if the full brunt of issues were faced by the commissioner, this would be an increase of less than 50 referrals per annum. The department noted at the time—

... the Bill includes provisions supporting an information and education service for unit owners and other stakeholders in BUGT Act developments (comparable to services provided under the BCCM Act)

We want these changes to lead to more, not less, harmonious community titles schemes in Queensland. This bill is important and it will have a beneficial impact on the lives of those owning and living in relevant developments. For the benefit of those opposite, I want to clarify that the BCCM Act's provisions for requirements to act reasonably have been in place for some time and have provided benefits to owners under that framework since its commencement. They provide a general capacity for people to seek to remedy problems facing them that are not otherwise covered by specific provisions of the BCCM Act or its regulation modules. It is appropriate and fair to ensure that owners in BUGT Act and MUD Act bodies corporate also enjoy the same assurance that the decision-making processes comprising governance of their developments must be reasonable. In acknowledgement of the possibility that there may be some misuse or misunderstanding of these grounds for dispute, the bill will also allow referees to award modest costs—of up to \$2,000—where an application is vexatious, frivolous, misconceived or without substance. This is based on a similar power included in the BCCM Act, which is seldom used but which it would appear has been effective in disincentivising inappropriate applications.

The member for Noosa, who is a member of the committee, also spoke on the bill and I thank her for her support. I note the member is concerned about additional ongoing funding for the Office of the Commissioner for Body Corporate and Community Management as it is clear the community titles sector in Queensland is growing rapidly. Government takes potential impacts of the bill's changes on the role of the commissioner's office very seriously and, as I have previously mentioned, we have given an additional \$2.5 million to the office to support effective implementation of the reforms. I also note that the member has a keen interest in the body corporate sector generally and my office and I are always happy to discuss any issues or concerns she may have.

I would like to very briefly address the contribution of the member for South Brisbane, and it will be brief as most of her contribution was out of order. Had the member for South Brisbane listened to my contribution she would have heard that many of the issues she has raised are currently being dealt with by the Community Titles Legislation Working Group and there will be further bills introduced to progress these further reforms.

I also want to acknowledge the contribution of the member for Surfers Paradise who, as well as his support, has given us perhaps the best example of saying out loud what should remain quiet by admitting that he misses receiving donations from property developers. The member for Surfers Paradise said he 'missed seeing HSP nominees' on cheques. I knew those opposite were stridently opposed to our proud record on integrity and transparency, but this is another level. Despite all of that, I acknowledge that the LNP will be supporting this bill and I thank the members opposite who have spoken in favour of the bill.

Again I want to say that I have met with Couran Cove residents a number of times. I first met with them over 18 months ago and since then have been committed to making sure we work to address these issues. Whenever we have been made aware of issues at Couran Cove, including private utilities being switched off, my department and I have acted. We have done what we can to ensure that residents are supported and are aware of organisations and agencies that can provide emergency assistance. Of course, the behaviour that we have seen at Couran Cove is unacceptable and I hope

that this legislation sends a clear message across the state that it will not be tolerated. In conclusion, I once again thank all honourable members for their contributions during the debate. 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—

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (4.01 pm): Clause 2 deals with commencement and I note the Attorney's advice to the House in relation to the commencement date. I urge on the Attorney how important this is because the situation at Couran Cove deteriorates by the day. What has now happened is that the significant owner has called on AGM in an attempt to forestall the changes that this legislation is anticipated to bring forward. In doing so, they propose new levies, on average \$20,000 per lot owner, to pay the utility fees that have not been paid by an associate. A company that is charging millions of dollars for the services it provides has an associate that is now calling a meeting of the bodies corporate in order to levy from other owners more funds to pay themselves. This is what is occurring here. Some of the subsidiary bodies corporate can oppose that. The eco body corporate can oppose it but the marine body corporate at Sanctuary Cove cannot. On top of that, the villa owners will now have to pay legal bills estimated at over \$105,000 for September 2022 alone, which is to be divided amongst 24 owners, of whom 16 are actually considerate owners who will have to make a payment.

On behalf of the owners—and I am sure they have said this to the Attorney-General and many others—I say that it is vital that this legislation, which has been delayed for nine weeks in debate in this House, is brought on as soon as possible because each day of delay gives those who would seek to abuse the current system and not comply with obligations that are anticipated under the new system another opportunity to do so. In doing that, I also reflect on the issue regarding the costs for the implementation and resourcing of the office of the body corporate commissioner with \$2.5 million over three years. In my speech I acknowledged that that funding had been put there—it is just over \$700,000 a year—but there has been no detail yet of what that involves, how many extra staff will be made available, how many extra referees will be available and what extra time will be made available to address these issues. I think it is fair to say that we will expect those to come fairly promptly.

In terms of the increase in dispute applications, I noted what the Attorney-General said in her response just a moment ago regarding the response made by the deputy commissioner, Ms Thomson, to Mr Krause. I also note that the explanatory notes state—

Costs may also be associated with a likely modest, but not insignificant, rise in dispute resolution applications resulting from the amendments (such as the requirement for bodies corporate and committees to act reasonably) that will increase possible grounds for seeking dispute resolution.

These are all important matters that go to the heart of the changes being brought here today.


Ms FENTIMAN: Yes, I am very well aware of how urgently these reforms are needed. That is why, as I have said, we hope to have the amendments in place by 1 December, which I think recognises just how long residents at Couran Cove have been experiencing these difficulties. I am very pleased that we can have these commence within a matter of weeks.

Clause 2, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 3 to 48, as read, agreed to.

Schedule, as read, agreed to.

Third 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) (4.05 pm): I move—


That the bill be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (4.06 pm): I move—

That the long title of the bill be agreed to.


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

Motion agreed to.

COAL MINING SAFETY AND HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 12 October (see p. 2606).

Second Reading

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (4.06 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I thank the Transport and Resources Committee for its expeditious consideration of the Coal Mining Safety and Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. I note the committee tabled its report on Friday, 4 November. The bill strengthens the safety and health culture in our resources sector through the facilitation of direct employment requirements, which require a person who is an employee of the coalmine operator to be appointed to certain statutory positions. These requirements ensure that holders of statutory roles at coalmines can make safety complaints, raise safety issues or help officials in relation to a safety issues without fear of reprisal.

Last month on Triple M radio, Queensland Resources Council Chief Executive Ian Macfarlane said—

Safety is never good enough and we work in an environment of constant improvement, until every person can go home at the end of every shift.

I agree with Mr Macfarlane's comments and welcome them. Our government wants to enable and empower workers to do the right thing and to not feel impeded by their employment status when it comes to matters of safety. Every worker deserves to go home to their loved ones at the end of their shift. I am sure that everyone in this House would agree with that. Last week I was at the Moranbah Miners' Memorial and heard directly from families who have lost loved ones in the resources industry. Individually and collectively, we must do all we can to make the necessary changes to keep our workers safe. This bill addresses issues raised by industry in relation to these requirements, which were first introduced into legislation in May 2020, while upholding the intent of the original legislation.

The bill will allow limited exceptions to the direct employment requirements and will ensure that responsibility for safety is not fragmented across multiple employers. The coalmining safety and health legislation establishes the coalmine operator as the ultimate source of accountability for safety on a coalmine. That is the core of the legislative framework. Those who undertake coalmining operations must ensure the safety and health of workers who are exposed to the hazards of their operations.

The coalmine operator is responsible for implementing key safety and health systems and management structures. The direct employment requirements ensure the coalmine operator's responsibility for these structures remains intact. We cannot have accountability fragmented across multiple companies with their own structures, systems and cultures as it can lead to silos of risk. The amendments will allow coalmine operators that only undertake exploration activities to appoint a site senior executive, or SSE, through another employer. Industry advocated for this amendment and I listened. This is what good governments do. It will provide greater flexibility for junior and mid-tier companies where these activities have a lower risk profile.

The amendments will also allow contract companies which are responsible for substantially whole-of-mine operations to employ all statutory position holders for that operation. This allows the employment of a senior site executive and all statutory position holders in the management structure under the mine's safety and health management system. Through this change, the one entity, such as a contract company responsible for a whole-of-mine operation, will remain substantially responsible for safety at the coalmine. These amendments will allow operators to engage statutory position holders from external sources for temporary absences of no more than 12 weeks. This provides flexibility for covering unplanned long-term absences. Once again, industry advocated for this amendment and I listened to them.

Lastly, the amendments will allow the direct employment of the site senior executive, underground mine manager and ventilation officer statutory position holders by associated companies and joint ventures. This provides coalmine operators with greater flexibility to engage those senior position holders from a broader pool of employees across its different operations and joint venture companies without the need to restructure individual employment arrangements each time.

This bill is also delivering a key action from this government's Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan, which I released in June. Our Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan outlines the government's 30-year vision for our resources sector. Action 10 commits government to develop and implement a framework allowing for a deferral of the first year's rent for specific critical minerals mining leases. This allows proponents to redirect funds towards their project during a time when cash flow is important. To give effect to this, the bill amends the Mineral Resources Act 1989 to introduce a framework to allow the Minister for Resources to defer the first year's rent for a mineral that is prescribed in the Mineral Resources Regulation 2013 and in circumstances where the proponent can prove that funds saved from the deferral will be utilised towards startup costs for the project. The Department of Resources will provide clear guidance materials to assist applicants.

The Palaszczuk government is 100 per cent committed to growing and diversifying our resources sector. By deferring the first year's rent for eligible critical minerals projects, we are sending an important signal to explorers, investors and the industry as a whole that Queensland is serious about the continued development of our critical minerals sector. The sector has certainly welcomed and supported this. In fact, at our recent ministerial advisory group meeting for the Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan in Townsville, Association of Mining and Exploration Companies Queensland Director Sarah Gooley said that 'initiatives like that by the Queensland government show that they are willing to do business differently and that they are keen to work in partnership with the industry to develop solutions that are going to help accelerate development of these minerals'.

I now turn to the committee's report on the bill and some of the issues raised by stakeholders during the committee process. Firstly, I welcome the committee's recommendation 1, that the bill be passed. The committee recommended in recommendation 2 that I clarify which body will enforce compliance with the exceptions to the direct employment provisions. Resources Safety & Health Queensland will be the body responsible for that compliance.

The committee recommended in recommendation 3 that I further consider the application of the associated entity exception to the direct employment requirements for the electrical engineer manager and the mechanical engineer management roles. I will speak to that a little later. The committee also recommended that I revisit the percentage threshold for the exception for direct employment requirements for entities that employ at least 80 per cent of workers at a coalmine. Resources Safety & Health Queensland will monitor the coalmining industry's implementation of the provisions with a view to identifying any challenges it has with meeting those requirements.

The committee made a fifth recommendation—that the explanatory notes be amended to identify a greater number of issues regarding fundamental legislative principles. The explanatory notes have been amended to reflect potential issues of fundamental legislative principles for clause 12 of the bill, which inserts new section 324 in the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999. The committee was satisfied that improvements in managing the safety and health of workers from the bill's direct employment requirements justify the potential impact of the new provisions.

The committee recommended that the statement of compatibility be amended to include a discussion regarding the engagement of the right to property under clause 12 of the bill. Changes have been made to the statement of compatibility to include further discussion on the engagement of the right to property. The committee was satisfied that the amendment would not impact on the enjoyment of the right to property and was compatible with human rights.

During the committee process some stakeholders raised concerns about the consultation period. To be clear, these amendments were developed following the ongoing, yearlong consultation process with stakeholders. The direct employment requirements were passed on 25 May 2020, with an 18-month transition period which would have ended on 25 November last year. However, it was unfortunately towards the end of the transition period that industry outlined its challenges. In response, further amendments were made by the government to extend the duration of the transitional period, until 25 November this year, to allow time for industry to articulate those challenges to implementation and, with unions and Resources Safety & Health Queensland, to identify solutions. This was primarily achieved through the tripartite working group established by the Commissioner for Resources Safety & Health Queensland in late 2021. I take this opportunity to thank Commissioner Kate du Preez for her work in chairing this group and all of the members for their work.

In February this year, the working group presented its report to me. Following consideration of the working group's advice and possible solutions, Resources Safety & Health Queensland spent the following months working with industry to formulate refined recommendations, which were communicated with the Queensland Resources Council and the Mining and Energy Union. Further, my office and I have worked closely with industry and the union throughout this time, with numerous meetings and correspondence as well. For example, I and my office met, spoke with or received correspondence from the Queensland Resources Council at least 19 times outside of the tripartite process established. For those opposite to claim that there was no consultation is wrong. We will always consult and we will always engage, but having your say does not mean getting your way. Further consultation with industry stakeholders and the union occurred on the draft consultation bill. The government has tabled an erratum to the explanatory notes to the bill which clarifies that this consultation occurred in mid-August this year.

The direct employment requirements are to commence on 25 November this year. This has given industry 2½ years to ready itself for these amendments. The exceptions in this bill to the direct employment requirements need to commence simultaneously to ensure industry can comply with the requirements. Industry has sought a further six-month transition period to implement the changes contained in this bill. However, the bill does not impose further requirements; rather, it provides limited exceptions to the direct employment requirements. These come into full effect on 25 November this year. Further delaying the bill, or the commencement of the direct employment requirements, is not considered warranted and would be impractical for industry, giving them less flexibility.

During the committee process, stakeholders also raised concerns about the basis for the exception for a contractor company that employs 80 per cent or greater of its workers at the coalmine. This exception would allow a person to be appointed to a statutory position—such as SSE, open-cut examiner, underground mine manager, explosion risk zone controller, electrical engineering manager, mechanical engineering manager or ventilation officer—by a company such as a contractor company if the company employs or engages at least 80 per cent of the workers at the entire coalmine. To be clear, this would apply in limited instances where a contractor company may be responsible for all aspects of coalmining operations or be substantially responsible for the whole mine's operations but is not appointed the coalmine operator.

Some stakeholders, such as the Queensland Resources Council, stated during public hearings that they are not aware of any contractors in Queensland that could currently meet the 80 per cent threshold. I believe the QRC have tried to misrepresent the situation during this consultation process, particularly during the 25 October public hearing so let me clarify this for the sake of the House. There are contractor companies that are operating mines that show they are capable of meeting this 80 per cent threshold. I am advised by Resources Safety & Health Queensland that, according to information provided by the resources industry itself, there are currently 11 open-cut mines and one underground mine where a contracting company employs or engages over 80 per cent of the workers at the mine in a full-service contract. For the record these mines are Lake Vermont and Sonoma operated by Thiess; Meandu, Commodore and Broadmeadow East operated by BUMA; Broadlea, Baralaba and Kogan Creek operated by Golding; Bluff operated by MACA; Isaac Plains operated by EPSA; Byerwen operated by Macmahon; and Cook Colliery operated by Mastermyne.

While currently at these mines, these contractor companies are also appointed as the coalmine operator, this amendment would enable these companies to employ the SSE and other statutory positions even if they were not appointed as operator, provided they continue to employ or engage at least 80 per cent of the workforce. In these circumstances, a statutory official undertaking their duties and employed by the contractor responsible under the single health and safety management system will be responsible for the health and safety of the workforce, whatever its make-up, under their full-service contract.

In the case of contract companies not meeting the 80 per cent threshold, this exception would not apply and the default requirement of the statutory officials being an employee of the coalmine operator, or associated entity of the operator in relation to the SSE, underground mine manager or ventilation officer, would apply. If contractor companies continue to have a general ability to employ their own statutory positions without a requirement that they employ a minimum threshold of workers at the mine, this would be contrary to the intent of the changes made in May 2020.

Both operators and contractors have legal obligations to ensure the mine operates under a single safety and health management system as developed by the SSE to ensure there is no conflict or disconnect. Ensuring only contractors responsible for whole-of-mine, or substantially whole-of-mine, operations may employ statutory position holders will minimise disconnects between the contractor

practices and that of the mine's safety and health management system. The direct employment requirements only strengthen against a potential disconnect or conflict, fortifying mines' management structures, and it ensures they are unified within one management structure, under the single safety and health management system.

As the tripartite working group did not reach a consensus on how to address the issue of contractor companies, the government determined an option between the two non-consensus options. This new option was put to stakeholders and included in the consultation draft bill. Further feedback on the consultation draft bill resulted in the exception being tightened further now only applying where a contractor company engages 80 per cent or more of workers across the entire coalmine rather than within a separate part of a surface mine as originally drafted. This change will facilitate the operation of full-service contracts for whole-of-mine operations whether or not the contractor is the appointed coalmine operator. Companies will demonstrate their compliance with these amendments through the data they routinely provide to RSHQ on employee numbers. I am advised RSHQ audits a random sample of companies each year to verify worker numbers.

This is not about making a distinction between contractor and labour hire companies. It is certainly not about saying certain types of companies are better than others when it comes to safety. It is about ensuring a central point of accountability for safety and the employment of these roles. This is critical to protecting the safety and health of coalmine workers, regardless of who their employer is.

Concerns were also raised by stakeholders in relation to temporary absences or vacancies of up to 12 weeks exception for an SSE, open-cut examiner, underground mine manager, explosion risk zone controller, electrical engineering manager, mechanical engineering manager and ventilation officer statutory positions. Some submissions contended that this was not long enough, proposing a minimum of six months would be needed to fill a vacancy and other submissions did not support the exception at all, concerned that this created a loophole that could potentially be exploited. The 12-week period provides more flexibility than current arrangements which only provide for temporary absences. It will assist with unplanned absences or vacancies in statutory roles resulting from resignations, long-term sickness or injury and statutory position holders taking long service leave.

During the committee process, some stakeholders raised concerns about not all statutory positions being covered by the associate entity exception, particularly the underground electrical engineering manager and underground mechanical engineering manager statutory positions, which they thought should be included. Other stakeholders did not support the exception at all. The tripartite working group only reached a consensus that the associated entity exception would apply to an SSE, underground mine manager and ventilation officer.

The bill provides for direct employment of the SSE, UMM and VO by associated companies or joint ventures. This enables engagement of statutory officers from a broader pool of employees across a coalmine operator's diverse operations and joint venture companies, without the need to restructure individual employment arrangements each time.

Some stakeholders did not support the exception to directly employ an SSE by a coalmine operator whose only coalmining operations are exploration activities. However, some industry stakeholders wanted the exception extended for mines in care and maintenance. This was not raised during the tripartite working group consultation by industry or their peak bodies. The advice RSHQ, the independent regulator, has given me is there is not the same level of risk between care and maintenance work and exploration activities. Mines that are in care and maintenance such as North Goonyella, Minerva and Eagle Downs are operations that have a large footprint and have higher associated risks. Exploration has a smaller footprint and limited operations and therefore has a lower risk.

The current provisions in the bill are balanced and give flexibility to a company that is undertaking exploration activities and is not involved in other aspects of coalmining operations in appointing an SSE. This benefits junior and mid-tier companies that may find it uneconomical to directly employ an SSE provided they are undertaking exploration activities and are not the operator or associated entity of an operating coalmine.

Some stakeholders raised concerns about not proceeding with amendments requiring a safety focus only for statutory roles for an open-cut examiner, ventilation officer or ERZ controller. This issue was originally raised when some mines sought to address the direct employment requirements by combining duties prescribed under the legislation for safety with coal production related tasks such as operating production equipment like loaders, dump trucks, excavators, draglines and underground longwall and development equipment.

One of the issues raised by stakeholders was to ensure those positions avoid conflict between the safety duties and responsibilities with competing production priorities. Where there is potential for holders of these safety positions to be conflicted by production priorities, it risks their ability to effectively discharge their safety functions. In turn, this puts workers at an unacceptable risk.

The draft consultation bill circulated to industry stakeholders involved proposed amendments for these coalmining statutory positions to have a sole safety focus. However, through the feedback received on the draft bill, it has been identified that this matter needs further consideration with industry. I will ask a working group from industry and the unions to further examine this issue and to provide further advice in relation to it. Production being prioritised over safety was a key finding of the board of inquiry into the Grosvenor mine explosion and it is an important matter I would like considered further.

I table the government's response to the committee's report. I also table an erratum to amend the explanatory notes and an erratum to amend the statement of compatibility.

Tabled paper: Coal Mining Safety and Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes: Erratum (second) [1854].

Tabled paper: Coal Mining Safety and Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights: Erratum [1855].

Tabled paper: Transport and Resources Committee: Report No. 25, 57th Parliament—Coal Mining Safety and Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, government response [1856].


The Queensland government is committed to supporting the development of critical minerals projects to facilitate the development of low-emissions technologies needed to reduce emissions. To give effect to this, the bill amends the Mineral Resources Act 1989 to introduce a framework to allow the Minister for Resources to defer the first year's rent for specific critical mineral mining leases in circumstances where the proponent can prove that the funds saved from the deferral will be utilised towards startup costs for the project. The department will provide clear guidance materials to assist applicants. This will deliver on action 10 of the Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan. The framework will ensure that rent is not a barrier to economic critical minerals projects and will enable proponents to redirect funds towards their projects during a time that is critically cash-flow dependent and to deliver an improved chance of success.

The committee made the recommendation that the explanatory notes be amended to identify a greater number of issues in its discussion of consistency with fundamental legislative principles. For example, several potential issues of fundamental legislative principle were not identified including clause 23, inserting new section 291 in the Mineral Resources Act 1989.

As part of the drafting process, the Department of Resources did consider whether to include appeal rights—however decided not to. The policy intent is to support the growth of critical mineral mining projects and to remove rent as a barrier to establishing these projects. Therefore, if the criterion in section 291(1) is met then the minister must give the rent deferral. In the event that the minister refuses a request to defer the first year's rent, the applicant retains the right to seek a judicial review of the minister's decision. This is consistent with the review mechanisms for other decisions in the Mineral Resources Act 1989. Additionally, whilst not specifically set out in the provision, as part of the department's administrative decision-making process the applicant would be afforded a natural justice process prior to the decision being made.

The bill also amends the compliance provisions in the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, the Geothermal Energy Act 2010 and the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009 to remove the requirement for resource authority holder agreement to a monetary penalty instead of taking any of the other types of noncompliance action under these acts. The ability of the Department of Resources to take proportional and visible compliance actions against authority holders is vital to ensuring the ongoing integrity of the state's resources framework. These amendments will allow the department to operate as an efficient and effective regulator that operates in the public interest. Resource authority holders must be afforded a natural justice process before a decision is made, and then they have the ability to appeal if they remain aggrieved.

The bill also contains minor amendments to correct drafting errors in the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014 and renumber notes in certain provisions in the Geothermal Energy Act 2010 and the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009 after removing the requirement for holder agreement to a monetary penalty. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (4.31 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Coal Mining Safety and Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 as the LNP's shadow minister for natural resources, mines and energy. On 25 May 2020, the former minister for natural resources,

the Hon. Anthony Lynham, introduced the Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2020. The bill sought to amend the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999 to require that the person to be appointed to a safety-critical statutory role at a coalmine is an employee of the coalmine operator.

This bill further proposes amendments to the resources acts, including the Mineral Resources Act 1989, to implement a framework to defer specific critical minerals mining leases. It also amends the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, the Geothermal Energy Act 2010 and the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009 to amend compliance provisions to remove the requirement for resource authority holder agreement to a monetary penalty for noncompliance.

While the committee recommended the bill be passed, the committee raised concerns that the consultation which preceded the tabling of the bill left various issues surrounding the direct employment provisions under the CSMH Act unresolved. This was in large part because this bill at its introduction was declared an urgent bill and the committee only had three weeks to table their report. This raises the question: why did this bill suddenly need to become urgent? Let's be clear: the government has had close to two years to get this right. The only reason this bill is urgent is that the minister has not been able to resolve this issue for almost two years. The minister has left it until one month out before the deadline of 25 November 2022 to introduce this bill. Because of that, the minister has had no choice but to label this bill urgent, giving the parliamentary committee a mere few weeks to consider such a serious issue. It raises the question: was the minister trying to avoid scrutiny or was the minister just incompetent?

There is no doubt that the limited time frame has drastically reduced the number of submissions received, and the inadequate opportunity for consultation through the few public hearings conducted meant a reduction in comments obtained. The consequences from a lack of consultation are serious and wide-reaching, with the Mining and Energy Union saying in its submission that 'the MEU doesn't believe the bill will improve health and safety outcomes in its current format'. The MEU goes on to say the 'bill only seeks to undermine the original intent of legislative change and places coal mine workers at risk'.

As I touched on at the start of my contribution, there are significant concerns with the direct employment requirements this bill sets out to achieve. At the time this bill was first introduced almost three years ago, the intention was to ensure that holders of statutory roles at coalmines can make safety complaints, raise safety issues or provide assistance to an official in relation to a safety issue without fear of reprisal or impact on their employment. The direct employment requirements were passed on 25 May 2020, with an 18-month transitional period which would have ended on 25 November 2021. I would like to touch on the submission made by the QRC, which states—

While it has been suggested that the increasing use of contractors is leading to a dilution or fragmentation of safety responsibility at mine sites, this is not supported by evidence and is offensive to contractors that they cannot employ their own statutory position holders.

The fact this minister is ramming through a bill that is not evidence based tells this House all we need to know. This is a government that has given up on consulting and given up on acting in Queensland's best interests.

The explanatory notes state that towards the end of the transitional period industry flagged challenges with implementing the requirements. In response, the duration of the transitional period was extended until 25 November 2022 to allow time for industry, with unions and the government, to seek to identify solutions to the challenges raised by industry.

I was the deputy chair of the committee when the original bill was introduced in 2020 and stated in my speech at the time the challenges that this section of the bill would face. The complex ownership structure of many mines and the fact that industry was not consulted on this significant amendment were always going to cause delays in implementation. Now here we are having a third attempt at the implementation of this particular section. A tripartite working group was established by the Commissioner for Resources Safety & Health at the Minister for Resources' direction in late 2021 to try to resolve this issue. However, the explanatory notes state—

... challenges to implementing these requirements have arisen relating to corporate and operational structures, unplanned short-term absences, economic viability for low-risk operations (exploration activities) and situations where a contractor is substantially responsible for the mine operations.

Does this sound familiar?

Given the number of issues that are not fully resolved in this bill, there are grounds for the committee to be given an extended time to understand how these issues could be resolved. This is why the opposition members would like to see the date extended until 25 November 2023. I therefore table an amendment to be circulated in my name that seeks to amend part 2 of the bill for the date to be extended from 25 November 2022 to 25 November 2023.

Tabled paper: Coal Mining Safety and Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, proposed amendments by Mr Pat Weir MP [1857].

I understand given the standing orders of this House that I am unable to move this amendment during consideration in detail given that it falls under the same question rule. Therefore, I would like to place this amendment on the public record now for the benefit of the minister and members of this House. Given the very limited time for industry to adjust systems and processes to ensure compliance with the new requirements, an extension is critical.

The draft legislation in its present form fails to detail the process for when appropriate statutory position roles cannot be filled due to these new requirements. This raises serious safety concerns, so if the government practise what they preach they would incorporate my amendment. We know it is becoming increasingly embarrassing for this government; however, this embarrassment will only increase if these issues are unresolved at the passing of this bill.

Other amendments proposed in the bill will allow limited exceptions to the direct employment requirements under the CSMH Act. It proposes to enable direct employment of coalmine senior site executive, SSE, underground mine manager, UMM, and ventilation officer, VO, statutory position holders by associated entities. The bill also provides exemptions to the direct employment requirements for short-term temporary absences or vacancies of up to 12 weeks for SSEs, UMMs and VO statutory positions. Additionally, the bill provides similar exemptions to the direct employment requirements for short-term temporary absences or vacancies of up to 12 weeks for open-cut examiner, OCE; explosion risk zone, ERZ, controller; electrical engineering manager, EEM; and mechanical engineering manager, MEM, statutory positions.

We heard the minister talk about 12 weeks. There were proposals for it to be longer and/or shorter, and the minister is comfortable with 12 weeks. Given what we have heard, 12 weeks is fine if it is a planned absence. If it is not, if someone falls ill or someone is injured, to find a statutory office holder in 12 weeks to suddenly fill a position on a mine will present serious challenges for those mines.

The bill further proposes to provide exemptions to the direct employment requirements for entities which employ at least 80 per cent of the workers at a coalmine. The MEU submits that the 2020 amendments were to ensure that statutory role holders were focused solely on safety. This is broadly consistent with advice from RHSQ, which states—

The objective of the direct employment requirements is to ensure that holders of statutory roles at coalmines can make safety complaints, raise safety issues, or give help to an official in relation to a safety issue without fear of reprisal or impact on their employment.

RHSQ submits that the proposed amendments will allow limited exceptions to the direct employment requirements while still achieving the safety intent of the 2020 legislative amendments.

The tripartite working group established by the Commissioner for Resources Safety & Health met periodically and received written submissions and face-to-face presentations from impacted stakeholders. In February 2022 the working group presented its report to the minister.

The QRC and MEU submit that some provisions of the tabled bill do not reflect the agreed outcomes of the working group. For example, the QRC submit that the bill's provision to allow direct employment exemptions for an entity who employs or engages at least 80 per cent of workers on a coalmine site did not come from the consultation process. It raises the question: if it did not come from the consultation process, where did it come from? This goes back to why it has not worked in the original bill. The MEU is opposed to any exemptions for the direct employment requirements contained in the CSMH Act.

The committee notes that the consultation process was not successful in resolving significant gaps between the positions of the various members of the tripartite working groups on certain issues and that the tabled bill might not reflect the consensus position of the working group with respect to certain issues.

QRC and Idemitsu Australia additionally stated that the implementation timeline for the bill, if passed, will create structural and contractual difficulties for the industry and has the potential to create significant disruption in the workplace. These requirements will serve to reinforce serious skill shortages

currently faced by the industry. QRC submits that industry should be given an additional six months before the bill commences. The MEU raised concerns about how the exceptions to the direct employment provisions will be monitored and penalties for noncompliance enforced. There is still no guidance as to whom RSHQ is to monitor and regulate, and when the 80 per cent threshold is met would be open to abuse by contractors.

Concerns were also raised about RSHQ's capacity to monitor the implementation of the amendments. In response, the RSHQ have advised that it 'will monitor the implementation of the direct employment requirements'. The committee recommends clarification by the minister as to which body will enforce compliance with the exceptions to direct employment provisions. I acknowledge that the minister did address that but some questions are still left. If a contractor has 80 per cent of the employees at a mine, I assume that includes everyone down to the cook because the minister said it is not just the mine site. If some section of the mine is contracted out to another employment company, does that immediately drop it below 80 per cent? I would appreciate further clarity on the detail of the bill.

The bill proposes amendments to the CSMH Act to enable direct employment of the SSE, UMM and VO statutory position holders by associated companies and joint ventures. This would provide coalmine operators with greater flexibility to engage SSEs, UMMs or VOs from a broader pool of employees across its different operations and joint venture companies without the need to restructure individual employment arrangements each time. The MEU is opposed to this amendment on the basis that it would allow for practices which would undermine the intent of the legislation. The MEU recommends that only the coalmine operator and not any associated entity be permitted to hire all statutory officials.

Some submissions queried why the associated entity exception does not include the role of OCE and/or ERZ controller, EEM and MEM roles. QRC states that not including the EEM and MEM roles in the associated entity exception creates additional burden on operators if these positions cannot be shared across company sites. That is in part because of the shortage of SSEs. The committee notes that the application of the associated entity exception to the direct employment requirements for EEM and MEM roles appears to be an issue that was not resolved during consultations and may require further consideration by the minister. The committee recommends the minister further consider the application of the associated entity exception to the direct employment requirement for EEM and MEM roles.

The bill proposes further amendments to the CSMH Act to provide exceptions to the direct employment requirements for short-term temporary absences or vacancies of up to 12 weeks for the SSE, OCE, UMM, ERZ controller, EEM, MEM and VO statutory positions. This change provides coalmine operators some latitude for covering unplanned short-term absences or vacancies for a statutory position so a person who is not an employee can act temporarily in the role.

QRC submits that the 12-week exception to the direct employment requirements is too short for filling a vacancy. Idemitsu Australia submitted that recruitment in the industry is challenging as there are not enough people in the industry to fill the positions of SSEs, UMMs and VOs and that the 12-week limit on the use of sub-contractors to fill statutory roles on mine sites will have a detrimental impact on mine safety and outcomes and create an unnecessary burden and risk with respect to continuity of mining operations. For example, the MEU submits—

It is arguably permissible under s.59A that an SSE could appoint a statutory official for a period of 12 weeks on the basis that a permanent statutory official was absent for a single day.

The MEU goes on to say—

Adequate training by industry for these safety-critical statutory roles, in the lead up to this legislation being enacted, seems to have been insufficient.

I cannot emphasise enough how short we are of these critical roles. They are very, very short and in high demand.

The CSMH Act is also proposed to be amended by the bill to provide exceptions to the direct employment requirements for entities which employ at least 80 per cent of the workers at a coalmine. This change means the SSE, OCE, UMM, ERZ controller, electrical engineering manager, mechanical engineering manager and VO statutory positions at such a coalmine can be directly employed by the entity—for example, a large contractor company, major service provider et cetera—which also employs the vast majority of the mine's workers.

The QRC queries where the 80 per cent exception originated and states there is not a major contractor in Queensland which the 80 per cent exception would apply to. The QRC went on to say this requirement was not discussed at any time in the working group established by the minister. The minister named some mines that he contends does fill that. I still question how that figure was arrived at. The QRC contends that major contractors often undertake specialist work and therefore should also be able to engage their own statutory position. The QRC and member companies are concerned these requirements will create a disconnect between the statutory position holders and the shift crew, which has the potential to have a significant adverse effect on safety.

The MEU does not support the use of exceptions. It submits that the CMSH Act does not allow for exceptions, that the target of 80 per cent of coalmine workers is arbitrary and not based on any recommendations, principles or academic research and that this exception was never raised nor discussed by the working group and there is no agreement for such a proposal. The committee is concerned that the various members of the tripartite working group remain significantly far apart on this specific exception to the direct employment requirements, and the 80 per cent threshold may require further consideration by the minister. The committee recommends the minister revisit the percentage threshold for the exception for direct employment requirements for entities who employ at least 80 per cent of workers at a coalmine.

The bill proposes amendments to the CMSH Act to provide that the requirement to directly employ an SSE does not apply for a coalmine operator whose only coalmining operations for the coalmine are exploration activities. This is a good amendment. The change will mean that a company undertaking exploration activities, and that is not involved in other aspects of coalmining operations, would have greater flexibility in relation to appointing an SSE. The QRC and Peabody Energy submit that this exception should also apply to coalmine operators whose only coalmining operations are rehabilitation, care and maintenance activities, given the infrequent nature of the work.

The proposed amendments will support implementation of a key action in the Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan that the government will develop and implement a framework to allow the Minister for Resources to defer the first year of rent for specific critical minerals mining leases. The Association of Mining and Exploration Companies is supportive of the rent deferral proposal and implementation and supports the change in terminology from 'new economy minerals' to 'critical minerals'. In terms of the amendment schedule which lists critical minerals, AMEC submits that the minister should consider including phosphate, which it states is a critical fertiliser mineral used by the agricultural industry. AMEC submits there are significant phosphate deposits being developed in the North West Minerals Province and sees it as an opportunity for the Queensland government to use its supply reliability as an investment attraction mechanism and consequently facilitate the development of phosphate in Queensland. I reinforce that view. Phosphate is incredibly important to agriculture.

A fundamental principle of the resources acts is that resource companies seeking to explore and produce the state's resources must coexist with other landholders. This is supported by the compliance provisions in the petroleum and gas act, the GE act and the GHG which state that a monetary penalty may only be made where the holder has agreed to the requirement being made. The effect of these sections is that a resource authority holder may be able to negotiate the terms of any monetary penalty that might be proposed by a relevant official and delay the resolution of a coexistence matter for an indefinite period. The explanatory notes state—


The current provisions are inconsistent with the MRA and limit the department's ability to regulate and take action for breaches of the Land Access Framework and obligations and conditions of a resource authority.

The proposed amendments will remove the requirement for holders to agree to the monetary penalty, limiting their ability to delay enforcement action. These amendments will not limit rights of resource authority holders with notice provisions, providing an opportunity for natural justice and any decision being appealable to the Land Court of Queensland. I fully support that amendment.

This bill may have sound intent; however, it has significant flaws in the detail. It is an approach that is becoming all the more common by this third-term Labor government and a Premier and ministers who have given up listening and consulting. Too embroiled in integrity crises, the Premier and her ministers have all but given up on service delivery and make a mockery of governing in Queensland's best interests. As many submitters have identified, the government has failed to consider feedback and has unnecessarily rushed these amendments when it has had 18 months to consult and draft meaningful legislation. The fact that there is such strong opposition from industry and unions shows this draft legislation is ill thought out and has significant unintended consequences. The safety of mine workers should not be put at risk because of the ineptitude of this government.

Workplace safety is something that I am sure we all feel strongly about. Many of us have friends and relations who work in the mining industry. I certainly do, including my son who has worked in a number of mine sites. I come from an industry which, unfortunately, has a workplace record much worse than the mining industry—that is, agriculture. I have attended the funerals of school mates, friends and fathers of friends who have been killed in farm place work accidents, including one only recently. I know the families that have been left behind. I have seen the impacts that these families will carry for the rest of their lives. Indeed, I myself had occasion to be transported to the hospital emergency department in Toowoomba by ambulance after a workplace accident.

Every worker has the right to expect to finish their shift and go home to their families safe and sound, so I support the intent of this bill and the LNP will not be opposing it. My concerns are with the bungled implementation and very poor consultation process. I fear that, due to leaving the introduction of this bill until it had to be rushed through the committee process, we will once again be in this House debating amendments to fix the unresolved issues with this legislation.

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (4.57 pm): I rise to speak to the Coal Mining Safety and Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. If passed, this bill will provide exceptions to direct employment requirements already passed under the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act for coalmining statutory positions. I will just give a bit of history on this. On 25 May 2020, changes were made to the mining safety legislation so that only persons who were employees of a coalmine operator would be appointed to certain statutory positions that are responsible for safety. They are known as direct employment requirements, and they come into full effect on 25 November this year when the transitional period ends. Just so we are all aware, if the amendments in the bill relating to the direct employment requirements do not commence by this date, some coalmining operations may be in breach of the existing direct employment requirements.

I want to say a few words in relation to the contribution by the member for Condamine, and I am not knocking his contribution. He mentioned that there seems to be a lack of these positions. The coalmines all have these positions currently. There was mention of a lack of training but the industry has had 2½ years to be training these people up. We asked that in the inquiry—that is, why haven't they been training these people up into these roles? I think there has been plenty of time to do that.

There has also been a lot of talk about the length of time for consultation on this bill. During the committee process, some stakeholders raised concerns about the consultation period. Just to be clear, these amendments have been developed following an ongoing yearlong consultation process with stakeholders. The direct employment requirements were passed, as I said earlier, on 25 May 2020 with an 18-month transitional period which would have ended on 25 November 2021.

It appears to me the industry has dragged its feet on these amendments and, as such, unfortunately towards the end of the transitional period, the challenges raised by industries were made clear. In response, further amendments were made by government to extend the duration of the transitional period to 25 November this year to allow time for industry to articulate the challenges to implementation and, with unions and government, seek to identify solutions to these challenges. They were trying to achieve that through the tripartite working group which has been mentioned.

The working group met periodically and received written submissions from impacted companies and other stakeholders. In February this year, the working group presented a report that identified issues but also had a number of issues raised without agreement amongst the group itself. Following consideration of the working group's advice and the possible solutions it identified, Resources Safety & Health Queensland spent the following months working with industry to formulate refined recommendations which were tested with the Queensland Resources Council and the Mining and Energy Union. Further consultation with industry stakeholders and the union occurred on a draft consultation bill. The direct employment requirements will commence on 25 November this year, which has meant industry, as I said, has had 2½ years to ready itself for these amendments.

The impacted statutory positions required to be directly employed by the coalmine operator are: for all coalmines sites—site senior executive, SSE; for surface mines only—open-cut examiner, OCE; for underground mines only—underground mine manager, UMM, ventilation officer, VO, explosion risk zone or ERZ controller, and electrical engineering manager and mechanical engineering manager. It is like being back where I used to work with all these acronyms—incredible!

This bill is about making sure the organisation operating the mine owns the risk of its operations. We have heard from many submitters on this and in other inquiries we have done in mining that there is always a fear—I would go so far to say almost an implied threat—in some cases that safety issues

that stop production or get in the road of bonuses are to be minimised. It is sad to hear that this is still the case nearly two decades after I left the mining industry that a feeling of insecurity of employment still exists around reporting safety. For this reason, I highly support these senior safety positions being permanent employees.

The amendments being debated today will not unreasonably disrupt current corporate structures and employment arrangements and they will still uphold the intent of the original legislation. These amendments will, however, ensure the coalmine operator, the entity ultimately responsible for the coalmine and the safety of its workers, remains the central point of responsibility. It will ensure responsibility for safety is not fragmented across multiple employers with their own structures, systems and cultures. In effect, this is a relaxation of sorts from the original legislation which is, I guess, why the parties in the tripartite agreement could not agree. The QRC wanted to soften it more and the unions—the workers—wanted it stronger. It is our government's expectation that those who undertake coalmining operations must have their ultimate priority to be the safety and health of coalmine workers who are exposed to the hazards of operations. You are not exposed to the hazards sitting in an office making these decisions; it is the people, excuse the pun, on the coalface. I do not think any of us disagree with that.

Some of the amendments are as follows: there is an amendment to allow coalmine operators whose only activities are exploration activities to appoint a senior site executive through another employer. Industry advocated strongly for this amendment, the minister listened, and as these activities involved much less risk, it made sense.

Another amendment will allow contract companies who are responsible for substantially whole-of-mine operations to employ all statutory position holders for that whole-of-mine operation. Specifically, this exception would allow a person to be appointed to a statutory position such as an SSE by a company, such as a contractor company, if the coal company employs or engages at least 80 per cent of coalmine workers at the entire coalmine. This was one of the issues where the groups were far apart. The union wanted no exemption and the Resources Council wanted a much lower threshold than 80 per cent. In fact, in our hearing, Mr Bertram from the QRC stated—

There is not a mining contracting company operating in Queensland who is not the coalmine operator who can meet this 80 per cent threshold—not one, not even the largest.

I understand, from hearing the minister's speech, there are over 11 mines throughout Queensland operating above the 80 per cent threshold. The minister said—

I am advised by RSHQ that according to information provided by the resource industry itself, there are currently 11 open-cut mines and one underground mine where a contracting company employs or engages over 80 per cent of the workers at the mine in a full service-contract.

The minister named the mines. I do not think that argument from the QRC really washes in that case.

Another amendment allows operators to engage statutory position holders from external sources for temporary absences of not more than 12 weeks. This provides flexibility for covering unplanned, long-term absences for such things as long service leave, long-term sickness or recruitments due to vacancies. We have a recommendation around that which the minister clarified during the second reading speech.


The fourth amendment was around associated entities: to allow the direct employment of the SSE, underground mine manager and ventilation officer statutory position holders from a company's associated companies and joint ventures. It provides joint coal operators with greater flexibility from the broader pool they have when they have several properties. There was another amendment for relief during startup in certain circumstances for critical minerals.

We held public hearings, we took submissions on this bill and we made six recommendations. The first was that this bill be passed. Number two was that the minister clarify which body will enforce compliance with the exceptions to direct employment provisions, and the minister clarified it was Resources Safety & Health Queensland.

The other one I want to briefly touch on—and I have already gone through it—was the 80 per cent figure which was questioned by both of the bodies who could not agree. One wanted 100 per cent; the other one wanted much less than 80 per cent. I appreciate the minister addressed that in the second reading speech as well.

I would like to thank all the submitters and the members of the Transport and Resources Committee for their work on this report, in particular our stellar deputy chair, the member for Gregory. I also have to say a special thank you to Jodhi, our new committee secretary, who has really had to hit

the ground running with a whole lot of inquiries to catch up on—it has been quite the welcome to this place for her and we really appreciate her work—along with Zac and Amanda who helped steer the ship to make this report happen. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (5.06 pm): As the member for Gregory, I take the devastating record of mining deaths and injury very seriously. Throughout world history, mining has always been a dangerous undertaking, so it is pleasing to see that, over decades, the recorded fatalities in Queensland have been consistently falling. This is the result of constant efforts by legislators, administrators, mining operators and mine workers.

However, in recent years we have experienced a steady stream of serious incidents and deaths in Queensland mines. I accept that workplace safety is a constant effort and always challenging but, given the central importance of mining to the Queensland economy, to our communities and to working families, as legislators we must do our very best despite the challenges. It requires more than just good intentions. It requires a thorough understanding of the processes required in the operation of mines. It requires wide consultation and attention to detail.

Given the shocking recent record of serious incidents and, sadly, fatalities, the response of the government has been surprisingly muted and strangely sluggish. The LNP initially raised these concerns with the detail of this legislation when it was first introduced by the previous resources minister in 2020. Given that was nearly two years ago, it is deeply disappointing that this bill preserves some of those concerns. To then have this legislation finally introduced as urgent was either contrived or incompetent. For members of the resources industry, it was just another insult.

One of the consequences has been that the committee review process was conducted over a short time period. This has not only limited the number of public hearings conducted in the regions where mining is an essential pillar of people's working realities but also, no doubt, had an impact on a number of public submissions received. None of this has been ideal, and it is doubly surprising coming from a government which is increasingly relying on revenue from coal and royalties and which purports to have the welfare of resource workers as a central concern. Nevertheless, we do have a committee submission from both the Queensland Resources Council and the Mining and Energy Union and both of those submissions continue to express serious concerns about the detail of this legislation.

The Mining and Energy Union, representing many workers in Gregory's resource towns, clearly does not believe the current format of the bill will improve the health and safety outcomes of resource workers. To quote, the MEU says, 'The bill only seeks to undermine the original intent of legislation change and places coalminers at risk.' This is a scathing comment. Far from improving health and safety outcomes in Queensland mines in the judgement of the MEU, this bill, as it stands, will undermine safety and place coalminers at risk.

The Queensland Resources Council also has serious concerns with the detail in key parts of this legislation. One of their biggest concerns relates to the new requirement for statutory officers. This is a key role in the safe operation of mines. I have sat with constituents who work in this area and have a deep understanding of what the role entails. Many work across a number of mine sites, which ensures that mine operators have the ability to access their knowledge and their expertise in real time and on site. Under this legislation, that model will no longer be allowed.

The draft legislation states the entity who employs or engages greater than 80 per cent of the workers on site must employ a statutory officer holder in its own right. This is a fundamental change to the model used in Queensland. Not only will it shut down successful consulting operators in the field, but also mining entities may struggle to find properly qualified people to fulfil this requirement. It is simple maths if suddenly, rather than being able to work across multiple mine sites, each statutory officer can only work in the field as a full-time employee of a single mining operator. It is hard to find any evidence that this change of model will improve health and safety outcomes. Indeed, it may worsen those outcomes by making the knowledge provided by statutory officers harder for mines to access.

There seems to be no appreciation of the severe shortages of highly qualified personnel across Queensland's mining workforce. In the Central Highlands there are thousands and thousands of jobs vacant in the mining industry. It is harder and harder for these mining operators to find these people, and they are struggling like agriculture is struggling. The bill will make a real-world shortage even worse, yet the legislation fails to detail the process to be followed when appropriate statutory position roles cannot be filled due to the new requirements. What will happen if, despite their best efforts, mines cannot recruit into these roles?

Many submitters also raised concerns about the ambiguity surrounding this new requirement. Under this bill, if a contractor employs or otherwise engages less than 80 per cent of the workers on site, the statutory position holders must be employed by the coalmine operator or an associated entity. The Queensland Resources Council in their submission said—

It is unclear where this requirement came from as it was not discussed in the working group established by the Hon Scott Stewart MP, Minister for Resources ...

This is more evidence of poor communication and a failure to understand the process the bill seeks to reform. If you do not fully grasp these details then it is no wonder that the MEU believes the bill undermines its own goal of improving outcomes.

In its submission, the QRC tried to tackle the concern head-on. It said—

While it has been suggested that the increasing use of contractors is leading to a dilution or fragmentation of safety responsibility at mine sites, this is not supported by evidence and is offensive to contractors that they cannot employ their own statutory position holders.

Concerningly, there is a demonstrated ambiguity around how the provision will be applied. This is made into an urgent concern given the nominated commencement date, but I will return to that issue. If this new requirement kicks in at 80 per cent workforce milestones, how does the contractor or mine operator calculate that? There is no detail about how the 80 per cent of the mine's workforce is to be calculated or enforced. Will it only count workers at the actual coalface, or will it apply to all contractors on the mine site? Will contractors undertaking security, cleaning, gardening, bus transport and administrative duties also be captured by this? Many such contractors are small regional businesses that have evolved alongside Queensland's mining industry. In the context of this bill, including them as a part of the mining workforce may make 80 per cent an impossible milestone for companies to reach.


I turn now to the issue around the commencement. After being slow to take much action with regard to mine safety outcomes, the government now seems to be galloping to the finish heedless of the consequences. Part 2 of the bill is scheduled to commence on 25 November this year. This is the part that will impose employment restrictions for statutory roles. This is only about a fortnight away. This time frame is extremely short for an industry to adjust systems and processes to ensure compliance with the new requirements. This is especially the case when they will still be trying to clarify the workforce calculations required of them and to recruit into the statutory officer role if it is not currently in-house. It also means that all those professionals who are currently self-employed providing these services to more than one mine site will have to close their business in two weeks and seek an employer.

This side of the House believes this commencement date must be extended for at least 12 months. This will provide the time needed to address the serious concerns raised during the brief committee process and to give industry stakeholders, both small and large, the time needed to comply with the new requirements. Given the importance of the mining industry to Queensland, it is simply not good enough to do otherwise.

The issues this legislation is trying to address are of extreme importance, as shown clearly by the devastating Grosvenor mine explosion on 6 May 2020. The committee was lucky last week; we were able to have a look at Grosvenor mine. I would like to thank Anglo American and all the mine staff, especially the mine manager, Paul Stephan, whom I have known all my life. We played junior Rugby League footy with the Emerald Tigers when we were young fellows. He was quite a good footy player and now he is a mine manager. There is an example of a local bloke growing up with a company and becoming a part of their leadership group. I remember when Paul Stephan started in the mining industry. He went underground in the Central Highlands as a young fellow and worked his way up, from the tools right up to management. It is a credit to him and all his staff at the mine at Grosvenor. They are doing their best to make sure they keep that mine safe.

Everyone in the Bowen Basin was left shocked by the Grosvenor mine explosion. I accept that this legislation is a sincere attempt to prevent such events and ensure coalminers come home safely at the end of their shifts. For this reason the LNP will not be voting against the bill. However, I ask the minister in the strongest possible way to please extend the commencement date to allow the serious issues raised to be addressed, as with the amendment from the shadow minister for resources. He was spot on that we do need 12 months; we need time to implement this. I will be supporting his amendment and I thank him for putting it forward. It would allow mining operators and contractors time to adjust.

This is an important piece of legislation. There are some other things that need to be done. I ask for an extension to allow everybody to feel comfortable and to make sure this legislation works.

 **Mr WALKER** (Mundingburra—ALP) (5.16 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Coal Mining Safety and Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. This bill is delivering a key action from the Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan, which the Minister for Resources launched earlier this year. The Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan, or QRIDP, presents this government's 30-year vision for our resource sector—a resilient, responsible and sustainable industry that grows as it transforms. Across six key focus areas and 43 actions, the QRIDP outlines a mix of incentives and initiatives to transform the state's resources sector into a diversified global supplier of choice.

Key focus area 1 really highlights the importance of growing and diversifying our industry in Queensland with a particular focus on our critical minerals potential. The plan was only launched a few months ago, so it is great to see action 10 from the plan, rent deferral for critical minerals projects, already before the House today. Action 10 committed the government to develop and implement a framework to allow the Minister for Resources to approve the deferral of the first year's rent for critical mineral mining leases that meet certain criteria. The amendments to the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the MRA, before the House will allow the Minister for Resources to defer rent for a mineral that is described in the Mineral Resources Regulation 2013 and in circumstances where the proponent can prove that the funds saved from the deferral will be used towards startup costs for the project. The deferral will enable a proponent to redirect funds towards their project which is highly cash-flow dependent and deliver an improved chance of success.

I know that small and medium-sized companies often face difficulties in accessing large investment dollars to get their mines off the ground in the early years. By being able to access a rent deferral at this crucial juncture, operations will be better placed to start producing and generating capital and good jobs here in Queensland sooner. The ability to access rent deferral will no doubt attract more investment and more good jobs into the Sunshine State—a key aim of the Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I am sure you have heard the Minister for Resources speak about critical minerals before, but it is important to talk about why this rent deferral is so important. We all know that critical minerals are used in the green energy revolution and emerging technologies the world needs to decarbonise. Critical minerals are used in the production of wind turbines, solar panels, batteries and the fast-growing electric vehicle industry. They are crucial for decarbonisation efforts as we implement our Energy and Jobs Plan here in Queensland for Queenslanders as well as for all the other states and countries around the world joining the renewable energy space.

Demand for these minerals is forecast to increase significantly, and I am told by the Minister for Resources that our deposits in Queensland are the world's best. The rent deferral comes on top of almost \$40 million worth of budget initiatives to supercharge the critical minerals sector, including extra funding for exploration, geoscientific research and more efficient approval processes. I am excited to see measures such as the rent deferral being pursued through legislative amendments as it will mean more investment into Queensland and more good jobs for people in my electorate.

Queenslanders being safe in their workplace is a priority of the Palaszczuk Labor government. Everyone wants a safe workplace. The bill strengthens the safety and health culture in the resources sector through the facilitation of direct employment requirements, which require a person to be an employee of a coalmine operator to be appointed to certain statutory positions. These requirements ensure holders of statutory roles at coalmines can make safety complaints, raise safety concerns or give assistance to an official in relation to a safety issue without fear of reprisal. The fear of reprisal has been a grave concern of coalminers, who have raised this issue with me on more than one occasion. The amendments being debated this evening provide practical ways of implementing direct employment requirements that do not unreasonably disrupt current corporate structures and employment arrangements while upholding the intent of the original legislation.

This bill will ensure the coalmine operator, the entity, will ultimately be responsible for the coalmine and the safety of its workforce and remains a central point of responsibility. It will also ensure the responsibility for safety is not fragmented across multiple employers with their own structures, systems and cultures. It is this government's expectation that those who undertake coalmining operations have as their ultimate priority the safety and health of their coalmine workers who are exposed to the hazards of their operations.

These amendments are the result of a yearlong extensive consultation process by Resources Safety & Health Queensland and our government. A tripartite working group identified issues relating to corporate and operational structures, unplanned short-term absences, economic viability for low-risk


operations that focus on exploration activities and situations where a contractor is substantially responsible for the mine operations. This amendment will allow coalmine operators whose only activities are exploration activities to appoint a senior site executive, SSE, through another employer. Industry advocated for this amendment and our government listened. It will provide greater flexibility for junior and mid-tier companies where these activities involve a low risk profile.

The amendments will allow contract companies that are responsible for substantial whole-of-mine operations to employ statutory position holders for that whole-of-mine operation. Specifically, this exception will allow a person to be appointed to a statutory position such as an SSE by a company such as a contractor company if the company employs or engages at least 80 per cent of the coalmine workers at that entire coalmine.

In relation to leave, this amendment will allow operators to engage statutory position holders from external agencies for temporary absences for not more than 12 weeks. This provides the flexibility for covering unplanned long-term absences from such things as long service leave, long-term sickness or recruitment due to sudden vacancies.

In relation to associated entities, this amendment will allow the direct employment of senior site executive, SSE; underground mine manager, UMM; and ventilation officer, VO, statutory position holders by associated companies and joint ventures. This will provide coalmine operators with greater flexibility to engage those senior position holders from a wider pool of employees across its different operations and joint venture companies without the need to restructure individual employment arrangements each time.

Industry advocated for these amendments and we listened. We kept in the forefront of our mind Queenslanders in the resources industry who have told government MPs and me repeatedly that they are afraid to report safety issues for fear of losing their employment. Safety is paramount, and it is everyone's business. I thank the committee and the committee staff for their assistance through this process. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (5.24 pm): I rise to make my contribution on the Coal Mining Safety and Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Let me start by saying that there can be nothing more important than the safety of people when they go to work. Nobody should be put in an environment where they feel that their safety is compromised, or they fear reporting a safety issue for some kind of reprisal. That needs to be firmly on the record, and this House needs to ensure it is always at the forefront of what is trying to be achieved. I do not doubt that the minister is sincere in trying to improve safety in the mines, although I have reservations about the details and the process that has been taken to arrive there. We seem to have arrived at a bureaucratic compromise which seems to be unsatisfactory to all stakeholders.

I am concerned about the monitoring and implementation of some of the elements of this bill. I think the implementation date runs the risk of people rushing to compliance rather than ensuring there is a complete culture surrounding the safety of employees in the environment. For the record, I have now had the privilege of going underground in two different mines. It is a confronting environment. It is hostile to human life. If something goes wrong, you are in serious trouble very quickly.

The importance of the statutory safety officers of all the different acronyms that others have outlined—as a dyslexic I will not be going through those acronyms—is fundamental. More important than all of that is the culture that exists within the entire organisation. That culture is not necessarily reflected by someone's employment status; it is an attitude. The environment is created by everybody who participates—whether they be a contractor, an owner, a statutory officeholder or whatever position they hold. It is a complete mindset and a culture, and I think that has been lost as we try to come up with bureaucratic ways to make sure this environment is safe.

I will go through a couple of the recommendations that were made and the minister's response. I have a couple of questions in relation to them. Recommendation 2 states—

The committee recommends clarification by the Minister of which body will enforce compliance with the exceptions to direct employment provisions.

The minister has answered some of that. I would seek some further detail to make sure they have the capacity, training and financial resources to do that in an effective way. I would ask that any reporting that is done there comes back to this House for public consumption. I think openness and transparency around safety is key. That is one area that I seek further information from the minister on.

Another area comes down to the nub of the issue here, which is the 80 per cent rule. If we go through the transcripts, it would appear that nobody is happy with the 80 per cent and nobody is really sure where this 80 per cent comes from. I would seek further clarity on that. Mr Smyth from the Mining and Energy Union said—

The other thing with 80 per cent is: how do you regulate it? When you are talking figures, it creates a nightmare to regulate it. Who is responsible for compliance? If it is 80 per cent, does the RSHQ then have to have inspectors going out to these mine sites and auditing and ensuring compliance?

I then asked whether this would necessarily make the mine safer and the comment was that it may well take away from some of their core functions—that is, they are busy counting numbers and looking at spreadsheets and checking employment records rather than going through some of the processes that would ensure safety. I seek more clarity around where the 80 per cent came from and why that is suggested as a solution when two of the parties in the tripartite discussions were so far apart—that is, the unions and the peak body. Mr Newman said—


... that the tripartite working group did not address the 80 per cent. That never came up. There were a number of solutions put forward, but the 80 per cent was not part of it. As the QRC has just said, it was only after that tripartite working group that they themselves and the contractors met with the minister and came up with the 80 per cent.

The suggestion was that this came from the QRC and I understand that that is not its position on this. Again, I am really curious to understand why 80 per cent and how that is going to lead to a safer outcome. We have to remember that as we go through all of this we are dealing with environments where vehicles are so big that if there is a big dust cloud the car that you are sitting in will completely disappear and the vehicle coming up behind you would not even realise you were there and would not even feel you if it went over the top of you. That is a hostile environment. If you are underground, the number of hazards are very confronting the first time you go down and run through the safety.

I understand that the government wants to show the union and others that it is taking safety seriously. However, I am concerned that this bill, after waiting so long, has been rushed through. The committee only had a couple of weeks to discuss this bill with the various people who have really strong views on some of what needs to go on to create a safe environment. We could not even get the transcript back because we had to have a hearing in the middle of a parliamentary sitting week. It took a week to get the transcript back, so this is not how the safety and the lives of Queenslanders should be dealt with in what is one of our most important industries.

This is an industry that funds our hospitals, our police, our education system. It funds this place. This is an industry that is of critical importance to the people of Queensland and such an important industry operating in such a hostile environment to human life and here we are rushing things after having such a long delay. We could have been reviewing this all the way through that period. We could have been looking at this and we could have been holding hearings and we could have been opening this up, but unfortunately none of that was done.

There are a lot of hairs on this and, as I say, I do not question either the government or the minister's desire to have coalmining safety. I am just concerned that creating a bureaucratic nightmare for mine operators, contractors, unions and other people will take the eye off what the ultimate aim is—that is, to have a culture of safety and to make sure that we are not compromising every single person who helps get this very valuable resource out of the ground for the benefit of the organisation, for themselves and for everybody else in Queensland. We should not be compromising on that and I am concerned that this bill and this minister have compromised on that by not being open and transparent and by not allowing the public to view this over an extended period of time and rushing this through because the deadline was creeping up that for some reason had been missed. I would ask the minister to extend the deadline and go back to the negotiations. Both the union and the QRC believe that they can come up with a better solution than this given a little bit more time, and I would encourage the minister to seek that better solution.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (5.34 pm): I rise to support the Coal Mining Safety and Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. As many of us have said in here today—and it is true and there is no doubt about it whatsoever—the health and safety of workers is a key priority for the Palaszczuk government and obviously for many in this House. As I have said numerous times in this House, every worker deserves to return home safe and healthy from each and every day's work. We run under the mantra that you sell your labour, not your health. Ensuring that we have a strong health and safety culture as this bill aims to provide in the resources sector through the facilitation of direct employment requirements for coalmining statutory positions is fundamentally important.

My understanding of the bill is that it will ensure holders of statutory roles at coalmines can make safety complaints, raise safety issues or give help to an official in relation to a safety issue without fear of reprisal. I was speaking to an electrician who has just been employed directly in a mine. They had been with a contractor at some stage—and this was really just a couple of weekends ago—and I was asking how they were going and they were saying that they have now been directly employed and the difference that it made to that worker. They were happy to now be directly employed because previously there was that underbelly of fear that if you did raise health and safety concerns or if you did raise something you may not be flying to that mine in a week's time or whatever on the basis of how the employment situation was.

Direct employment has to be a big plus and has to be a big tick. There was fear of reprisal and impact on their employment. Whether we like it or not, it is an everyday occurrence. Direct employment requirements came into effect. There has been no change to those at all and they are coming into effect on 25 November 2022. There has been a 2½-year transition period for this to happen and it ends there. Importantly, the bill provides a way of implementing the direct employment requirements that do not unreasonably disrupt current corporate structures and employment arrangements while upholding the intent of the original legislation.

Importantly, the bill will ensure that coalmine operators hold the ultimate responsibility for the safety of workers, and that is absolutely imperative. By placing coalmine operators at the centre of safety responsibility, this ensures that responsibility for safety is not fragmented across multiple employers or entities. When it comes to safety, it is vitally important that lines of responsibility are clear. When it comes to the coalmining industry, those who undertake coalmining operations must fulfil their primary responsibility to ensure the safety and health of coal workers, and the Palaszczuk government expects nothing less.

This bill is before the House because there were representations made that there were some issues around direct employment. The tripartite working party was established representing the industry, workers and the regulator to find solutions to identified issues, and the amendments are basically allowing limited exceptions to the direct employment requirements while still achieving their intent. That is all the legislation is doing.

Those opposite come in here and suggest that there has not been enough time and that we need to extend further. Rather, this bill is acknowledging that there is an issue in some parts of this industry. On balance, there is one lot that say that we should not extend at all as it has to happen and then there are others who say, 'No, we can't do it.' To come up with a solution a working group was established which came up with these limited exceptions, and that is what this bill is implementing.

On the one hand, in debate on a previous bill those opposite talked about how long it took for it to come in and said it took too long. They said the government was filibustering and not getting on with the job. On the other hand, on an important issue like cultural change—where we identified that there might be some exceptions, so we said, 'Let's talk about this. Let's put them into a bill,' but it does not change the original intent; we just identified an area where we may be able to make some changes—those opposite now want another 12 months for something that, I think, is accommodated for in this legislation.

I commend the minister and the committee. It is often not easy to facilitate these outcomes. There are many different views. Sometimes in industrial relations and health and safety when both sides are not happy you know you have probably struck the right balance. I have experienced that on several occasions. Sometimes there are extreme positions: some want to extend indefinitely and others say, 'Do not extend. Let it happen the way it was supposed to.' If it is in the middle, we will strike the right balance.


The bill builds upon the Palaszczuk government's proud record when it comes to workers' rights, safety and workers compensation in this state. In relation to many of these issues those opposite have been dragged kicking and screaming all the way. In 2017 we introduced industrial manslaughter laws under the Work Health and Safety Act—the first Australian state to do so. In 2020 industrial manslaughter laws were introduced in the mining and resources sector.

We have continually strengthened the rights of Queensland workers when it comes to safety, including through the establishment of the independent Office of the Work Health and Safety Prosecutor. From 1 July 2020 serious resources safety and health prosecutions were referred to the Office of the Work Health and Safety Prosecutor. We are continually improving. We led the nation in response to occupational dust lung diseases, including coal workers' pneumoconiosis and silicosis. We have ensured workers injured or made ill as a result of their work receive the care and support they need. We have also made a number of reforms to workers compensation, including improvements to

compensation and support for workers with coalminers' pneumoconiosis and other work related lung diseases; improvements to support workers suffering psychological injuries; and providing presumptive legislation for first responders suffering from PTSD.

Many of these mine sites see some pretty horrific injuries. We established a one-stop shop to provide support and assistance for workers and their families suffering from coal workers' pneumoconiosis and other mining related lung diseases and we restored the rights of injured workers to common law workers compensation that was stripped away by the LNP against their own committee's recommendation where they held the majority—when one thinks about it, it is absolutely unbelievable. We have enacted additional compensation for workers impacted by the common law threshold.

It is vitally important that we pass these laws today. These laws are sensible exceptions, not removing the intent. They have been to the committee. The minister has tirelessly explained all of the questions that were put by the committee. With those few words, I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (5.43 pm): I rise to speak on the Coal Mining Safety and Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I have been a coalmine worker. I have seen firsthand the results of when safe practices are not followed or adhered to. Every single person who goes to work deserves to be able to return home at the end of their shift in one piece. As a coalmine worker I have been through an experience that I hope not a single soul in this country has to ever go through. I was an employee at a coalmine in Queensland where a fellow colleague was killed. On 25 March this year one of my colleagues at a Central Queensland mine went to work for the day and never made it home. He went to work to support his family and his family never saw him again. This is a price absolutely no coalmine worker should pay. I was off shift at the time, but that does not mean for a second that I, along with all of my colleagues, was not impacted by it. It was only 36 hours later that I was packing my bag to head back to site with little knowledge as to what happened and what the future held. It makes you question your own sanity and your own life decisions. Are all the benefits really worth it if this is ultimately the price you may pay? Every coalmine worker knows they work in a hazardous industry but, as all coalminers know, a hazard only becomes a risk when it is not appropriately managed.

Every single worker at that coalmine and across the Bowen Basin has been impacted by that fatality. My last shifts at site before taking leave for the Callide by-election were ultimately spent in the office—rightfully—with no work to be conducted until investigations were complete. This is a tragedy that ultimately happened under the watch of this minister. Last week while in Moranbah on a committee trip for our other safety inquiry, I made it to the Moranbah Miners Memorial and saw the memorial plaque of Gavin Feltwell, the very man who was killed on this tragic day only this year. His plaque was unveiled last Friday at the 2022 Moranbah Miners Memorial ceremony. It was yet another plaque that should never have been added. For the House, and to help the seriousness and importance of mine safety hit home, I table a photo of his plaque taken only last week in Moranbah.

Tabled paper: Photograph, dated November 2022, depicting the member for Callide, Mr Bryson Head MP, beside the plaque of Mr Gavin Feltwell [1858].

I give every coalmine worker in Queensland this commitment: as the member for Callide I will do everything in my power to work with all parties to see genuine improvements in mine safety in Queensland so we do not have to see yet another tragedy like this. I and my LNP colleagues understand how critical mine safety is. That is why the LNP will always welcome legislative change that is measured, thought out, well consulted and genuinely improves the safety outcomes for mineworkers. As my colleagues have already alluded to, the LNP will not be opposing this bill as there are provisions in this bill that attempt to tidy up some of the mess created when the bill was first introduced in 2020.

After the introduction of the bill in 2020 those opposite could have conducted an elaborate consultation process over, say, 12 months and then brought the amendments to the Transport and Resources Committee with an appropriate amount of time to review the legislation, call for submissions and conduct hearings. They could have done this, but instead the Minister for Resources sat on his hands for 18 months. This bill sat on his desk while Gavin's family did not even get a chance to say goodbye.

Instead of bringing these amendments to the House months ago, the minister was off hiding—maybe trying to smooth over the aftermath of the coalmining royalties tax. He turned up here in October, introduced this bill and marked it as urgent. The committee was to report back by 4 November—three weeks and two days is all the committee got. The minister takes 18 months, runs a so-called working group to nut out this legislation and then at the end of November realises time is nearly up and expects everyone to jump as high as the heavens to go through the process of reviewing this legislation. Doing this on such a critical piece of legislation is a slap in the face to coalmine workers in Queensland.

As anyone who understands primary industry in general would know, you cannot be lazy when it comes to safety. Safety in every workplace is paramount and must be treated with utmost respect. In recent times the industry has been pushing the message of 'chronic unease' to encourage their coalmine workers to always maintain a level of uneasiness with their surroundings to reduce complacency and ultimately reduce harm in the workplace. They have been spreading this message across their sites as part of their safety activation days. Having been a part of those activation days myself in Central Queensland coalmines, I have a significant level of chronic unease with this bill and the extreme levels of complacency from the minister in his actions during the process of this legislation.

We are talking about people's lives. We are talking about the lives of our sisters, our brothers, our parents, our children and our neighbours. I would say that every single member of this House has constituents who are employed in coalmines in this state. We must get safety legislation right. To get it right, due process must be followed and it must be fair. In this instance, the process has been far from fair for the coalminers of Queensland.

When I asked Resources Safety & Health Queensland about some of these provisions, they could not point to evidence that shows this will lead to genuine improved safety outcomes. I said—

I am not aware of a similar law in Australia with this level of restrictions. Are you aware of any place in the world that might? Is there evidence in the current day that supports the fact that this may improve mine safety?

They responded that they are 'not aware of any other comparative provisions from other jurisdictions' and that they had nothing further to add. We are significantly changing the requirements of coalmine operators in terms of statutory positions and we do not have any evidence that it will improve safety outcomes. I am all for legislation that will improve safety outcomes but to change key aspects of coalmine safety legislation without any evidence that it will improve safety outcomes is absolute madness.

There are also serious questions yet to be answered about the provisions including sites under care and maintenance. I asked RSHQ why care and maintenance was not exempt as exploration sites were. Their response was—

When the provisions were originally introduced in 2020, they applied to all operations. In the working group and consultation process that followed, exploration companies were specifically raised ... Mines in care and maintenance was not raised in that process.

I had the opportunity to ask the QRC a similar question. They responded—

Care, maintenance and rehabilitation probably has not been adequately discussed. It certainly was not a feature in the previous provisions. QRC have raised it a number of times but it is not something that has appeared in the amendment bill. It is a really important issue that we need to ensure gets picked up. It needs to be treated like exploration. It needs to be excluded.

Therefore, it is clear that this bill is a failure when it comes to consultation, it is a failure when it comes to safety and it is a complete failure when it comes to preventing more fatalities in Queensland coalmines.

Ms Pease: Why are you voting for it?


Mr HEAD: I have said why we are voting for it. We need to because the legislation expires at the end of this month. The 80 per cent contractor exemption appears to be completely plucked from the sky. No submitter was able to state where that figure came from as it was not discussed in a working group. Ultimately, the company with the most employees on a site has the most on the line when it comes to mine safety. If we were given more time to appropriately consult and understand these amendments then we may have been able to propose a more workable alternative.

The lives of my former colleagues and my family, friends and neighbours are ultimately affected by poor safety standards and poor coalmine safety legislation. Any death that happens in a Queensland coalmine is ultimately at the hands of the Minister for Resources. We are talking about people's lives. We must get this right. That is why we are calling on the government to respect this time frame.

Mr STEWART: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence and I ask the member to withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Member for Callide, the member for Townsville takes offence. Do you withdraw?

Mr HEAD: I withdraw. I want to thank my fellow committee members and the committee staff for their efforts in pulling off a miracle by getting the committee report and recommendations together by the due date. We must get this right and that is why we are calling on the government to extend the time frame.

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (5.53 pm): I start by acknowledging the commitment of the member for Callide to workplace health and safety and his experience at the Grosvenor mine. However, I would ask that he considers his own side's position when it comes to the right of unions to enter workplaces to stand up for the safety of workers. I know that under the previous LNP government union officials who wanted to stand up for the safety of their workers were not allowed to attend site. When they did turn up to site they were forced to sit in a room where they could be viewed very closely by management. I would ask that the member considers that. I am not sure if those opposite have done a complete 180 on union right-of-entry rules. Certainly the laws that were introduced by the LNP around right of entry reduced the safety of all Queensland workers. I would add that you are supporting an amendment for a 12-month extension that delays the enactment of safety legislation.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Order! Member for Stretton, please direct all comments through the chair.

Mr MARTIN: Yes, Madam Deputy Speaker. The bill deals with two main issues. Firstly, it looks at further strengthening health and safety in the resources sector. Secondly, it looks at supporting Queensland's resources sector and the good full-time jobs that it creates by making it easier and faster for small and medium-sized mining companies to get their mines up and running and allowing them to defer some initial costs and reinvest that money in the startup. I will start by talking about the second aspect first because the bill delivers a key action of the Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan that the Minister for Resources launched earlier this year.

The Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan presents this government's 30-year vision for our resources sector as a resilient, responsible and sustainable industry that grows as it transforms. The Queensland resources industry has underpinned the state's economic development and prosperity for more than a century. Our metals, minerals, coal and gas industries have helped to define our state and are part of Queensland's identity at home and abroad.

Every Queenslander benefits from our resources industry. Mining supports around 77,000 jobs, mainly in regional Queensland, and royalties from mining companies help to pay for services such as schools, hospitals and roads throughout the state. The Palaszczuk government want these benefits to continue and I acknowledge the work of the Minister for Resources in developing the industry development plan, along with industry, in order to achieve this. It is good public policy that supports Queensland's future by supporting jobs and our economy, providing and funding the good quality services that we all love and, importantly, protecting our fantastic Queensland lifestyle.

However, the world is changing. Global economies are rapidly decarbonising their energy industries and investments, and they increasingly need minerals and metals to develop low-emissions technologies. Queensland's resources industry must also respond to a number of other emerging trends such as growing investor and customer expectations regarding the industry's environmental, social and governance performances, and also the disruption caused by automation.

The challenge of automation is something that the members of the Transport and Resources Committee and I have seen firsthand. Recently we went underground at the Grosvenor mine. It was an amazing experience to see the technology that is being deployed in the industry. We saw the long wall, which is very impressive technology. It is a little daunting to be down there knowing that the roof above you is collapsing as the machinery moves along. What occurs underground is a real feat of engineering.

More and more of the operations can now be done remotely from the surface and we also visited the remote operating centre on the surface at Grosvenor. I have to add that being underground in that confined space, many metres below ground, has reaffirmed my respect for workers who do that for a living. When you are down there it becomes very clear that if something goes wrong then there is the potential for loss of life or serious injury. That is why we must ensure that we do everything we can to have good effective health and safety legislation that protects the safety of the workers, which is what this bill does.

The trends that the industry is facing create great challenges but also present even greater opportunities for transformation. For example, Queensland is well placed to provide the new economy minerals that the world will need to meet global emissions reduction targets. Developed together with industry and communities across our state, the industry plan is our shared response to those challenges and opportunities. The goal is that by 2050 Queensland's resources industry will be recognised globally as a leader in mining that delivers for Queenslanders not just in economic royalties and good jobs but also environmentally and socially, as a global supplier of new economy minerals and as a creator of high-quality and high-wage jobs and careers.


The plan outlines the global challenges and the challenges facing the resources industry, opportunities for industry growth, diversification and the collaboration and commitment required by government and industry in order to achieve this vision. The plan outlines a mix of incentives and initiatives to transform the state's resources sector. A key focus, one that really highlights the importance of diversification in mining here in Queensland, is on critical minerals.

The plan was launched only a few months ago. I am pleased that action 10 from that plan, the rent deferral for critical minerals projects, is included in the bill. Action 10 is all about developing and implementing a framework to allow the Minister for Resources to approve the deferral of the first year's rent for critical minerals mining leases that meet certain criteria. Importantly, it must be in circumstances where the proponent can prove that funds saved from the deferral will be utilised towards the startup costs of the project. This will support miners to redirect funds towards their project during a time that is critical to cash flow and improve their chances of success, which means jobs and, importantly, royalties for Queensland. I know that small and medium-sized companies often face difficulties in getting their mines off the ground in the early years. By being able to access this rent deferral at this crucial juncture, operators will be better placed to start producing and generating capital sooner.

I turn to the health and safety aspects of the bill. I share with members that on the committee's trip to Moranbah we did stop to visit the miners memorial in the town square which commemorates the miners who went to work in the Moranbah coalmines and never came home, their mates whose lights were extinguished in the rock and dust, and all those workers who lost their lives on our roads, in our work camps and from coal related diseases. Every tragic death brings a close-knit community to its knees. This memorial showed the support and gratitude that this community had for families and loved ones left behind and the respect for miners past and present.

For me, the memorial was another reminder of the importance of workplace health and safety legislation. I acknowledge that this legislation has been fought for and won by unions and enacted by Labor governments. At the core of every real trade union is the safety of its members. That is why I am happy to support this bill, which improves health and safety by implementing direct employment requirements for coalmining statutory positions. This comes into effect on 25 November 2022. Importantly, these requirements were first legislated on 25 May 2020. The industry has been in a transitional period since then, with plenty of consultation and feedback given by all parties. During this period, the parties—mine operators, unions, the department and mining inspectors—have been discussing the implementation of these safety improvements.

The committee also heard from industry, unions and the department. I thank those who made submissions. There has certainly been an extensive consultation period in which all parties have made their preferred positions clear; however, it is important to note that on some issues it was clear that agreement between the parties could not be reached. It is good that the minister has taken a prudent approach, providing some compromise. There was clearly no way through for the parties themselves. That is the reason the amendment put forward by those opposite will not work. We have already had two years of consultation. Another 12 months will not do anything to bring the parties together. It was a situation where the minister was faced with two parties diametrically opposed and he had to provide security for the mining industry and make a decision. That is exactly what a good minister would do in that situation. I commend the minister on that decision. Finally, I thank all members of the committee and the secretariat for their work on this bill. I think everyone has worked collaboratively and efficiently. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (6.03 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Coal Mining Safety and Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. We will be supporting this bill because Katter's Australian Party supports not only coalmine workers and mineworkers across Queensland but also the use of our brilliant resource—coal—to generate an income for this state. We support exploring for it, we support people pulling it out of the ground and, most importantly, we support selling coal to those who want to generate electricity from it and ensuring they can use that coal to generate the required energy to make steel that builds this whole country. We also support those who seek to make the industry safer. That is why we will be supporting this legislation.

This legislation was introduced by the Hon. Scott Stewart, the Minister for Resources, on 12 October 2022. The committee went through its process and the report was tabled on 4 November 2022. Some may say that it was quite a sped-up process to make sure this bill would actually hit the floor of parliament before—

Government members interjected.

Mr DAMETTO: Mr Deputy Speaker, I will start again when it is a little quieter.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Hinchinbrook, you have the call. Members to my right, it is pretty noisy. If you want to have a conversation, take it outside and do not linger in the aisles, please.

Mr DAMETTO: It feels like it is shift changeover time: the A shift is leaving and the B shift is coming in for the afternoon. As someone who worked in mining and construction for over 10 years I understand the importance of safety on a mine site, although I never worked in a coalmine. The first time I had a chance to see a coalmine was in 2017 as a new member of parliament. I was part of the tail end of the black lung inquiry, where legislation was being put together by the Labor government to increase safety and put in place the right monitoring and safety precautions to ensure coalminers were looked after. The reason I never worked in coalmines was that there was always a murmur in the industry that it was unsafe and that there were problems with black lung disease. That may have been the case in the past, but I need to acknowledge that we have come a long way since then. I was very impressed to see how coalmining operations operate in the modern day.

The principal objectives of the legislation before the House concern the state Labor government's priorities around mine safety and resources. The safety and health component of this legislation is to provide for exceptions to direct employment requirements for coalmining statutory positions. These amendments are necessary due to the shortcomings of the previous bill, introduced in 2020. These previous changes were introduced on 25 May 2020 and these changes will take effect on 25 November 2022, when the transitional period ends. The impacted statutory positions required to be directly employed by the coalmine operator are: for all coalmines—site senior executive, SSE; for surface mines only—open-cut examiner, OCE; and for underground mines only—underground mine manager, UMM; ventilation officer, VO; explosion risk zone controller; electrical engineering manager; and mechanical engineering manager.

These changes were designed to ensure that holders of statutory roles at coalmines could make safety complaints, raise concerns or make recommendations for safety improvements without fear of losing their jobs when putting their hand up. In mining or any construction industry, where safety is concerned any worker should feel that they have the right to speak up. It does not matter if they are at the top or at the bottom: if people see something unsafe, they should feel that their job is protected when they put their hand up and say, 'We have a problem.' I feel that this legislation addresses that concern with some of these amendments. In terms of the suggestion that an increased use of contractors is leading to the dilution or fragmentation of safety responsibilities on mine sites, I believe that these changes address that.

In relation to resources, this bill will enable implementation of a key action in the draft Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan as well as make several housekeeping amendments to a number of acts in the resources portfolio. These are minor amendments to acts for various reasons. The bill has gone through the committee process and through consultation. It is quite a complicated and messy bill in some respects. It seeks to tie off some loose ends and fix some of the oversights and perhaps mistakes in the 2020 legislation.

I acknowledge that it is good to see Labor putting through legislation that supports coalminers' safety. It may also be an indication to the state that we may be pulling coal out of the ground for many years to come. The Premier recently made an announcement that by 2035 Queensland will have 80 per cent renewable energy and no longer rely on coalmining to generate the fuel source to run electrical generation plants. To give people some context, we produce around 0.3 per cent of all global emissions and we are about to pay up to 30 to 40 per cent more for electricity to switch to renewables—

Ms Boyd: That's not right.

Mr DAMETTO: That is what is being quoted in the media, so I take that interjection. I would like to see how this plays out. The state government has said that it is going to invest \$62 million into switching to renewables by 2035. Every time we spend a dollar on electrical infrastructure—


Mr McCALLUM: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. I seek your guidance on relevance. The member is straying from the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Hinchinbrook, the bill is about mine safety. I appreciate your enthusiasm for the energy sector, but if you could confine your comments to the bill that would be appreciated.

Mr DAMETTO: Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. Maybe this bill was rushed through the committee process because the Labor government did not want to talk about coal in public—which the member may have just indicated by his point of order.

The reality is that this bill will tidy up some statutory requirements and make sure that mine sites are able to be run in a safe manner. The Mining and Energy Union says in their submission that the 'MEU doesn't believe the bill will improve health and safety outcomes in its current format'. The MEU goes on to say that the 'bill only seeks to undermine the original intent of legislative change and places coal mine workers at risk'. That is interesting coming from that union.

We hope that this bill does what it is intended to do. We will support it. Katter's Australian Party will always support the coal industry. As a former mine employee in this state and other states of Australia, I have said it before but I will say it again: I acknowledge those who work in the mining industry to help keep the lights on in this state and to help generate wealth for this nation and generate wealth for this state to make sure we keep our schools operational, our roads up to a specification where they are okay for Queenslanders to use—I will not say they are great; otherwise, I will get hanged by North Queenslanders for that—and pay for the things that we need in Queensland Health to make sure that our health system operates correctly. I will say, as I have time and time again, that the most valuable thing to come out of a mine is its workers at the end of their shift. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (6.13 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Coal Mining Safety and Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. This bill strengthens the safety and health culture in the resources sector through the facilitation of permanent employment conditions for coalmining statutory positions. Secondly, this progresses amendments to enable the implementation of a key action in the Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan as well as make amendments to resources acts to address an operational issue and correct clerical errors.

I am going to speak to the safety component of the bill. As members would be aware, back in May 2020, the Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020 amended the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999 to require a person to be an employee of a coalmine operator to be appointed to a safety-critical statutory role. Everyone in Rockhampton knows a miner. They are our sons and daughters, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, neighbours and friends and they deserve to come home safely to our community at the end of each day.


The health and safety of our 75,000 resource workers is paramount to the Palaszczuk government. I have had my constituents who are contractors at the mines come to speak to me directly about their fear of reporting health and safety issues. They are concerned about the culture of their workplaces and that if they raise issues what the consequences could be. They tell me they just do not get any more shifts and end up unemployed and without severance pay. How difficult would it be for contract statutory officers to report safety concerns when they are in fear of not getting further shifts and fear for their employment as a whole?

Our government's previous bill on this legislation required statutory officials for mining companies to be employees of the company and they have had 2½ years to implement that. This was to ensure that a staff member can raise safety issues and make reports about dangerous conditions without fear of losing their job, as well as give the industry time to make adjustments to their workforces. The direct employment requirements come into full effect on 25 November 2022 when this 2½-year transition period ends. Representatives from the coalmining industry raised concerns in implementing the direct employment requirements. Industry stated that the requirements would have the potential to impact their ability to consistently supply coal and, as a result, would affect their financial viability and the sustainability of their businesses.

There was a tripartite working group established representing industry, workers and the regulator to find solutions to the identified issues. As a result of this process, this bill will amend the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act to address these implementation issues. The amendments will allow limited exceptions to the direct employment requirements while still achieving their intent. As I have said previously, we need to ensure that we have practices in place to reduce the risk to our mine employees and have strong processes in place to ensure safety issues are identified and reported to ensure our family and friends can return home safely at the end of each day.

Further, I understand that this bill is delivering key actions from the Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan which the Minister for Resources launched earlier this year. Everyone in regional Queensland knows how important critical minerals are in the global push for decarbonisation so it is great to see these key actions which will allow the Minister for Resources to defer the first year's rent for specific critical minerals mining leases already before the House. The amendments will allow

the Minister for Resources to defer rent for a mineral that is prescribed in the Mineral Resources Regulation 2013 and in circumstances where the proponent can prove that the funds saved from the deferral will be utilised towards startup costs for the project. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (6.18 pm): I rise to make my contribution this evening on the Coal Mining Safety and Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 and to explain why the Greens cannot support the dangerous antiworker parts of this bill. We support removing the ability of mining companies to negotiate enforcement penalties and the requirement of a resource holder to agree to the penalty which has in the past meant significant delays in enforcement penalties. It does seem fairly nonsensical to ask a corporation for its permission to enforce the rules and to invite it to negotiate the penalty that it will ultimately face. However, we cannot support those provisions in the bill that would allow the site senior executives, open-cut examiners and safety-critical statutory positions at underground mines to be contracted out.

These parts of the bill are a step backwards for worker rights and safety. It is another case of this Labor government bowing to pressure from coalmining bosses and sidelining the concerns of workers. The CFMEU submission on the bill is scathing and crystal clear. It says—

... the proposed changes will allow employers to again push production and industrial considerations into the statutory roles of the OCE and ERZC at the expense of core safety matters. These changes will be to the detriment of their employees and other coal mine workers.

By contracting out these positions, statutory ticketholders cannot or will not focus solely on the safety of mineworkers. That is the essence of the concern we have heard from the CFMEU. They will have other objectives related to production and profit. If they dare to prioritise safety over those objectives, they face serious risks of reprisal. The CFMEU's submission spoke about statutory ticketholders who put safety ahead of production being unceremoniously shunted out of their roles. For contractors, it is all too easy to be kicked off the job altogether. When your income or job security in these positions relies on prioritising bosses' profits, worker safety suffers.

In hearings on the bill, the union told the committee that contract OCEs and deputies are 'a joke in the industry' and they are seen as 'cash-for-comment people'. Instead of listening to the people who actually do the work and put their bodies on the line at these mines, it appears the government is legislating for the whining, profit-driven bosses who see safety requirements as an annoyance or as a barrier to unfettered production and profiteering from others' hard work.

They are making it easier for these corporations to rely on unsustainable, exploitative FIFO models, while regional towns suffer. The Isaac Regional Council's submission raised concerns that this bill will further entrench contract or labour hire practices at mines, meaning more FIFO and fewer people living in these regions.

This obsession with outsourcing and contracting out every possible position has left these communities with a dearth of secure local jobs, a vulnerable local economy and an imbalanced housing market that prioritises short-term accommodation. It has driven the boom-and-bust cycle that has wrecked some Queensland towns, all while the FIFO workers who this supposedly benefits are enduring markedly poorer mental health and wellbeing.

If these mining corporations want to make money digging up and selling Queenslanders' resources, they should at least invest in those jobs that are based in local communities. That is not to mention how much more they should be paying in resource royalties and corporate taxes. If the government were willing to tax them properly so they could better afford to invest in public services and infrastructure, it would create better, more livable communities in rural and regional Queensland.

As one mine safety worker pointed out in their submission, coalmining corporations have had 2½ years to get ready to comply with the direct employment requirements under the amended Coal Mining Safety and Health Act. They could have developed training schemes for permanent employees to perform the statutory official roles who could then do other work until they are required to fill in—for example, in the case of another staff member's absence.

These companies need to get it together to implement the law as it was originally intended. Only the operator should be able to hire all statutory officials and those officials should be solely focused on health and safety. Instead, what we are seeing is mine owners crying poor, claiming it is just too hard. The mine safety worker who made a submission puts it about as well as anyone could, I think. This is a quote from that submission—

They tell me regularly they are struggling yet their yearly financial reports say otherwise. The likes of BHP make billions in profits, enough to pay the CEO in excess of \$21 million for 2022 with a 5% increase for 2023.

This submitter also makes a really salient point that I expect could easily be overlooked in this debate, so I want to put it on the record right now. They say—


If government again rolls over in favour of industry they are clearly putting business before people. Business may lose some money or have to spend a little more to train and retain but us coal mine workers will lose life and limb. Our loved ones and work mates will continue to be killed at work and leave families without providers.

Who will look after my family if and when I'm killed or maimed?

I am not the first one to observe in this debate that workers deserve to come home safely. Of course that means, in my view, that they deserve deputies and OCEs who are primarily, exclusively, concerned with their safety, not torn between that role and the profit-based KPIs on which their job could ultimately, tenuously, rest. Coalmining corporations, on the other hand, do not deserve another special deal or handout or shortcut from government.

In addition to rolling over these bosses who want to contract out more positions in coalmines, this bill also proposes to allow mining corporations to defer rent payments for certain critical minerals and use those repayments as funds for their startup capital. There is no doubt that we will need to expand critical mineral extraction in this state to meet the needs of a decarbonised economy as we tackle climate change. Queensland is incredibly lucky to have an abundance of these minerals like copper, lithium, nickel and cobalt.

As the renewable energy industry grows, there will be great demand for these resources. I have no doubt that countless mining companies will be scrambling to capitalise on that demand. They stand to make enormous profits, particularly with the state government charging paltry royalties and their federal colleagues refusing to raise the corporate tax rate. These companies do not need more handouts and they certainly cannot be allowed to scrimp on worker safety. This is why we will not be supporting those parts of this bill.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (6.25 pm): I rise to contribute to this bill. I will begin by pointing out the disingenuousness and hypocrisy of the Queensland Greens pretending to be a friend of Queensland coal workers. On my reading of the bill, nowhere in this legislation is there an ability to contract out statutory positions. On the contrary, it acknowledges that the only people who can fill the roles are those employed by the mine operator itself.

An utmost priority of our government is Queenslanders being safe in their workplace. Every worker deserves to go home to their loved ones at the end of their shift. The most important thing to come off a mine site is its workers, and the Palaszczuk government will always put the health and safety of Queenslanders first. It is critical that Queenslanders can be confident the resources industry is doing everything it possibly can to ensure the health and safety of the workers it employs.

This bill strengthens the health and safety culture in the resources sector through the facilitation of direct employment requirements, which require a person to be an employee of the coalmine operator to be appointed to certain statutory positions. These requirements ensure holders of statutory roles at coalmines can make safety complaints, raise safety issues or give help to an official in relation to a safety issue without fear of reprisal. Previous speakers have spoken of the deleterious culture of fear that exists for workers who raise issues connected with safety.


The bill provides practical ways of implementing the direct employment requirements that do not unreasonably disrupt employment arrangements while upholding the intent of the original legislation. It will ensure the coalmine operator, the entity ultimately responsible for the coalmine and the safety of its workers, remains the central point of responsibility. There will be no blame-shifting under the reforms in this bill. It will also ensure that responsibility for safety is not fragmented across multiple employers, with their own structures, systems and cultures.

It is the Palaszczuk government's expectation that those who undertake coalmining operations must have as their ultimate priority the health and safety of coalmine workers who are exposed to the hazards of operations in coalmines. These amendments are the result of extensive consultation over approximately one year by Resources Safety & Health Queensland, the committee that considered this bill and the broader government. Industry did advocate for these amendments, and the government has listened to those representations and responded.

As many know, my local community of Ipswich is the birthplace of Queensland's coal industry. Coal was first found in the area we now know as Kholo in 1825, and Queensland's first recorded coalmine opened at Redbank in the Bundamba electorate near the junction of Six Mile Creek in 1843. In the following years more mines were established in areas including: Goodna, Collingwood Park, Dinmore, Swanbank, New Chum, Blackstone—again all in the Bundamba electorate—and a little bit

further afield in Wood End, Tivoli, Denmark Hill and Rosewood. Tragically, more coal and more jobs also came with more risk. Records show that 186 men and boys lost their lives in the Ipswich mining industry between 1858 and 1997. This is the highest number of fatalities of all Queensland coalfields.

We can never, ever stop striving for higher safety in the resources industry, and we can never accept anything other than a zero-harm approach when it comes to workplace health and safety in the resources industry. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (6.31 pm): It is a pleasure to speak today on the Coal Mining Safety and Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. As others in this House have said, every worker deserves to be safe at work and to go home safely to their families at the end of the day. I have a clear focus on safety in the workplace. My many years as a police officer—in fact, my role as officer in charge at the Laidley Police Station for 30 years—saw me investigate and oversee workplace injuries and workplace deaths. It is with that background that I have a clear focus on safety in the workplace. As you would appreciate, policing has a lot of safety issues and risks that need management, and one of my focuses was on the practical and commonsense control of those risks.

The bill talks about the importance of statutory officers. Those professional people in the workplace are very sought after. Good ones stay and are looked after in their jobs because of the contribution they make not only to the safety of their workers but also to the practical control of risks in the workplace. As the shadow minister and member for Condamine mentioned earlier today, these professional people are very sought after. I will come to some of the details of that shortly, but it is hard to track down these workers if you have a vacancy.

If we look at a snapshot of Queensland's resources industry, it contributes a total amount of almost \$85 billion to the state's economy and 430,000 jobs. In fact, one dollar in every five comes from the resources community and one in six jobs. Interestingly, only 0.1 per cent of Queensland's land use is taken up by mining or the resources industry, but when you look at the value and the contribution the resources industry makes to Queensland it is amazing this bill has taken such a long time to come into the House.

Before I go on I want to thank the members of the Transport and Resources Committee and the shadow minister for resources, the member for Condamine, for his guidance with regard to this bill. The bill was introduced in October this year but we had already seen an earlier iteration under former minister Lynham in 2020, so the government did have close to two years to get this right. I really believe from my own experience with committees that the committee consultation process is a very worthy one, but as a result of this bill being declared urgent the limited consultation period has probably resulted in deficiencies in some of the submissions. Whilst this arguably may have been around for a long time, when you have a committee inquiry it brings people's attention to the important things. It is not just the committee time frame; there is also pressure on the government to consider the submissions that are made through the committee process and respond to those submissions.

There were concerns raised by industry, including the Queensland Resources Council and the Mining and Energy Union, which very clearly demonstrate that the government has not quite got this right and there needs to be more consideration of their concerns. I would like to quote from the submission of the Mining and Energy Union, which stated—

The MEU doesn't believe the Bill will improve health and safety outcomes in its current format.

The union goes on to say—

However, the latest draft bill only seeks to undermine the original intent of legislative change and places coal mine workers at risk.

The Queensland Resources Council goes on to talk about their concerns in relation to 80 per cent of workers on a site. Others in the House have spoken about this. This is a really key part of the bill because of the complex structures some of these companies have with contractors and different entities and how the measurement of 80 per cent of workers on a site will be ensured. There was a lot of concern around the ambiguity of that. In their submission the Queensland Resources Council said, 'It is unclear where this requirement came from as it was not discussed in the working group established by' the minister. They went on to say—

While it has been suggested that the increasing use of contractors is leading to a dilution or fragmentation of safety responsibilities at mine sites, that is not supported by evidence and is offensive to contractors that they cannot employ their own statutory position holders.


As I mentioned at the start, statutory position holders are expert professionals in their fields who have worked with businesses. They have a very strong understanding of responsible controls, the responsible management of risk and the responsible management of safety, and that builds up confidence with workers. I know that if you have somebody who is not very experienced at their job or is being very reactionary to things as opposed to wanting the best outcomes of safety for workers, then it can lead to a lack of confidence. That is a really concerning thing in any workplace.

As I mentioned, the draft legislation fails to consider the detail of that 80 per cent, and others have sought clarity from the minister around contractors who are employed. I like the saying 'What gets measured gets done', but if the industry does not understand what needs to be measured then there is certainly a concern. As we have mentioned, the draft legislation proposes that coalmine operators directly employ statutory position holders in mines that are for rehabilitation, care and maintenance activities, but there is no clear explanation as to the necessity of statutory officers for care and maintenance. We would seek some clarity in relation to that.

I support the shadow minister's suggestion and proposed amendment to see the bill's commencement date extended to 25 November 2023. The industry says it should be at least another six months, and I think the government should listen to the industry. We certainly support the sound intent of the bill. In fact, some of the amendments are very critical to the resource industry and we recognise that. The committee suggested changes to the rental payments and an amendment to include phosphate in the definition of 'critical minerals', so there are some details that we do not have right at this stage.

I want to turn to the industry's concerns regarding the 12-week maximum in terms of the exemption. I think Chief Inspector Newman said it well when he said that there is a big lag in finding inspectors and that in fact it was not 12 weeks but five to six months. There have been five chief inspectors in the last 10 years which shows there is a very large turnover in some of these jobs. We are looking at only a 12-week exclusion, but I think that needs to be changed.

I have said before that the industry, the unions and other entities have practical concerns around this bill. I support the sound intent of it. We all want to see workers come home safely. We want to make sure we have safe legislation and legislation that can be easily understood and applied in all of these workplaces. For those reasons, we think the government should make those small alterations and we support the rest of the bill.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (6.41 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution in support of the Coal Mining Safety and Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I will specifically talk about the rent deferral provisions. I was a former member of this committee in a previous iteration and I want to disclose at the outset that, as many members of the House would be familiar, I met my husband while working on this committee and he continues to be employed by the resources sector. I just wanted to make that declaration up-front.


The amendments to the Mineral Resources Act 1989 before the House are going to allow the Minister for Resources to defer rent for a mineral that is prescribed in the Mineral Resources Regulation 2013 and in circumstances where the proponent can prove that the funds saved from the deferral will be utilised towards startup costs for a project. This deferral is going to allow proponents to redirect funds towards the project at a time that is critically cash-flow dependent and deliver the proponent an improved chance of success going forward. We all know that smaller and medium-sized companies often face difficulties in accessing cash to get their mines off the ground in those early years. By being able to access a rent deferral at this critical juncture, operations will be better placed to start producing and generating capital sooner and start making money and creating additional jobs for Queenslanders—jobs that we all know are very important.

The ability to access a rent deferral will I am sure aid in attracting more investment into Queensland, which of course is a keen aim of the Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan. I am sure the Minister for Resources has spoken to everyone in this House about critical minerals before, but it is important to talk about why this rent deferral is so important. We all know in this House—and if members have not read the energy plan, they should get around it because it is a good one—that it is important to talk about how these critical minerals are going to be used in the renewable and emerging technologies that the world needs to decarbonise. Critical minerals are used in the production of wind turbines, solar panels, batteries of all shapes and sizes, and electric vehicles. I have a business in my electorate, GMG, which has just been featured in an article in the ABC. I encourage all members to read it. They are working with graphene for energy storage. Some of the work that is happening in the renewable space is absolutely amazing.

We know that critical minerals are crucial for decarbonisation efforts as we implement our Energy and Jobs Plan here in Queensland, as they are for all other states and countries around the world that are joining the renewables revolution. Demand for these minerals is forecast to increase significantly over the coming years. The Minister for Resources has told the House many times that our deposits in Queensland are world-class and everybody wants to get their hands on them.

The rent deferral comes on top of almost \$40 million worth of budget initiatives to supercharge the critical economy minerals sector, including extra funding for exploration, geoscientific research and more efficient approvals processes. I am very excited to see measures such as the rent deferral being pursued through these legislative amendments because it is going to mean more investment into Queensland and more good jobs for people in my electorate, many of whom are employed in the resources sector.

Many speakers before me have already spoken eloquently about the vital importance of the safety issues. I know we have lots of speakers really keen to speak on this bill tonight, so I will leave my contribution there. I certainly commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (6.45 pm): I rise to contribute to the Coal Mining Safety and Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. From the start, we say that this bill is another broken promise by those opposite. I take members back to 19 May 2020 in this House when the then minister for natural resources spoke on the Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. At that time, I was the shadow minister for natural resources and mines. What is important to remember about that bill is that when then minister Lynham introduced it he said it delivered on ‘three significant government priorities’. The first was to strengthen the safety culture in the resources sector. The second was to support reforms to mine rehabilitation and financial assurance. The third, and the most telling, was to progress amendments that ‘align with our election commitment to improve the regulatory efficiency of the resources sector’.

There we have it. The legislation was to deliver on an election commitment or, in layman’s terms, a promise to the people of Queensland. It is important to keep that previous bill in mind as we debate this particular bill because the current minister referred to that very bill when he introduced this bill. Just like his predecessor, the current minister spoke about strengthening the safety and health culture, but what the current minister also spoke about was what he called ‘challenges to implementing the direct employment requirements’.

Back in 2020 I raised the issue of implementing those requirements when I asked what assurances the minister could provide that we had sufficient SSEs, for example, to allow implementation. No assurances were given. The minister ignored the question, and here we are today with proof that the original bill was big on talk, big on so-called commitment, but when it comes to actually delivering it is yet another fail. I met with a group of SSEs at that time and they expressed to me their grave concerns with what was going on in the industry. They had grave concerns about what it meant to them in the performance of their duties and grave concerns about the ongoing safety of coalminers in this state. When it comes to mine safety, we need to get it right. We seem to have been going backwards and forwards in this place since 2020, talking about this particular issue, talking about mining safety. There has been lots of talk. I will not go too far into the evidence given at the inquiry last week in Moranbah, suffice it to say that some of it was chilling. There will be more to say about that in due course.

While they chose to ignore my questions, those opposite obviously believed that SSEs and other statutory position holders would just appear by magic. The reality is they do not. Yet this bill proposes that directly employed statutory position holders, like SSEs, will be needed for mines that are in rehabilitation, care and maintenance stages with no explanation given. What we have seen previously when it comes to this government’s record on addressing mine safety is review after review, and many of the recommendations of those reviews are ignored or not implemented. A prime example is the Coal Workers’ Pneumoconiosis Select Committee’s report that was worked on by five current members, three of them being government members. That report offered a recommendation that would make a huge difference to safety—the increase of unannounced inspections to 50 per cent. Has it been done? No! More than five years after the recommendation was made, we still have statutory position holders calling for ‘a hell of a lot more unannounced inspections’ as recently as last week.

Mr STEWART: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe that the member on his feet is straying outside the long title of the bill and I seek your guidance to bring him back to what is being debated this evening.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Burdekin, I ask you to please be relevant to the long title of the bill.

Mr LAST: Certainly, Mr Deputy Speaker. Why? Because according to the RSHQ's most recent annual report, only 15 per cent of Coal Inspectorate inspections were unannounced. We have seen this government commission review after review—

Mr STEWART: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Despite your guidance to the member for Burdekin, he seemed to resume talking about unannounced inspections and ignored what you said.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is your point of order relevance, Minister?

Mr STEWART: My point of order is coming back to the long title of the bill and ignoring what you had asked him to do.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, you do not need to give me any guidance about my directions. Your point of order is relevance, I assume? Member for Burdekin, please keep your comments to the long title of the bill and resume your contribution.

Mr LAST: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. We have seen this government commission review after review, but when it came to this bill, the committee was given less than a month to review the bill—not even enough time for a committee hearing outside of Brisbane. Is it any wonder the committee was given such a brief period to examine the legislation when the Mining and Energy Union describes the bill as undermining the intent of the legislative change and says that this bill 'places coalmine workers at risk'? It is clear from history and from feedback from groups like the Mining and Energy Union that this government has backtracked on their promise, and it is clear that those opposite are dodging the responsibilities they hold as government. Not only do those responsibilities include the need for inspections but also they include responsibilities for legislative changes like we have seen from the reviews and from the Coal Mining Board of Inquiry. Those responsibilities include getting the legislation right.

This government has had close to two years to get this right and they have failed. This government has had close to two years to deliver on what was clearly an election commitment, but they cannot. The reason is that this government's commitment was based on winning an election, instead of being based on keeping coalmine workers safe.

It is not just when it comes to legislation that those opposite are failing; their failings are evident throughout the resources industry, and those failings are abundantly clear in the Burdekin electorate, home to the lion's share of the state's coalmines. Just last week, the mayor of the Isaac Regional Council stated that her region produced almost \$23 billion in annual economic output. To put that into perspective, that is seven times the amount of the Treasurer's unforeseen expenditure. Yet, despite that huge economic output, the mayor described medical services in the region—and let's keep in mind that this is a bill about safety and health—as insufficient and said they posed a serious risk to workers. To quote Mayor Baker when talking about the Grosvenor mining incident, 'It is acknowledged that lives would have been lost if not for the coincidental presence of a visiting doctor.' Not only has this government failed to get it right over the past two years, they have also failed to ensure that basic government provided services were available in that community.


Mr Stewart: Building a new hospital.

Mr LAST: I will take that interjection. There was a mention of a new hospital in the lead-up to the last election, the same project that has been included in the glossy brochure, but I ask the members opposite to show me the line item in the budget documents where the funding for that new hospital is identified. They will not find it. There is no budget line item in the document. Once again, here we are, a government making promises that are not supported by funding. It is very clearly a question of 'show me the money'.

The LNP understands the importance of safety for our mine and quarry workers. As the member for Burdekin, I speak with mineworkers every day, and I have spoken with the families of miners who have lost their lives in Queensland mines. In fact, I attended the miners' memorial service last Friday in Moranbah, and we heard from some of the families in that community who had lost husbands, fathers and brothers to mining incidents. At that ceremony we sadly added another name, Gavin Feltwell, who unfortunately lost his life in a mining incident on 25 March this year to bring the total number to 15 in that community. To see the grief etched on their faces, to hear them speak about the impact of losing a loved one, brought home just how important it is that, as legislators in this place, we get this right.

When it comes to mine safety—and we have heard it all here tonight about how important it is that when they go to work they go home again—when you hear from one of the widows of the impact when she answered a knock on the door and three police officers were standing there to deliver that news, you appreciate that this is real and that we do need to get it right.

It is a fact that despite numerous reviews, this government cannot get it right, and it is a fact that this government is not listening. It is a fact that despite all their claims and election promises, there are calls from workers for a more proactive inspectorate and there are high potential incidents in Queensland mines occurring each and every day. It is time for this government and this minister to listen. It is time for this government and this minister to accept that, as a government, they also have responsibilities when it comes to making our mines as safe as possible. It is time for this government and this minister to get it right. It is the absolute least we can do because that is what our mineworkers deserve.

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (6.56 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Coal Mining Safety and Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, a bill which further strengthens the safety requirements set out in the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act. It is interesting to hear the member for Burdekin stand up in this place and talk about how they are all friends of coalmining workers and friends of workers when he stood up in this place and voted against industrial manslaughter laws. He talks the talk, but does not walk the walk. He pretends that he cares. He is all care and no responsibility. There are numerous other pieces of legislation that have been debated and discussed in this place, and plenty of debate about mineworkers' safety or worker safety. There have been opportunities for the member for Burdekin to stand up and say that he supports that, to vote with his feet by actually voting in support of legislation like the industrial manslaughter legislation, but, no, that did not happen.

In speaking in support of this bill, I must disclose that I am a member of the Mining and Energy Union Queensland District and the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union, both of which are noted on my Register of Members' Interests. I am proud that the MEU and AMWU have represented coalmine workers for decades on all matters related to employment, with a particular focus on health and safety matters in the coal sector.

It was a real privilege recently to join the member for Toowoomba South and a number of our other colleagues in this place at the Parliamentary Friends of Resources site visit at the Kestrel Coal Mine just near Emerald where we undertook an underground coalmine tour. There is plenty of talk in this place about coalmines, particularly on safety, but not a lot of members have been underground and seen the environmental controls, the workers' health and safety and the industrial conditions, the really tough and dangerous conditions that mineworkers work in, particularly those underground. I note that 10 members of this place attended that site visit, though the two members of the Queensland Greens did not attend. When I wrote to them, one replied to say that they were too busy to attend. I find it interesting that particularly the Greens come into this place and have a lot to say about mining, but do not actually spend the time to go and see exactly what goes on in our Queensland mines.

We did notice that it is dark and definitely cold in places underground but humid in others. It is dangerous. I was certainly a tad nervous. I just told myself it was like a Dreamworld ride. It was all completely safe. The expertise of the miners, the operators, the maintenance crew and the engineers made me feel confident and helped me realise just how amazing these teams of people are at what they do.

Before we all appreciated that mining is a dangerous job, but now, as a result of this site tour underground, we have an even greater understanding of the environmental controls, safety and rehabilitation of mining in Queensland. I say thank you to Rachel Stewart and Ian Macfarlane of the Queensland Resources Council and Kestrel's mine manager Bernie Lambley and his team for hosting us on this important fact-finding mission.

I am proud that the Palaszczuk government has always put workers and their safety at the centre of our policymaking. In doing so the Palaszczuk government has always put resource workers and their safety at the centre of our governing. That is what this bill is all about. Queensland has the toughest mine safety and health laws in the world.

Debate, on motion of Ms Lauga, adjourned.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Before I call the member for Mudgeeraba for the private member's motion, I would like to remind the following members that they are on a warning: the member for Currumbin.

MOTION

Satellite Hospitals

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (7.00 pm): I move—

That this House calls on the government to properly name its seven medical facilities under the Satellite Hospitals Program given they will not have:

- (a) overnight beds;
- (b) 24-hour opening hours;
- (c) an emergency department; and
- (d) an operating theatre.

and indicate on what dates each will be open, noting the Premier's 2021 commitment to have each facility completed and operational by May 2023, and what emergency transfer processes will be in place if someone arrives needing critical care.

If ever one wanted a case in point of a government losing control of the health system it is responsible for, they need look no further than those opposite. Bereft at leadership and entirely lacking in accountability, those opposite with the minister at the helm are running Queensland Health into the ground and they have been doing so for nearly eight years. Look at the numbers released yesterday for the September quarter: an elective surgery waiting list growing, ambulance ramping stuck—it is impossibly high at 44 per cent—emergency departments overrun and a waiting list for the waiting list which would make your eyes water. There are more than 272,000 Queenslanders on that list—272,000 Queenslanders hoping and praying to see a specialist. These are not our numbers; they are theirs. They are the numbers which tell every Queenslander everything they need to know about the Queensland health crisis.

How is the Queensland health crisis going to be fixed? If people had listened to the government over the past two years apparently their satellite hospital program could do the trick. What it really does is tell Queenslanders everything they need to know about how disingenuous those opposite really are. Those opposite put their political survival ahead of the care and wellbeing of Queenslanders. They put their political survival before patients. They will be judged harshly for that. I want to explain what we know about these facilities.

They do not have overnight beds. They do not have an emergency department. They do not have an operating theatre. They will not be open 24/7. They are not hospitals—full stop, end of story. They are not hospitals. Clinics, medical centres, multipurpose health facilities—call them what you like, but they are not hospitals. The Premier said they would be up and running by May next year. They are running late and over budget to the tune of \$15 million.

If your child is having a serious asthma attack, the satellite hospital cannot treat them. If your wife is having an epileptic fit, the satellite hospital cannot treat her. If your grandmother falls and breaks her hip, the satellite hospital cannot treat her and if your dad is having chest pain, the satellite hospital cannot treat him. These are the facts. Treatment in the satellite facilities for those types of conditions just will not happen. It will not happen because it cannot; they are not staffed or fitted out to look after patients with those conditions and that poses a risk to the patient safety. Precious time would be wasted in emergency situations. Ambulances would need to be called to transport acute patients. A family member already frantic to get their loved one treated in an emergency will be put through even more trauma waiting to be transferred to a proper hospital that can deal with acute conditions. Do not take my word for it; take the words of a senior Queensland Health doctor. This is what they said—

I lobbied for them not to be called satellite hospitals but that is outside my control.

It goes on—

These are satellites to the hospitals, rather than hospitals in their own right.

They also said that 'they do not work overnight and they do not have beds'. That is a damning assessment. That is absolutely damning. This is what Queensland Health's own officials say about the government's promised facilities. It is unbelievable. That is the feedback from inside the tent and here is the feedback from outside the tent. The AMAQ president Dr Maria Boulton said—

We remain concerned about investment in satellite hospitals as they are only hospital by name and certainly not by nature.


Let me repeat that: hospitals by only name and not nature. There it is right there. That lifts the lid on the sham that is these facilities. Imagine someone from this place gallivanting around their electorate saying their community was getting a hospital. Seriously! That is misleading a community if ever I have

heard of it. Despite all these things we have now learnt, despite all the criticisms, someone in this place was promising their constituents a hospital. Enter the member for Pumicestone and her A-frame signs at the last election.

This is what those signs said—and we cannot make it up. One said ‘Labor will build a Bribie hospital’. The other said ‘Vote Ali King for a Bribie hospital’ and another one, ‘Vote Labor for a Bribie hospital’. Member for Pumicestone, really? What on this good earth was the member thinking? A hospital, a Bribie hospital? I have said it once in the chamber before and I will say it again. Member for Pumicestone, those photos have aged terribly. That is not what the Bribie community is getting. The member misled them. She has broken the trust of her community. She has broken her promise. The member must have known it was not really going to be a hospital but she went ahead with the sham, anyway. She chose to mislead her constituents.

Opposition members: Hear, hear!

(Time expired)

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (7.05 pm): I would cheer that the member's time has expired, too. I move the following amendment—

That all words after ‘House’: be omitted and the following inserted:

1. commends the Palaszczuk government's record \$9.785 billion Health Capacity Expansion Program within the Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan;
2. notes the Palaszczuk government is delivering new and upgraded hospital and health facilities right across Queensland, including but not limited to:
 - (a) Redlands Satellite Hospital
 - (b) Caboolture Satellite Hospital
 - (c) Kallangur Satellite Hospital
 - (d) Tugun Satellite Hospital
 - (e) Ripley Satellite Hospital
 - (f) Bribie Island Satellite Hospital
 - (g) Eight Mile Plains Satellite Hospital
 - (h) New Bundaberg Hospital
 - (i) New Coomera Hospital
 - (j) New Toowoomba Hospital
 - (k) New Queensland Cancer Centre
 - (l) Cairns Hospital
 - (m) Hervey Bay Hospital
 - (n) Ipswich Hospital
 - (o) Logan Hospital
 - (p) Caboolture Hospital
 - (q) Mackay Hospital
 - (r) PA Hospital
 - (s) QEII Hospital
 - (t) Redcliffe Hospital
 - (u) Redland Hospital
 - (v) Robina Hospital
 - (w) The Prince Charles Hospital
 - (x) Townsville University Hospital
 - (y) Moranbah Hospital
 - (z) Bamaga Hospital
 - (aa) Normanton Hospital
 - (bb) Pormpuraaw Health Facility
 - (cc) Tara Hospital
 - (dd) Cow Bay Primary Health Centre
 - (ee) Thursday Island Health Facility
 - (ff) Camooweal Primary Health Care Centre
 - (gg) Blackwater Multipurpose Health Service
 - (hh) Windorah Multi-Purpose Health Centre.

3. notes that these projects will progressively be delivered for the people of Queensland with patients being cared for in the best place for their needs;
4. notes that the Palaszczuk government has already delivered new hospitals in Roma and Kingaroy; and
5. condemns the member for Mudgeeraba for her comments regarding “dud” health workers in regional Queensland.’

In speaking to that amendment, can I say it is the Palaszczuk government that is investing in new facilities; it is the Palaszczuk government that is expanding hospital and health facilities in this state. It is the opposition that calls our health workers in regional Queensland duds and it will be an opposition party in government that will cut services. We have seen that very recently—as recently as last week when the LNP Leader of the Opposition said that they will cut waste. We have heard that before.


Mr Fumer interjected.

Mrs D’ATH: We know what that means. We saw it in the progress report from July 2012—cutting waste. What worries me even more is that the Leader of the Opposition says they are not going to cut government services; it is firmly off the table. What about Deaf Services Queensland? What about Cerebral Palsy League of Queensland? What about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service? What about Queensland AIDS Council? What about child and family therapy services? Those were all cuts they made last time they were in government. They are not government services. Are they on the chopping board? I bet they are.

What about Anglicare Central Queensland, Australian Red Cross Society, Vision Australia, Diabetes Australia, Stroke Association, Emergency Medicine Australia, Family Planning Queensland, Far North Queensland Rural Division of General Practice Association, GP Links Wide Bay, Toowoomba and District Division of General Practice, the Capricornia Division of General Practice, General Practice Queensland, Queensland Association for Healthy Communities and the Pyjama Foundation? They are all non-government organisations that had their funding cut by the LNP.

The Leader of the Opposition has not ruled it out. He says that they need to reduce waste. They are going to cut waste—exactly what they said back in 2012. They said they would employ more doctors and nurses and cut the waste in the health system. What did the Leader of the Opposition say a week ago? ‘Who would not want more doctors and nurses?’—but he talked about cutting waste. We have heard it all before. We heard it in 2012. The only contribution the opposition has is to argue about the name of satellite hospitals. That is their total contribution. They have a four-point plan with no money, no beds and no staff attached to it. That will allegedly fix the whole health system. The biggest contribution they have is to come into this place and argue about the name of satellite hospitals—not the services and not what we will be delivering but the name. It shows that they have no plan and that they will cut, sack and sell—

(Time expired)

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (7.11 pm): My community has been deliberately deceived by this state Labor government. During the state election campaign in 2020, the Palaszczuk Labor government unequivocally promised my community a satellite hospital. My community thought they were getting a hospital, and this is exactly what the state government intended. The promise was a blatant and shameless vote grab in order to hold onto power and win the seat of Currumbin.

When Sunny Hart walked into a polling booth in October 2020, she asked the question: ‘What is a satellite hospital?’ Sunny took to social media and said, ‘A Labor person said it was a new hospital.’ Susie Kay Biber was looking forward to this much needed health infrastructure and said: ‘A good and needed hospital’. Neal went onto say: ‘A terrific idea. It will take strain off our hospitals and help people in our community stay in it and get much needed hospital care.’

A hospital is what we needed. It is what my community expected but it is not what we are getting. We know there will be no operating theatre. We know there will be no overnight beds. We know there will be no ED. My community is devastated and, quite frankly, they are angry. They are angry they have been deceived and they are angry they are not getting a hospital. Lorraine from Currumbin Waters told me: ‘These will merely be glorified clinics.’ Lynden from Tugun told me: ‘Definitely can’t define it as a hospital, if it’s lacking three core elements—not good enough.’ Jolene from Tugun emailed me to say: ‘I am disappointed to hear that the site at 57 Boyd Street Tugun will be used as a health clinic, and not a hospital as previously promised.’ Pauline from Tugun also emailed me saying, ‘What about the pregnant women? We’d like to see the services at the health clinic now deliver for pregnant women.’

The Palaszczuk Labor government, knowingly and deliberately, called this facility a ‘satellite hospital’ in an attempt to deceive our community and make people believe that this facility would reduce pressure on our hospitals and deliver services that it is not going to deliver. This deception was so


calculated and so politically driven that Palaszczuk government MPs were unequivocally promising a hospital. They were not even promising a satellite hospital; they were promising a hospital. Yes, I am talking about the member for Pumicestone. It is utterly despicable. It is everything that people hate about politics: using deception, untruths and trickery to win a vote and hold onto power.

Not only has this government tried to deceive our community, but it looks like these facilities will not even be delivered on time or on budget. The Palaszczuk Labor government promised that they would be delivered in May next year. That is looking wholly unlikely right now. My community desperately needs an emergency hospital service. We know that the Gold Coast University Hospital is at capacity. Ambulance ramping is at 47 per cent, and Robina is not far behind at 46 per cent. Some 30 per cent of the Tweed Hospital's emergency admissions come from the Gold Coast. That equates to about 12,200 people from my electorate who go to the Tweed ED. When the Tweed ED shuts down next year, where will all of those people go?

Think about this: it is mid-2023, it is dinnertime and you are a Tugun local. Your child goes into anaphylactic shock. Normally you would travel 10 minutes down the road to the Tweed ED, but it is closed. In your panic you go to the Tugun satellite hospital, but it is closed because it is night-time and it is not a 24-hour hospital because it is not a real hospital. I am afraid that as a result of this state government's deception we might experience a tragedy at the Tugun satellite hospital. It is not acceptable, and I will not stand for it.

Even senior health officials know that this is wrong. They have been lobbying for these health clinics not to be called hospitals. Queenslanders and senior health staff know the risk to public safety of this state government's deception. We need an emergency department on the southern Gold Coast. We need a hospital that has overnight beds. We need a hospital that is open 24 hours. We need a hospital with an ED. But we are not getting any of that. Instead, we are getting lies—I withdraw that, Madam Deputy Speaker—deception and untruths from this state Labor government and it is unacceptable.

(Time expired)

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (7.16 pm): I am delighted to speak in favour of the amendment before the House tonight. There is no doubt whatsoever that our health system is under pressure. That is clear, but what is also clear is that the LNP has no plan to fix it. What is worse is that the LNP are not interested in fixing it. The more pressure there is on the health system, the happier LNP members are. All they do is criticise.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Pause the clock. I am having trouble hearing the member on her feet. I appreciate the time of night, but I ask everyone to keep it to a dull roar. That would be fantastic.

Ms KING: That is right: all the LNP do when it comes to our health system is criticise. They call our health workers 'regional duds', but it is the LNP that is trying to dud Queenslanders when it comes to health—every single day of the week. The LNP attack Labor for building hospitals, but how many hospitals did they plan and build when they were in government? It was zero. Let's have a look at the LNP's track record when it comes to the hospitals that people in Pumicestone rely on.

Let's look at Caboolture Hospital, a favourite target for members of the LNP. For decades the LNP refused to build a much needed hospital in Caboolture. It took Labor to do that. When we announced our almost half a billion dollar redevelopment of Caboolture Hospital, what did they say? They said it was a political stunt and they said it was not needed. Shame! They make false claims about Caboolture Hospital every day of the week to scare our community and undermine the morale of our health workers. The member for Mudgeeraba called our health workers 'regional duds'. I ask: does the member for Mudgeeraba consider our Caboolture health workers to be 'regional duds' or is that for somewhere else? When it comes to our satellite hospitals, we are building two world-leading—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Again, I ask that we keep our volume down.

Ms KING: When it comes to building our two world-leading satellite hospitals that will serve my community, the LNP are desperate to talk them down, just like they talk down every piece of health infrastructure.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Kawana, if you continue to interject, I will warn you.

Ms KING: The LNP do not care about the people in Pumicestone who currently travel for hours multiple times a week to access renal dialysis. They do not care about people on Bribie who need a long-hours minor accident and emergency centre. They do not care about people on Bribie who need free hospital mental health services closer to home.

The LNP does not care about the health of Queenslanders; it only cares about political pointscoring. We have heard from the member for Currumbin, who talks about deception, untruths and trickery, and I have a very important point to make about our satellite hospital: when it comes to our Bribie satellite hospital, the LNP seems to have a very short memory. The member for Mudgeeraba likes to talk about shams, but there is some deep sham and deep hypocrisy in the LNP when it comes to our satellite hospitals. Does anybody but me remember the 2020 commitment from the member for Nanango to build what she called a 'hospital' on Bribie Island—a sham hospital on Bribie Island? If we scratch the surface, what were the services that the member for Nanango promised would go in this sham hospital on Bribie Island? Urgent care and primary care. What is primary care? Primary care is GP services.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nanango.

Ms KING: I backed GPs every day of the week. I fought for—

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


Ms KING: I fought for more GP services against the federal government for my community, but GP services are not a hospital. Primary care is GPs. It is not hospital services. It is not renal dialysis. It is not hospital mental health services. It is not chemo. It is not postoperative hospital care. The LNP loves to criticise our satellite hospitals which will provide the hospital services our communities desperately need, but it conveniently forgets that it tried to dud Bribie Island with a sham fake hospital that had no hospital services. It is a sham, it is a deception, it is a trickery. Those opposite call our health workers regional duds, but they are trying to dud Queenslanders. They sack health workers. They promise fewer doctors, fewer nurses, fewer health workers. The health system is under pressure, but the LNP expects Queenslanders to believe that it will fix it with its cut, sack and sell plan.

Mr Mander interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Everton, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms KING: The LNP is completely untrustworthy on health. It talks down our health system, it backstabs our health workers, it attacks our hospitals and our hospital infrastructure and it never planned a single hospital. It is trying to dud Queenslanders on health, but it is the LNP that is the dud.

(Time expired)

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (7.22 pm): I, too, rise to support the motion moved by my good friend and the member for Mudgeeraba and call out these sham fake hospitals—something which I actually agree with the member for Pumicestone on for a change. I also agree with the member for Pumicestone when she says that the health system here in Queensland is under pressure, and guess what? The only people that the Labor Party has to blame is its own government! It is the reason the health system is under pressure. Why did the LNP not build a hospital in Caboolture, member for Pumicestone? Because there is already one there, and we will come back to that in a moment. As for her constituents having to travel hours for renal dialysis, again she only has herself and her government to blame. Those services could and would and should have already been provided in Caboolture or Morayfield.

Let me return to this idea of a satellite hospital. The real issue here is the term 'hospital', but I want to spend a bit of time talking about the term 'satellite'. The term 'satellite' implies that something is in orbit, and in this instance one would imagine that it would orbit around the main hospital—that is, that it is on the outer edge of a hospital's catchment. To that end, maybe the member for Pumicestone does have a point that the proposed location on Bribie Island might be considered a 'satellite', but the Caboolture site? The Caboolture site is in Rowe Street, Caboolture. I am pretty good on geography, but I checked it on Google Maps: it is literally one kilometre from the existing Caboolture Hospital—one kilometre! You can literally walk there in what—10 to 15 minutes, far faster than you can get an ambulance these days! It is one kilometre from the main Caboolture Hospital in McKean Street. It is a one-minute drive! If this was a real satellite, it would not have even made it out of the earth's orbit. It

would not have cleared Mount Kosciuszko. In fact, it would have barely made it over Mount Beerwah! If you were Elon Musk and you had paid this Labor government to launch this satellite, you would be wanting your money back. It is not a real satellite at all.

Let us now move to the hospital aspect. No Moreton Bay resident is going to visit this sham hospital when the real one is only a kilometre down the road. This sham hospital has no overnight beds. It is not open 24 hours. There is no emergency department. There is no operating theatre. If there is a parent in Elimbah who has taken their kid to the skate park and they come a cropper and bust an arm, do not go to the Caboolture satellite hospital. If your mother in Wamuran has an anaphylactic reaction, do not take her to the Caboolture satellite hospital. If you live in Delaneys Creek and your baby has an ear infection at 1 am, do not bother taking them to the Caboolture satellite hospital because it is not a hospital! If it were not so serious, you would actually remind yourself of that epic *Yes Minister* episode, 'The Compassionate Society', and the infamous St Edwards hospital. These statements from that episode are eerily familiar—

We've founded the DHSS—

insert 'Queensland Health' here—


and that it takes time to get things going.

Well, if you have a Labor government, it not only takes time; it takes more time and more money! It continues—

First of all, you have to sort out the smooth running of the hospital. Having patients around would be no help at all! They'd just be in the way!

At least St Edwards had one thing the Caboolture satellite hospital will not, and that is beds! So do not call it a hospital. Call it a medical facility or call it a GP clinic, but quit misleading the people of Caboolture by calling it a satellite hospital because it is neither satellite nor a hospital.

The funding being spent on this sham could have been better spent on improving service delivery at the Caboolture Hospital itself. We understand that it is \$280 million for seven facilities, so let us say that is \$40 million per facility. Instead of building the Caboolture facility in Rowe Street, just one kilometre down the road from the Caboolture Hospital, the government could have spent that money on purchasing another 160 ambulances, could have spent it on 385 new graduate nurses, could have spent it on 390 new paramedics, 22 ICU beds or 350 first-year doctors, and if you want to move away from health altogether go and hire another 360 police officers or another 380 teachers. Stop calling it a hospital. Call it a medical facility or call it a GP clinic, but stop misleading the people of Caboolture and the people of Moreton Bay. It is not a satellite hospital.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (7.27 pm): It is a little bit gobsmacking listening to those opposite attacking the Palaszczuk government's delivery of health infrastructure. When we look at the history of what they did with health services and health infrastructure, the only thing that they know how to do is sack people and close down services. I do understand how they find what we are doing a bit bewildering, because they do not know how to employ staff and they certainly do not know how to build infrastructure. The Leader of the Opposition still has not apologised to the over 4,000 frontline health workers that he assisted to sack. In contrast to what those opposite in the LNP are doing with their mentality of cutting and sacking, the Palaszczuk government has a great record when it comes to backing our health staff and our budget for health infrastructure. We are going to deliver three brand new hospitals. We are going to expand 11 hospitals. We are going to build a brand new purpose-built Queensland Cancer Centre. This is in addition to the long list of our new satellite hospitals—great hospitals. This is on top of all of the upgrades to hospitals that we are doing right across this state. The LNP has got itself into opposition because all it does is attack people and it sacks people. It clearly has not learnt its lesson, with the Leader of the Opposition recently revealing a plan for a debt reduction strategy. What would it do again? It would get out its old axes and it would start slashing staff.


Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Pause the clock. The member for Mermaid Beach and the member for Pumicestone will cease their quarrelling.

Mrs GILBERT: The LNP has a plan to tear down our health system. We are getting on with building our satellite hospitals. Our satellite hospitals program is nation leading. Those opposite do not get that. It will take pressure off our emergency departments and our major hospitals and free up capacity for more complex services and surgeries. This is just what our health system needs.

I am particularly proud of what the Palaszczuk government is investing in in regional Queensland. In the Mackay region we are delivering an increase of operational funding to the health service of \$562 million in the budget, an increase of 9.2 per cent on the previous year. New infrastructure investment includes a \$250 million expansion for the Mackay Hospital which will deliver 128 beds and around 610 jobs. The first tranche of our rural and remote health program will replace the Moranbah Hospital, after those opposite were putting out rumours it was not going to happen. Mayor Anne Baker and her community are excited. We also have a significant capital increase in operational funding through Wide Bay, Central and North Queensland, such as a \$1.2 million investment into Bundaberg delivering around 121 additional beds; \$16.3 million in Rockhampton for the residential drug rehabilitation and treatment centre; \$530 million for the extension of the Townsville University Hospital; a \$250 million investment to refurbish Cairns Base Hospital; and a new \$30 million surgical centre to expand the Cairns emergency centre.

While we are getting on with building our health facilities and building up our workforce, those opposite, like the member for Mudgeeraba, are running down the health service, calling people in regional Queensland duds. The member for Everton has still not fessed up to the way that he was talking about health workers last sitting. It is absolutely disgraceful. Come up and face the people in the regions because they are waiting to see you two.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (7.32 pm): I oppose the amendment moved by the Minister for Health. The five-minute contribution we just heard from the member for Mackay demonstrates everything one needs to know about the problems with Queensland Health. All the words and all the numbers the Assistant Minister for Health has put on the record cannot hide the fact that we have record ramping, that waiting lists are out of control and that Queensland Health is in crisis. Nothing will change that fact. I support the motion moved by the member for Mudgeeraba. In 2025 the member for Mudgeeraba will be one of the best health ministers that Queensland has ever seen. That is saying a lot after following Lawrence Springborg!

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr KRAUSE: Nothing surprises me about the arrogance of the Labor government anymore—the deception, the smoke and mirrors, the youth justice fails, the \$6 billion backlogs on our roads—but the satellite hospitals decision takes it to another level entirely because it does the very worst thing that a government can do—

Ms Pease interjected.

Ms Bates interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): The member for Lytton and the member for Mudgeeraba will cease their quarrelling.

Mr KRAUSE: It is playing politics with the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders

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

Mr KRAUSE: The government is doing it because it has lost control of the system. Ramping is out of control at all our major hospitals including Ipswich, where it is over 50 per cent, and there are serious issues at the PA as well. Ambulance personnel cannot do their job properly and they feel undervalued in the system because they cannot help people as they spend too much time on ramps.

At the moment our Queensland health system is a disaster. Queensland Health was never in better hands than it was when the former member for Southern Downs was the minister for health. He oversaw a system that cut dental waiting lists, cut elective surgery waiting lists and made the hospitals work for Queenslanders. What has Labor done? Ramping is through the roof. It was 30 per cent when we came to government in 2012 and by the time we left in 2015 it was down to 15 per cent. That is after Anna Bligh said Queensland Health was a basket case. If it was a basket case in 2011 with ramping at 30 per cent, what is it now? It is an absolute disaster and a disgrace.

Government members interjected.


Mr KRAUSE: I see the members opposite getting a bit excited because they do not like to be reminded that we on this side of the House presided over a health system that worked for Queenslanders. It worked for Queenslanders then far better than it is working for Queenslanders right now. Despite everything the government says and the money it wastes, the health system does not work for Queenslanders now and those opposite do not like to be told about it. When I heard an academic from Griffith University say that Lawrence Springborg was the best health minister Queensland has ever seen I could not but agree, but I think the member for Mudgeeraba has the

potential to exceed that. The member for Redcliffe, the Minister for Health, should take a lesson from Lawrie. Sit down, see what he did and make the system work for Queenslanders because it worked far better back then than it does now.

I support the motion moved by the member for Mudgeeraba. The facilities promised by the government are not hospitals. I want to talk about the amendment that was moved. It contains a very long list of hospital upgrades. Can I point out that there is nothing in Boonah or Beaudesert. There are little hospitals in Queensland as well that need investment, but the Labor government does not get it. They are absolutely ignored because it is not a priority for those members opposite.

When it comes to satellite hospitals, even the bureaucrats, the senior health officials, know that they should not have been called satellite hospitals. A top Queensland Health bureaucrat said, 'I lobbied for them not to be called satellite hospitals but that is outside my control.' Perhaps the Premier was exhibiting her attitude today about not listening to departmental officials. What would they know? They are just the people in the department who run the show. They also said, 'These are satellites to the hospitals, rather than hospitals in their own right,' and, 'They don't work overnight and they don't have beds.'

In relation to the satellite hospital that is planned for the Ripley area around Ipswich, it is not too far from the Scenic Rim electorate but those members for Jordan, Bundamba and Ipswich should hang their heads in shame for the con they are putting in place in Ripley. It is not a hospital and people should not rely on it to be a hospital out of hours. They do not have emergency facilities and if you are really sick you still need to go to the Ipswich Hospital. Fix the Ipswich Hospital instead of conning Queenslanders.

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (7.37 pm): I rise to speak against the motion moved by the member for Mudgeeraba and support the government amendment. The LNP are good at bagging but not building. It is pretty astounding that they would come into this House and criticise the name 'satellite hospitals'—hospitals that would not exist if they were elected to government.

It was particularly interesting to hear the comments made by the member for Currumbin, who comes into this House and opposes infrastructure in her own electorate. It is bizarre. The only thing that is fake is those opposite pretending they give a toss about health care when they sacked 4,400 health staff and gutted \$120 million from community organisations which the Minister for Health just laid out—organisations such as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service, AIDS Council, Deaf Services, Cerebral Palsy League, Diabetes Australia, the Stroke Association, Family Planning Queensland and Sands stillborn neonatal death support—and who could forget the cruel decision to shut down the Barrett centre with no adolescent mental health alternative.

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Members to my left, I do not need your instruction. Member for Gaven, you did make an unparliamentary comment and I ask that you withdraw.

Ms SCANLON: I withdraw. We make no apology for investing in health care. To be very clear, from day dot we said, in a media release at the time of the announcement, that these satellite hospitals would deliver ambulatory and simple day services. They are satellite hospitals built near hospitals to bring care closer to home and take pressure off our other major hospitals.

Even the *Gold Coast Bulletin* called our satellite hospital 'justified'. In an article written last month, Keith Woods said data shows that in the second quarter of this year there were over 35,000 patients admitted to GCUH and, of those, only 43 per cent were overnight admissions. The rest—the majority—of patients were able to go home—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I cannot detect who it is but I am going to issue a general warning to members on my left to cease their interjections. I will start warning members. Members for Coomera and Logan, you will cease quarrelling or you will be warned.

Ms SCANLON: The majority of those patients were able to go home the same day and did not require a bed. Similar data was put forward for Robina Hospital.

Ms Bates interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba.

Ms SCANLON: Therefore, to suggest that the Gold Coasters do not have the intellect—

Ms Bates interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Mudgeeraba is warned under the standing orders.

Ms SCANLON:—to distinguish the services offered is pretty offensive. Do members know what else is offensive? It is the member for Mudgeeraba calling regional nurses and doctors duds! If you want to talk about duds, why don't we talk about the man who was voted the worst health minister this country has ever seen in the past 32 years? That was Peter Dutton, whom those opposite just appointed as their leader. Over the past decade, when the LNP was in government federally, they did very little—almost nothing—to address the issues in primary and allied health care, the issues in the aged-care system and the issues for people accessing a GP. Meanwhile, we have been doing the heavy lifting.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Ms SCANLON: I note the interjections from the member for Coomera. On the Gold Coast we are investing significantly with \$1.3 billion for a new hospital in Coomera, a 114-bed expansion at Robina Hospital, a \$16.5 million Robina Hospital emergency department expansion, a 70-bed expansion at GCUH—

Mr Crandon interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Coomera.

Ms SCANLON:—a 40-bed secure mental health rehabilitation unit at GCUH and—

Mr Crandon interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Coomera, I literally just said your name and you continued to argue. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms SCANLON:—a \$4 million redevelopment of the Southport Ambulance Station. That does not even include the CT scanner that I recently opened at the Robina Hospital, the mental health stabilisation unit that we opened recently as well and, of course, the \$1.6 billion that we have committed to over the next five years to improve mental health across this state. What did the LNP commit to?

Mr Crandon interjected.


Ms SCANLON: Again, I note the interjections from the member for Coomera. A \$4 million planning study! That was it. There was no money committed to actual infrastructure on the Gold Coast. They get up with their fake outrage, but if they were elected to government there would be a planning study and that is it. In fact, there would be fewer health staff.

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection from the member for Bonney. We have been in government and, as I just outlined, we have been delivering.

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection from the member for Bonney, because since 2015 the Palaszczuk government has increased the Gold Coast Health and Hospital Service budget by 82 per cent. I am more than happy to stand up on our track record compared to that of those opposite any day of the week. The member for Broadwater gets up and talks about health care but what does he do? Nothing! In fact, his track record was to sack people. Not only are we committing to additional beds; we are committing to more nurses and more health staff. I commend the minister's amended motion to the House.

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (7.43 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the shadow minister and oppose the amended motion moved by the government. Tonight I wish to speak mainly with reference to the proposed facility for the Redlands.

First of all, the Redlands facility is not a hospital and it should not be called that. It will not have overnight beds like a hospital. It will not be open 24/7 like a hospital. It will not have an emergency department or full emergency capability like a hospital. It will not have an operating theatre like a hospital. If accuracy in health is important, and it should be, and if patient safety is the priority then the facility should be correctly labelled as some kind of medical centre or health clinic, but not a hospital. Even some Queensland Health officials expressed support for truthfulness in the naming of these medical facilities and spoke up about it. However, they seem to have been ignored. One rightly described them as satellites to the hospitals. Clearly they are not standalone hospitals.

What happens if a Redlands resident breaks an arm, has a serious asthma attack, falls and breaks a hip or needs emergency treatment after hours, such as at 1 am, and presents at this medical centre? Can the Redlands satellite centre fix those situations? No, it cannot.


Another thing that comes up in this debate is the chaotic start to the facility in the Redlands that has never been adequately explained. The Redlands facility started in a very chaotic fashion in terms of location and naming. In the budget papers it was first called the Cleveland satellite hospital. It was then called the Redland Bay satellite hospital and its third name is the Redlands satellite hospital. Why the confusing start with three different names, two of which appear in the government's own budget papers and in ministerial statements? One year in the budget papers it was called 'Cleveland' and the next year it was called 'Redland Bay'. The change in location and name has never been adequately explained. Was its move from Cleveland to Redland Bay, from one budget year to the next, a health measure for health reasons or for political purposes?

The real hospital, the Redland Hospital, has not been prioritised. The needs of the Redland Hospital—an ICU and more beds—should have been prioritised over a new medical centre. Before and through COVID's worst we did not have an ICU or enough beds, despite constant calls from the community and eventual promises. Instead, in the seven years to today we have had no new beds. In fact, there are nine beds less in use at times. At times maternity beds are used for other purposes. We have had the worst ramping in the history of the Redland Hospital. We have had the worst-ever results and, although the health minister would know, she will not release the figures about how it is trending. Is the trend getting better or not?

The upgrade of the real hospital is not on track. The Redland Hospital upgrade has been delayed, which is completely unacceptable. Finally we get it on the books and finally we get it in the budgets, but now we hear that stage 1 is delayed. The car park construction has been delayed. The opening of the car park has been pushed back to 2023. Government members of parliament have said they are trying to build the satellite hospital quickly. They admitted that the hospital upgrade has been delayed while the satellite hospital goes ahead. Supposedly, it is meant to be at a faster pace. The question is this: has the government's focus on other medical centres contributed to the delays in the Redland Hospital upgrade? It appears so. If you prioritise the build of the medical centre over the hospital expansion then clearly there is a correlation: more effort in one causing a delay in the other.

When we look at our medical needs we need to consider that the Redlands region is growing. Our population of 160,000 is growing and ageing. We are blessed with good hospitals including the public Redland Hospital, although it is under-resourced, the Mater Private Hospital and other centres. Yes, we need more medical facilities, but we need to name them correctly and we need to prioritise things. We could argue about a whole range of other things. The program is running late. We will see whether things are fully operational by May 2023, but I have my doubts about that. We really need the government to get things back on track when it comes to health in the Redlands. We need a guarantee that the new time frames for the Redland Hospital will be locked in and delivered on time.

(Time expired)

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (7.48 pm): What a joy it is to follow the member for Oodgeroo. Fantasy land and fictional—it is right there. Fifty per cent of that side of the House sat in the Newman government. Fifty per cent of that side! Put your hands up if you were in the Newman government. Go on, put your hands up.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Through the chair, member for Redlands.

Ms RICHARDS: I would love to see a show of hands on that side of the House of those who sat in the Newman government. I can tell you what they did in the Redlands. They cut the Wynnum hospital. They closed it.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms RICHARDS: Not brave enough, are you?

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Through the chair, member.

Ms RICHARDS: They are not brave enough to put up their hands and say, 'We were in the Newman government and we sacked 4,400 health workers, we closed the Wynnum hospital and we closed the Barrett centre.'

Have members heard anybody on the other side acknowledge the Barrett centre and the damage that was done? Have members ever heard an apology from anyone opposite to the families impacted by the closure of the Barrett centre? It is an absolute disgrace. The audacity of those opposite to lecture us on our investment in health care! Honestly, we really have to wonder where are they coming from.

The member for Oodgeroo's contribution was absolutely disgraceful because, as he well knows, I advocated strongly with the then health minister, Minister Miles, to have a satellite hospital located in our growing Redlands region. The member might not know where growth is occurring in the Redlands—I am not sure; he probably does not visit our end very often—but it is occurring in southern Redlands and across our islands.

Our government is delivering health care closer to home. We will deliver a satellite hospital that delivers health care closer to home. I ask members opposite to visit the Southern Moreton Bay Islands and ask the residents there who need chemotherapy services where they get those chemotherapy services. A hospital? Absolutely. It is about healthcare services. Where do you get renal dialysis? I will take members up to the Redland Hospital to see the people getting renal dialysis. Where do people get those services? That is right: in a hospital.

For members opposite to say that our satellite hospitals are not delivering the important healthcare services required by my community closer to home is outrageous and disgraceful. It is absolutely disrespectful to my community, because I know that they will see health care tailored to that community's needs delivered closer to home. It is absolutely shameful. When we talk about our investment and all the great things going on at the satellite hospital—the car park is nearing completion; I have had the drone up there—


Mr Bleijie interjected.

Ms RICHARDS: I am happy to take the member for Kawana down to Redlands. I am happy to show him the car park and all the work the Palaszczuk government has done there. This is in stark contrast to the nearly 50 per cent of members opposite who as part of the Newman government did absolutely nothing for the Redlands. I am not buying it. My community does not buy it. You did nothing in your term of government for the Redlands.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Through the chair, member. That is the third warning.

Ms RICHARDS: This side of the House has never delivered for the Redlands community when it comes to health care—ever. They have never delivered. As I said, they did close Wynnum Hospital. They sacked nurses. They closed Moreton Bay nursing. We have a whole ward at the Redland Hospital dedicated to people with dementia. Why? It is because the LNP do not care about health care for Queenslanders. They certainly do not care about it for Redlanders.

The Morrison government absolutely neglected aged care and the NDIS. What we see in our hospitals is the pressure put on from that neglect. I am happy to take any member opposite to Redland Hospital to show them what they created down there. A satellite hospital will deliver for my community. I ask the member for Callide to visit the Redlands. I will happily take him to the Southern Moreton Bay Islands and show him the services that will deliver. Quite frankly, those on the other side are outrageous. They should be ashamed of themselves. I support the minister's amendment.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (7.53 pm): I read the health minister's amendment, which lists 34 projects. I particularly looked for Gladstone, because I thought maybe they would restore the closed birthing services in Gladstone, one of Queensland's major regional hospitals. Alas, in three pages of amendment there is not one mention of Gladstone. What has happened now? There are mums having their babies on the side of the road, thanks to this government closing down birthing centres in regional Queensland. Rockhampton is a long way from that satellite hospital! I wonder what they would call these birthing services on the side of the road, given that they like to change names to pretend they have services. Maybe these are do-it-yourself satellite hospitals? Maybe they are mobile birthing units—cars. Mums do not have the benefit of having what they should have: proper birthing services. This has been closed down under this government. It is a disgrace.

This amendment is a sham. It is deception and trickery, to borrow some words from the member for Pumicestone. Let me come to the member for Pumicestone. I table a photo of a protest by Pumicestone residents outside the site of the Bribie Island Clayton's hospital—that is the hospital you have when you do not have a real hospital.

Tabled paper: Photograph depicting protesters at the development site of the Bribie Island satellite hospital facility [[1859](#)].

Residents are holding up signs that read 'No ED', 'Not a hospital', 'Not open 24 hrs'. A real hospital has inpatient beds that people with acute needs can access when they need those services. The satellite hospitals this government has come up with are hospitals in name only. They have been called out by the medical profession. Let's look at the signs that were put out by the Labor member for Pumicestone: 'Labor = Bribie Hospital', 'Bribie Hospital: Vote Ali King' and 'Vote Ali King Bribie Hospital'. I table these fake signs for a fake hospital.

Tabled paper: Bundle of photographs depicting election signage for the member for Pumicestone, Ms Ali King MP, and the Bribie Island satellite hospital [[1860](#)].

It is a disgrace. It is trickery, in the words of the member herself—sham and deception. This is not a real hospital. I think the people of Bribie were misled by the member in the election campaign when she put out these signs. Now all they are getting is a day facility.


Ms KING: I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. I find the member's comments personally offensive and I ask her to withdraw them.

Ms SIMPSON: I withdraw. It is completely misleading, dishonest, a sham and trickery for this Labor government to pretend that this is a hospital. Anybody who asks people to vote for them so they get a hospital on Bribie but then gives them a day facility has misled the people of Bribie Island. It is a disgrace and it needs to be called out. One risk is that people will go to this facility thinking it is actually a hospital. I think we have to call this out as a dud hospital promise that is not real from a dud government and a dud minister.

We have an ambulance ramping crisis. At Caboolture Hospital, 48 per cent of ambulances are ramping versus the statewide percentage of 44 per cent. Forty-four per cent is too high but we see that Caboolture Hospital, which is a real hospital, is under pressure. The deceit, trickery and sham of this government, that what they are proposing on Bribie is going to somehow release inpatient beds, is just beyond belief. It needs to be called out and it needs to be exposed. That is what we are saying here today. Give the people real services. Do not give them this fudged, dodgy approach whereby you call something a hospital when it is not.

This government wasted \$220 million on Wellcamp. Imagine if it had spent that on real inpatient beds! They have lost control of health. They did not keep their promise with respect to pursuing fifty-fifty funding with the federal government and have now gone to water. Now they are trying to sell this absolute mistruth about hospitals in Queensland.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (7.58 pm): I rise to oppose the motion moved by the opposition mostly because of how distasteful I find it. This is an opposition that has the gall to criticise the name of a handful of buildings and this is an opposition that is well known for their racist slurs, their misogyny, their demeaning attacks on health workers—

Mr KRAUSE: I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Pause the clock. Member for Springwood, I ask that you take a seat. I will hear the member for Scenic Rim's point of order.

Mr KRAUSE: I am personally offended by those comments and I ask the minister to withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, as I heard it, there were no comments directed at you personally. There is no point of order.

Mr de BRENNI: I would be ashamed too if I were one of them having had this the motion brought into the House.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Springwood, I ask that you take a seat.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: In relation to the highly offensive comments made by the minister on his feet, I understand and respect your ruling, but I give notice that I shall be writing to the Speaker with regard to those comments.

Mr de BRENNI: The motion is pathetic. We have heard so much from the member for Bonney tonight about how we should name the satellite hospitals 'satellite to the hospital'—five extra letters. This opposition has spent 60 minutes of this parliament's time on five letters. That is pathetic. This is the lot that is happy to use demeaning terms for workers—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock! Members, the volume is increasing. I am struggling to hear the member on his feet. I will ask that we have silence so we can hear his contribution.

Mr de BRENNI: I support the amendment moved by the minister. On this side of the House we have a firm commitment to better services. There is no better way to achieve that than with the biggest expansion we have ever seen from a state budget focused squarely on better health services. They want to call workers demeaning names. They want to use slurs. What we will deliver is the largest investment in new hospitals and new health services in this state's history. We are proud of that.

As the representative of my community, I welcome the building of two satellite hospitals just near the place that I call home—in Redlands and Eight Mile Plains. I cannot understand why members like the member for Oodgeroo will simply not support more and better health services in their community. Let the record show the member for Oodgeroo is opposed to better health services in his community.

We know that these satellite hospitals will support better services for families in outer urban areas, like the one that I represent. It was not until I became a dad that I knew how important quality healthcare systems really are. People never know what is going to happen to their kids. When they need repeat health care and they are sick, it is nice to know that they can get that care closer to home. I can say that I feel better about that. The people in the community I represent feel better about that. I cannot fathom why the opposition does not feel better about that. I am sure their constituents do.

I have a theory. Maybe it is not about the services. Maybe it is not about the hospitals. Perhaps it is not even about the doctors and nurses who will deliver the services there that they seem to, for some reason, have a deep and passionate hate for. Perhaps it is who has been building the hospitals. I am very proud that the department of public works has been working with Hutchinson Builders to deliver this signature infrastructure. Is it that the department of public works is celebrating its 160th birthday this year? We know the LNP hate the department of public works. We know what they did to the department of public works on its 150th birthday 10 years ago. They took an axe to the workforce.

Mr Hart interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh!

Mr de BRENNI: We will never forget its 150th birthday in 2012 when it should have been out building satellite hospitals and what those opposite did. They took an axe to that workforce. They scrapped the apprenticeship program so there were no workers to build satellite hospitals. Is it that they are opposed to the range of frameworks and policy reforms brought by this government to support those builders? We know that they voted against best practice conditions. Best practice conditions are delivering satellite hospitals across Queensland. Is it because they are opposed—

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr de BRENNI:—like the member for Burleigh is opposed, to project trust accounts?

Mr Hart interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Burleigh will cease his interjections.

Mr de BRENNI: They do not want to see the subbies and tradies building seven satellite hospitals paid on time, in full every time. They are against better health services in their communities. They are against—

Mr Hart interjected.

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

Mr de BRENNI: I am proud of 1,817 jobs that we have delivered through this building program. We know that the LNP is opposed to jobs, opposed to tradies and opposed to better healthcare services.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Springwood, you made statements in your opening remarks that, whilst not directed at any one individual, on reflection I find to be unparliamentary and ask that you withdraw.

Mr de BRENNI: I withdraw.

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

In division—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Members, you will maintain order in the chamber while we are conducting this division.

AYES, 49:

ALP, 49—Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, 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, 34:

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

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Pair: Bailey, Camm.

Resolved in the affirmative.

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Ring the bells for one minute.

AYES, 49:

ALP, 49—Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, 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, 33—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Pair: Bailey, Camm.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Motion, as amended—

That this House:

1. commends the Palaszczuk government's record \$9.785 billion Health Capacity Expansion Program within the Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan;
2. notes the Palaszczuk government is delivering new and upgraded hospital and health facilities right across Queensland, including but not limited to:
 - (a) Redlands Satellite Hospital
 - (b) Caboolture Satellite Hospital
 - (c) Kallangur Satellite Hospital
 - (d) Tugun Satellite Hospital
 - (e) Ripley Satellite Hospital
 - (f) Bribie Island Satellite Hospital
 - (g) Eight Mile Plains Satellite Hospital
 - (h) New Bundaberg Hospital
 - (i) New Coomera Hospital
 - (j) New Toowoomba Hospital
 - (k) New Queensland Cancer Centre
 - (l) Cairns Hospital
 - (m) Hervey Bay Hospital
 - (n) Ipswich Hospital
 - (o) Logan Hospital
 - (p) Caboolture Hospital
 - (q) Mackay Hospital
 - (r) PA Hospital
 - (s) QEII Hospital
 - (t) Redcliffe Hospital
 - (u) Redland Hospital
 - (v) Robina Hospital
 - (w) The Prince Charles Hospital
 - (x) Townsville University Hospital
 - (y) Moranbah Hospital

- (z) Bamaga Hospital
 - (aa) Normanton Hospital
 - (bb) Pormpuraaw Health Facility
 - (cc) Tara Hospital
 - (dd) Cow Bay Primary Health Centre
 - (ee) Thursday Island Health Facility
 - (ff) Camooweal Primary Health Care Centre
 - (gg) Blackwater Multipurpose Health Service
 - (hh) Windorah Multi-Purpose Health Centre.
3. notes that these projects will progressively be delivered for the people of Queensland with patients being cared for in the best place for their needs;
 4. notes that the Palaszczuk government has already delivered new hospitals in Roma and Kingaroy; and
 5. condemns the member for Mudgeeraba for her comments regarding 'dud' health workers in regional Queensland.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Gateway Motorway and Bruce Highway, Upgrade



Mr MINNIKIN (Chatsworth—LNP) (8.13 pm): We all know the old adage 'fail to plan; plan to fail'. During the last sitting of parliament, I asked a question to the main roads minister: when did the minister first know that dozens of families could be losing their brand new houses to make way for roadworks in Griffin? As one would expect, the response he gave to the House tried to deflect the blame for this planning fiasco onto the former federal government.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. All those members leaving the chamber, please do so quietly.

Mr MINNIKIN: Remember that days earlier, when quizzed by the media as to how this absurd situation could come about with people moving into brand new homes only to be informed days or weeks later that their dream home is to be resumed, the main roads minister tried to deflect the blame onto the Moreton Bay Regional Council. Initially, it was the council's fault but when he was caught out there confusing the name Moreton Bay when quizzed by media, he changed tact and blamed the former federal government.

Last Thursday I visited Charmaine Jackson at her home at Venture Drive, Griffin, along with several other residents, and listened to their personal stories about the resumption of their new homes. It was a deeply moving and harrowing couple of hours. I want to especially acknowledge James, Anil, Noreen, Ric, Doreen, Anish, Brian, Shona, Lini, Titto, Tanzeem, Dilsher and Mandeep who are here in the public gallery tonight. They are decent, hardworking families with a love for their local community.

Minister Bailey said in the media recently, 'This has been an announced upgrade with joint state and federal government funding since 2019, so it would surprise me if local governments are saying they haven't heard about this. It's been in the public domain for three years.' This assertion was rejected by a local councillor. I have had a detailed conversation about this planning failure with the mayor of Moreton Bay Regional Council, who confirmed the approval of the residential development in 2020. A recent media article quoted a spokesperson for the council saying, 'Those plans were referred to the state government for assessment. They didn't say there was potential for property resumptions in the area.' At the time of the residential DA assessment, council was adamant there were no red flags showing by any referral agency as part of the SARA process. This was reinforced in a recent social media post by Division 4 councillor Jodie Shipway.

Furthermore, in another statement, the developer of this residential estate Fairland General Manager Scott Searle said when they sold the land last year 'Fairland did not receive any information from Transport and Main Roads regarding future road resumptions'. So who was responsible for this fiasco which has turned numerous families' lives upside down? It is my contention based on discussions with council, residents of Venture Drive and the Deputy Premier's own Facebook post on 7 August 2020 when he shot a video with the TMR minister that this was a complete and abject failure in proper planning processes.

The TMR minister has form when it comes to budget blowouts, but this is truly next level incompetence. Planning major transport infrastructure is a function of state government. Sure, other tiers of government may financially contribute joint funding to various levels, but this tired, third-term

Labor government cannot even get the basics right. In an ironic twist, residents of Venture Drive, Griffin informed me that they are having trouble getting a response from their local member, who just happens to be the Deputy Premier!

This infrastructure planning fiasco is causing immense mental stress for the people of Venture Drive, Griffin. To add insult to injury, the Bracken Ridge Fire and Rescue Station, which cost \$6 million when opened, and the Sandgate Ambulance Station will also be impacted by the project. You cannot make this up when one considers that the Bracken Ridge fire station was only opened in 2020! This takes incompetence to a new level. Rather than be a keyboard warrior sending out 25,000 tweets, the TMR minister should personally front Charmaine, Tanzeem, Tanzania, Anil, Ali, Doreen, Anish, Natasha, Jessee and the other families and explain why their new homes may be demolished.


When I visited those residents in Venture Drive last Thursday afternoon, many of them stated how they had worked up to three jobs to save for their dream home. They were all proud, dignified, yet mentally exhausted. The look of anguish etched on their faces is the human story behind this speech. Charmaine summed it up poignantly with the following comment—

We rented for six years in Caboolture so that we could save enough for our first home deposit, in our dream area of Griffin. Our home is by no means a mansion, but we added upgrades that we thought we would be able to enjoy for years to come. We are close to my family; my son's kindy is a short drive away ...

Their 'incredible joy' has turned into a nightmare!

(Time expired)

Queensland Workforce Strategy

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (8.19 pm): In August this year we launched the Queensland Workforce Strategy, which is our plan to address workforce shortages in Queensland—and we are the only state or territory in Australia to produce such a document. I know that the Premier was so pleased to take it to the national jobs summit in September and contribute in a really practical way to that important debate.

We know that in every region and in every sector workforce shortages are a huge issue. They are a huge source of stress for businesses, for small businesses, for community organisations, for local governments—for everyone. In fact, as we go about our daily lives we are all seeing those issues face to face—at the childcare centre where you drop off your kids, at the aged-care facility where your elderly mum might be living, at the local auto shop that services your car, at the cafe where you get your morning coffee and in the regions especially where essential workers such as nurses, doctors, teachers, social workers and so many other important workers are in short supply. In a way we are victims of our own success.

Our economy in Queensland is going absolutely gangbusters. We have created 211,000 jobs since before the pandemic and we are predicted to create another 280,000 by 2025. Our unemployment levels are the lowest ever at 3.75 per cent. We have a plan, because we have created too many jobs and we almost do not have enough people to fill them. Since we launched the plan we have been rolling out initiative after initiative, including: Diverse Queensland Workforce program, Workforce Connect, Gateway to Industry Skills for hydrogen, First Nations Training Strategy and industry workforce advisors. It is just so exciting!


You would think that with all of this happening in relation to an issue that is so important, so critical to our economy, you could not go about your day without hearing about it. You cannot go to a social occasion without people talking about how they are short-staffed at their work or how their lives are affected in other ways by workforce shortages. You would think that, when it is top of everyone's mind, this would be something the opposition would be talking about. You would think they would have a plan to take advantage of the huge opportunities that are available in Queensland: how to create more jobs so we can do all of these things; how to deal with the huge population growth; how to create the workforce to fill those jobs. I ask my poor staff, 'Can you just check? Has the opposition leader said something this week about jobs or the workforce or anything? Has the member for Buderim maybe said anything about it this week? Has anyone over on the other side said anything about jobs or the workforce?' They say, 'No, Minister, not this week.' The next week I say, 'Are you sure they haven't said anything about it?'

The fact is they do not say anything about jobs at all. They do not say anything about the workforce. They certainly do not have a plan. This party which thinks they are going to be an alternative government does not talk about jobs. They do not talk about the workforce at all. The words simply do not come out of their mouths, which shows how connected they are to the issues that are affecting

Queenslanders and taking us forward. I can tell you what does drip from every word they utter, and it is never anything positive. What drips from every word is the true disdain in which they hold Queenslanders. What drips from every word is the clear and present danger for Queenslanders and Queensland public servants of losing their jobs.

That disgraceful contribution from the member for Mudgeeraba in the last sitting week about the duds we employ in the regions showed what they really think about public servants. It has not changed since Campbell Newman called those 14,000 public servants he sacked the 'B team'. Then we have the Leader of the Opposition talking about his debt reduction plan, his service delivery strategies and that his only mistake last time was that they did it too quickly. Every public servant in this state knows that if the LNP gets into government they are going to sack them but they are going to do it slowly. They are going to cut services but they are just going to do it slowly. It will be death by a thousand cuts and not just one. They are going to sell assets; they are just going to do it slowly. This government has a plan. We are yet to hear of any plan on any subject area whatsoever: not about jobs; not about crime; not about health; not about youth justice—there simply is no plan. They tear Queenslanders down and they have nothing to say about taking us forward.

Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (8.24 pm): Above all else, the role of any government should be to ensure the safety of its citizens. That safety must be upheld for our society to function properly. It is those who cannot keep themselves safe that we must always have at the front of our minds. It is the government's job to protect them, to keep them away from harm and to ensure their safety. There are many in our society who fit that category, but those I am speaking about here and now are our children—the children of Queensland who cannot fend for themselves. It is those children who grow up in homes where they are not loved and not cared for that the government needs to protect the most. They are born innocent but they are born into a life which can be neglectful, harmful and damaging.

I have said many times in this place that parenting is a privilege and not a right, and I stand by that. I believe it to be true beyond all doubt. Every child is precious. They deserve love and they deserve to be cared for, yet sometimes they are not. It is a sad and truly disturbing reality of life, but it does happen. It is reality and we cannot walk away from it. So it is that government must ensure the safety of these little ones who are born into homes and into lives that you would not wish on your worst enemy. Just as the role of government is to ensure the safety of these children, it is the role of the opposition to hold the government to account on how it is doing that job. Over nearly eight years, to my great dismay and the dismay of many of my colleagues on this side of the chamber we have watched on as this government has failed in its duty to these children.

Let me be clear: nobody wins when our child protection system fails—nobody. I wish I did not have to come in here and talk about these issues, but where there are failures they must be identified. We have to call it out, we do call it out and we should call it out. We saw the issue rear its ugly head again in today's newspaper. The article in the *Courier-Mail* began by saying—

A bright and funny teenager who took his own life at just 14 years old might still be alive today if the department of child safety had not failed him, a coroner has ruled.

Does that not say it all? Just think about that. A boy, a mere 14-year-old, was so horribly let down by the child safety department that he felt the only way out of his situation was to take his own life. That is what the coroner said. I ask members to think about whom they might know at that age or to think of themselves at that age. They should be great days, yet that child was robbed of them.


Since 2015 somewhere in the order of 28 children known to the child safety department have died under suspicious circumstances under this government. One is too many, but nearly 30 in eight years is a disaster. It is a disaster in every sense of the word. They are just the ones that we know about. Why and how does this keep happening? In my view, it is because child safety keeps sending abused children back to those homes where the abuse happens. Reunification is the policy—reunification at all costs, no matter what the cost. That is a failed notion. It has failed too many children, and that failure has cost them their life. It is shameful. My fear is that others will suffer the same fate if something is not changed. They will wind up in the same homes with the same people who perpetrate that abuse. It needs to stop.

That takes leadership. It takes accountability, yet not one of the three ministers responsible for child safety since the election of the Palaszczuk government has shown that leadership or that accountability. It started with the member for Waterford. Sadly, she set the tone for the member for Bulimba and the current minister, the member for Nudgee, both of whom were sent to the witness protection program for failed child safety ministers. The member for Waterford is far and away

Queensland's worst child safety minister. It is not good enough and it is a blight on this government. Under the Labor government you are more likely to die as a child in Queensland if you are known to the department of child safety. The member for Waterford is the worst child safety minister in the history of Queensland's parliament. It is a travesty. It is this Labor government that—

(Time expired)

Mount Ommaney Electorate, Schools; Cost-of-Living Rebate

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (8.29 pm): I rise today to update the House on the significant infrastructure investments in my local state schools. I start with the mighty Mount Ommaney Special School. A few years ago I opened a brand new, state-of-the-art learning facility with Minister Grace, and it is absolutely beautiful. Now I am pleased to share that we will be creating more learning spaces in the undercroft of this building to create even more capacity at this fantastic local school. But wait, there is more.

Early next year, the education minister and I will also formally open the new performing arts space at Centenary State High School. I was lucky enough to get a sneak peek at the facility last week. It is a great facility. The students are already using it a bit—students like my daughter, Allegra, who started at Centenary State High School this year. It makes me so proud as the local member that our kids—my kids and your kids—get to learn in a space like this that we have built for them as a government.

I also put on the record my thanks to the student forum, which is the student council body at the school. They asked for my feedback earlier this year on some of their ideas for the community gambling grant that they were putting together as a student group to propose to the P&C. They decided as a committee to put in a proposal for a shade sail for the students to eat their lunch under, and I am delighted to inform the House that their application was successful. These students are not even out of high school and they are already applying for grants for their school. It just goes to show that you are never too young to make a positive difference in your community. I commend their enthusiasm.


In a similar vein, the student leaders at Corinda State High School, Michaela and JJ, the current school captains, were tireless advocates for the upgrade of the school STEM labs. They worked with the P&C on a recent petition which I sponsored. They did a wonderful job promoting it to the student community and I was so happy when the petition was tabled a few sitting weeks ago. We have already secured the funding. The whole school community, including the P&C and the teachers, advocated for the importance of providing state-of-the-art STEM buildings for this fantastic school. They have a STEM excellence program so it is easy to understand why they need the best possible facility to ensure their students get the best possible learning outcomes. I can today update the House that planning works for the building are continuing apace, with demolition planned for the existing block next year and building to start after that.

I now turn to the mighty Darra State School. Darra will be getting a total of \$11 million for additional classrooms, which is hugely exciting for this growing school. Darra State School is the smallest school in my electorate but it is growing quickly. When I was elected about five years ago, they had fewer than 200 students. Now thanks to the hard work of the P&C and the school staff that number is sitting at around 250 and it is growing all the time. This building will enable growth of up to approximately 450 students. This is not just a building; it is a legacy project that will allow this fantastic school to grow into its next phase and welcome lots more students.

Darra is a suburb that is up and coming. It has lots of young families moving in and they want to send their kids to a great local state school. This is huge game-changing news for the Darra community and it is a wonderful investment for the future of the school and the whole community. Members may be interested to know that Darra State School is one of the oldest schools in my community. I would hazard a guess that it could actually be one of the oldest in Queensland. It was founded in 1916. The new build will include new classrooms and new music rooms.

In the time I have left, I want to remind Queenslanders to check their power bills. I received mine recently. As we are coming into Christmas, I was pleased to see the \$175 rebate on the back. Here in Queensland we own our assets and therefore Queenslanders can receive that dividend. We have kept our assets in public hands. I know that families in my community and right across Queensland are doing it tough and are watching every dollar, so \$175 off a power bill coming into Christmas will make a big difference. I ask people to take a moment when they get their power bill to check that the \$175 rebate is on the back. That is our early Christmas gift to Queenslanders to make sure they have a little bit extra to spend and have a merry Christmas.

Hill Electorate, Roads


 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (8.34 pm): As I travel around my electorate, I see a number of roadworks projects either underway or near completion, so I do acknowledge the good work that the region has lobbied for which is being undertaken by TMR, with many projects now being done by RoadTek and local contractors. However, there are some significant road projects along the coast and on the Tablelands that require urgent attention.

I recently joined concerned residents and representatives from the Tablelands Regional Council who expressed the urgent need for the last six kilometres of the Upper Barron Road to be fully upgraded. Tablelanders cannot believe that this section of a state main road, which is a popular tourist route and is used daily by school buses, trucks and residents, is still only one single lane. One resident advised that their kids refuse to use the bus shelter at the front of their property because they get showered with rocks and dust from heavy vehicles. The local bus rider who travels this section of road four times a day says it is too narrow and unsafe, with constant damage to the bus from passing trucks and traffic. However, his biggest fear is for the safety of kids.

In a big acknowledgement, there has been some outstanding work on the Palmerston Highway over several years. While there is much work still taking place, it is time to fix the bad section between Henrietta Creek and Goolagan Creek. Everyone knows that section. Significant works are taking place right now to the Atherton to Mareeba road. However, the works are not catering for overtaking lanes. This is a priority to reduce risks along this well-travelled main route.

We have been constantly disappointed that funding requests to both state and federal governments for Ootann Road have been ignored, despite constant lobbying from local communities and businesses. Ootann Road is a 90-kilometre route in the Mareeba and Tablelands local government area. It is a north-south link between the Burke Developmental Road and the Kennedy Highway, servicing significant cattle grazing, farming and production areas throughout Far North Queensland. At the moment, trucks and road trains have no choice but to use the Bruce Highway or constantly unhook to go through the Atherton Tablelands because Ootann Road is often in such a deplorable condition that it causes constant damage to transport. I call on the minister to address these road issues which, if fixed, would provide a significant economic boost and alleviate road safety concerns in the region.

Get Ready Townsville

 **Mr WALKER** (Mundingburra—ALP) (8.37 pm): It is that time of the year again when the people of North Queensland need to plan for potential natural disasters like cyclones and floods—a time to Get Ready Townsville. It is important that we all have a plan and are prepared and ready to act when required during major natural disaster events. We know it is those who have a plan to minimise risk for themselves and their family members who have a far better chance of survival and who minimise the need to call on others, like the SES, for assistance during extreme weather events like cyclones and floods.

I must also give a huge shout-out of thanks to our brave volunteers from the State Emergency Service, better known as the SES, who time and time again help our communities right across the north, support our many emergency service personnel in a time of need and are true community champions. I am talking about our State Emergency Service volunteers, the SES. As a former chair of disaster recovery in the Townsville City Council, I was fortunate and privileged to work closely with the different agencies during the recovery from the huge flood we had in 2019. My former Townsville City Council division, division 10, and a large portion of the Mundingburra seat was heavily impacted by this flood, and we learnt a lot from the recovery process.

The one thing that was continually raised by residents was that every year new families and individuals move to Townsville for the beautiful lifestyle or their employment and they have not experienced the tropical weather before. This is why the Townsville City Council each year has an event to help the local community and newcomers to the city prepare for natural disasters. This year it was called Get Ready Townsville, which aligns with Get Ready Queensland. I encourage everyone to visit the Get Ready Queensland website which will assist in developing a survival plan. Having a household emergency plan means that everyone in your household knows what to do if dangerous weather happens. The plan should have important contact information for people in your home to call when needing assistance. To assist those living in my electorate of Mundingburra, a list of emergency contacts will be supplied to every household by me and distributed by Australia Post in the coming weeks.


A plan can also include ways to get your home ready for a severe weather event and information on where to go if you must leave. It is extremely important to make sure families are aware of what is required to assist them during an extreme weather event. That is why I rise today to talk about this extremely important matter of being disaster ready, and that is being prepared for a major natural disaster in North Queensland. We must make sure everyone has a plan to act so we can all be safe during these natural disasters. We should be able to not only help our loved ones but also assist our neighbours and give advice to those who are new to the area. We know that prior to extremely serious natural disaster events, those new to the region can be caught off guard very easily. That is why it is important that we who have experience of living through these extreme events reach out to our neighbours, especially those new to the area, and help them plan, prepare and be ready to act when required.

I also encourage the people of Townsville to make themselves familiar with the Townsville Emergency Management and Disaster Dashboard available online. This is a source of truth during major weather events and will keep the community well informed with the latest weather conditions, road closures, power outages and emergency news. I also encourage families to download the ABC Radio app on their mobile devices to assist them in keeping up to date with the latest news. It is an exceptionally reliable source of truth during major weather events.

Everyone should also have a disaster survival kit ready for any major weather event. For a comprehensive list of what is required in the kit, I encourage everyone to go directly to the Get Ready Queensland website. I encourage everyone to prepare a survival kit now and not at the last minute when supplies may be low or have run out. Now is the time to get ready, Townsville, and get ready, Queensland. Please, do not leave it till the last minute. You may be very disappointed.

ADJOURNMENT

Moggill Electorate, Community Awards; Disaster Preparedness

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (8.41 pm): In celebration of local Queensland Seniors recently, it was an absolute pleasure to host the annual Moggill Electorate Seniors Morning Tea, held jointly with Councillor Greg Adermann, the Brisbane City councillor for the Pullenvale ward. It was a morning tea celebrated with performances and informative presentations which was attended by over 100 local seniors, all of whom thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of the day. A special thank you to our terrific speakers and guests including the Moggill State School Middle C's Choir, the Kenmore State High School String Quartet, Susan Gilmartin, Andrew Greentree and Conrad Sanders from UpBeat Arts, as well as a range of important community information which was provided to local residents by others, including Senior Constable Chris Tetley, Sergeant Jose Sarmiento and Inspector Corey Allen of the Queensland Police Service, along with Evan Anderson, Stephanie Byrne and Ray Moxson from the Moggill Group SES, Bianca Evans and Lynette Sanders from Home Instead, Jordan Vollmer from the 4070 Bellbowrie Neighbourhood Watch Group, and finally Fiona Roberts from the Australian Red Cross.


I would also like to acknowledge two Moggill Electorate Award winners, Helen Clarke and Graham Barnard, who were both presented with their community awards at the annual 2022 Seniors Morning Tea. Helen Clarke works tirelessly with the Australian Red Cross, western suburbs branch, and Graham Barnard provides invaluable support to the Shed West Bellbowrie community Men's Shed. I would also like to congratulate the two recipients of the Pullenvale Ward Community Award, Liz Dominguez and Bronwyn Kowaltzke, who also received awards at the Seniors Morning Tea. Helen, Graham, Liz and Bronwyn are all significant community figures who contribute extensively to the electorate of Moggill. Congratulations to them all.

Last week, I also had the pleasure of attending the 70th birthday celebrations of the Queensland Country Women's Association Brookfield branch. It was fantastic to celebrate the Brookfield branch of the QCWA, which continuously makes meaningful contributions to our local community. The QCWA has a proud tradition of working tirelessly for communities across Queensland, including providing additional educational opportunities, fundraising and promoting strong community connections. Congratulations to all members, as well as president Kay Sommerville on a fantastic morning and reaching such a significant milestone.

On a separate topic, with the Bureau of Meteorology's official declaration of another La Nina season and the recent significant weather events, it was a pleasure to attend a very important disaster preparedness community forum at Moggill State School, held collaboratively with Councillor Adermann,

councillor for the Pullenvale ward. Also there were representatives from the Moggill Group SES, the Queensland Police Service, QFES and other organisations. There will be another similar presentation on Sunday, 27 November which is being held at Mount Crosby State School. It is very important for local residents to get ready and prepare for the summer season ahead because they need to have all of those things in place. Get ready, be prepared and know your risk.

Woodridge State High School 50-Year Anniversary

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (8.44 pm): Fifty years ago, Gough Whitlam became the Prime Minister of Australia, Richard Nixon went to China, and in January 1972 at 323 Wembley Road, the newly opened Woodridge State High School admitted its first students. By January 1974, just two years later, Woodridge State High School had become the largest in Queensland with 1,689 students, driven by an influx of migrants seeking a new and better life in our state.


Much has changed in our local area since 1972, but Woodridge State High School continues to be a place where students of all backgrounds are welcomed and all are encouraged to reach their full potential. That is why I was delighted to join over 150 guests at a gala ball to celebrate Woodridge State High School's 50th anniversary on Saturday, 22 October 2022. It was great to see 38 foundation students attend the event, along with alumni and staff from across five decades of education. Former deputy principals Casey Thomsen and Trent Cowley, who continue to be great local educators, and foundation students Ken Palmer and Roger Mulder hosted the event, with a wonderful acknowledgement of country delivered by students. Those gathered heard from former principals Barry Kuskopf, Les O'Gorman and Helen Jamiesen, former deputy principal Jim Lucey, and current principal Kathleen Janecek. I congratulate everyone involved in organising the celebration, especially Kellie King and Nicola Stachurski from the school events and marketing team.

I also want to commend the current students of Woodridge State High School for their energy, enthusiasm and community spirit. Across a range of fields, students continue to excel. It was wonderful to see 13 current students assisting the gala caterers, Cuisine on Cue, as part of their hospitality studies. They are a credit to their school and to their head of department, Katrina Zagaglioni.

Recently, the Woodridge State High School debating team joined me here at parliament to gain a closer understanding of Queensland's democracy. Tonight I want to make special mention of the school's year 10 boys' volleyball team for their outstanding success over the year. Team members originate from five different countries. They came together to win the South-East Queensland metropolitan finals and the Queensland Schools Cup, division 1 gold, before going on to become Australian Volleyball School Cup champions. Because of their success, the team were recognised as the Logan Sports Team of the Year at the recent 2022 City of Logan Sports Awards. Congratulations to team members Amir Alizadeh, Ethan Boznanski, Matthew Cordtz, Amir Mohammadi, Soheil Nabizadeh, Po Reh Po Reh, Peh Bu Prasesako, Ahmedin Tamiru Kaba, Tha Re Tha Re, Jonah Wright, Nae Reh Nae Reh, and captain Elijah Time-Riri. Congratulations also to coach Steve Harris for the team's success.

Congratulations once again to Woodridge State High School students, teachers, parents and school community on your golden jubilee. Best wishes for the next 50 years.

Coomera Electorate


 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (8.48 pm): I had the pleasure last week of awarding the Michael Crandon MP Bursary Award in the amount of \$1,000. From a large pool of nominations, retired school principal and Rotary member Heather Andrew and I interviewed five short-listed candidates. The successful nominee was Traleigh, a year 12 student from Ormeau Woods State High School. Traleigh outlined an impressive list of achievements over several years to year 12, including a STEM award in year 6, academic all-rounder award and mathematics academic pillar award in year 7, accelerated education program in year 8, Women's Acknowledgement Award in year 11 and, in this, her final year at Ormeau Woods State High School, the QUT Headstart Program.

As well, Traleigh revealed her broad range of interests, including school choir from 2017 to 2021 and Ormeau Woods State High School Maths Excellence Club 2017-18. She has demonstrated that she is a team player and was sports house captain in 2016 and has competed in soccer and futsal tournaments. She was a cultural pillar leader in 2021 and 2022. As well, Traleigh competed in the Beenleigh Eisteddfod in choir, drumline and small vocal group.

The study that Traleigh wishes to undertake in 2023 is a Bachelor of Occupational Therapy and a Bachelor of Speech Pathology at Southern Cross University. In response to the question, 'Why do you want to undertake this study?', Traleigh said that she wants to be able to help other children who, like herself, may have learning and/or physical disabilities. She wants to assist in their diagnosis at an early age to help them in their growth so they do not have to experience what she experienced in her younger school years. 'Seeing their growth is something I aspire to be part of,' she said. This bursary will assist Traleigh by going towards a laptop computer so that she can have one that functions or possibly assist in the purchase of books or supplies.

Last week it was also my pleasure to accept an invitation to one of my 60 or so preschools, the Coomera Playschool Early Learning Centre. Dana Tilly, the centre director, greeted me and we had a great time with me reading the book *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* to the pre-preps, which is one of their favourites. After the reading Miss Giff led the singing of a Yugambah language welcome song, a Pacific islander song followed by *Rudolf, the Red-Nosed Reindeer* and, to round things out, *Do-Re-Mi*, and you guessed it; it was all in perfect harmony. Two of the students, Naomi and Tex, made me a lovely card and presented it to me as a thankyou. I have to say it was an absolute pleasure to enjoy some time with these delightful, full-of-life pre-preppers.

McConnel Electorate, Awards

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (8.51 pm): I know McConnel is the best electorate in Queensland when nine of the top 10 restaurants are located in my electorate. I congratulate Restaurant Dan Arnold, Agnes, sAme sAme, Donna Chang, Bianca, Gerard's Bistro, Exhibition, SK Steak & Oyster and Montrachet. They are truly magnificent restaurants. If anyone wants to visit a good restaurant, they are the top nine restaurants out of the top 10 in Queensland, all in the electorate of McConnel.

I also congratulate McConnel Small Business Award winners who I announce tonight: best health and fitness, Elite Therapy; best gym, Fortitude Boxing; best cocktail and wine bar, Ivory Tusk; best Italian restaurant, Italian Street Kitchen; best date night venue, MAYA Mexican Restaurant & Bar; best beauty and hairdressing business, Bella Brows; best retail and sales business, Mannys Music; best fashion, Samantha Ogilvie; best young entrepreneur, VALD Newstead; best restaurant, PingPong; best coffee, cafe and breakfast, Joedy's Cafe; and best brew house, Newstead Brewery. These are excellent small businesses. These are the people's choice—the constituents of McConnel. I congratulate each and every one of them on winning the McConnel Small Business Awards.

I am not finished yet. In October 2022 *Time Out* magazine published a list of the 51 coolest neighbourhoods in the world. Fortitude Valley came in at No. 47, one of only three Australian suburbs to make the list. The article states—


The burgeoning creative hotspot of Fortitude Valley—

which is where I live, I might add—

is located about a mile and a half from Brisbane's central business district. Most of the action in this thriving, cool-kid neighbourhood centres around bustling James Street: a green, shaded oasis in a city that bakes in summer, with trees lining the pavement and vines climbing up the walls of boutique stores and the popular Calile Hotel. Of course you'll find cafés, bars and chic retailers here, but there's a reason the Valley is dubbed 'the suburb that never sleeps'. At night it transforms into a live-music hub, with young party-seekers descending upon the excellent range of clubs, bars and concert halls. If you want to party, this is one of the best places in Australia.

I rest my case: McConnel is the best electorate in Queensland. I congratulate my small business winners, Fortitude Valley and, of course, the top nine restaurants out of the top 10.

Youth Crime

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (8.54 pm): I have given numerous speeches since the commencement of the 57th Parliament on the issue of youth crime, and especially since the COVID outbreak. It seems those opposite truly do not listen to what Queenslanders want. I will tell them what constituents in the Surfers Paradise electorate and the Gold Coast want, and that is action on the juvenile crime crisis plaguing our state. The message has fallen on deaf ears time and time again.

As youth crime persists on the Gold Coast and in its suburbs showing no sign of slowing down, the opposition calls for more police and tougher laws. Yet today we have heard that in the safe night precincts of Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise overtime funding has gone from \$1.5 million to zero. Rather than getting more resources, we are getting fewer resources. That is going to mean more crime and more issues for people in those suburbs who are concerned about the effects on them.


I am going to quote from an article in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* by Luke Mortimer. The recent article reveals the eye-watering figures of the number of children who have been caught in stolen cars. Almost 20 kid crooks were caught in the act during August and those are only the ones we know about. Our hardworking police force is frustrated with the catch-and-release program. Six juvenile offenders were arrested in a vehicle stolen from a home in Robina in August. These children were aged between 14 and 16. Youth criminals are getting younger and more brazen in the face of a limited police presence.

In January I addressed how these young offenders have learnt to work the system and are ignoring court directions, leaving officers frustrated. The *Gold Coast Bulletin* article also quotes Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate pushing for the state government to host a community hall summit, similar to the opposition's health crisis town halls, with the aim of identifying issues and subsequently driving down rampant youth crime across our city. He has proposed amending legislation to enforce the application of GPS trackers, increase police numbers on the coast permanently—of course we have seen the opposite of that—amend the Bail Act to ensure youth offenders cannot be released back onto the streets, and invest in specific in-prison courses and support for youth once detained to help them deal with the complex health issues, social issues and mental health issues that may be a precursor to their criminal behaviour. I will table that article.

Hardened young criminals have been taunting the community for years now. Police are tired of apprehending offenders and then finding that they have been released. The government has lost control and the fact that juvenile crime is persisting on the Gold Coast is proof of the terrible processes at play.

Parents, police and home owners are at their wit's end trying to combat this atrocious behaviour that has been swept under the rug by the government. We have previously revealed that Gold Coast police recorded almost seven unlawful use of a motor vehicle offences per day on average throughout the 2020-21 financial year. The government owes it to our everyday honest Queenslanders to go all in to smash the cycle of youth crime.

Remembrance Day

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (8.57 pm): I might be a few days early, but I would like to speak about Remembrance Day and our amazing defence personnel, particularly in Townsville. Townsville is the biggest garrison city in Australia and its history with our Defence Force runs strong and deep in my home town. Both Remembrance Day and Anzac Day are strongly supported by the Townsville community and I know this Friday's service will be no different.


On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month Townsville and Australia stop to observe a minute's silence in dedication to those soldiers who died fighting to protect our nation in the war to end all wars. This is the least we can do to acknowledge the sacrifice our soldiers have made. I am sure there are many in this House who have made their pilgrimage, either back to the shores of Gallipoli or to the Western Front to some of that sacred ground. I know that when I was principal of Pimlico State High School students used to do trips like that every year; they would make a pilgrimage to understand what it meant to be an Australian during those times.

I will be proud to be attending the Remembrance Day ceremony in Townsville this Friday as will many in our communities. I will be laying a wreath and paying my respects to those who paid the supreme sacrifice so that we can enjoy the freedoms we have today. After the service, I will be the guest of Bill Whitburn, the President of the Townsville RSL, for lunch. I am sure the member for Thuringowa will be there with me as will the member for Mundingburra. This is a great event and it is well supported right across the city.

The latest statistics released last month by the ABS show Townsville had the most current and ex-service members compared to any other region in Australia. There are some 5,500 serving Defence members plus 8,700 veterans living in Townsville. This is a number that Townsville is truly thankful for. Our Defence Force is a hugely valuable part of our community, but it has not always been like that. I remember back in the eighties and nineties, as I am sure the member for Thuringowa also will—and legend has it that he was an ambulance officer. I am sure he will remember those days of the 'AJs'. They were certainly a breed unto themselves. They would go out and want to brawl and fight with anyone at any opportunity. You would not go to some pubs because it was the AJs' pub. It was a bit of a free-for-all.

Thankfully, the culture has changed over the years, and they have become such an important and valued part of the fabric of the Townsville community. They have shown us that time and time again with the most recent example being the devastating floods of Townsville in North Queensland in 2019. They are great members of our community. On this Remembrance Day, we will be thanking them for their service and remembering those who have fallen.


Cost of Living

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (9.00 pm): Every time this tired, inept third-term Labor government wastes taxpayers' dollars on another badly managed project and dumb idea, everyday Queenslanders who are struggling to pay their rent, power bills and registration are being treated like mugs. They deserve better than what this government is giving them. Queenslanders continue to do it tough, with an inflation rate over seven per cent—the second worst in the nation. Literally billions have been wasted on cost overruns on projects. This means that many other desperately needed projects do not happen or are delayed significantly. Rents have gone up on average over \$100 a week in the last year—three times the rate of inflation. The seventh straight interest rate hike was seen recently, taking borrowing costs to a level not seen since April 2013. Fuel costs are sky high, grocery costs are skyrocketing and then, of course, there are electricity price hikes.

How is this government spending the hard-earned dollars of Queenslanders? While Queenslanders are struggling to put food on the table, this government decided to spend \$16,844 on—you would not believe it, but this is true—investigating eating bugs, insects as food. That may not be as big a cost blowout or as interesting as the \$3 billion that is estimated to be the cost blowout on Cross River Rail; however, when you see how this government spends the hard-earned dollars of Queenslanders, it shows they have no respect. They do not understand that every dollar they misspend—every dollar they waste and every dollar they take out of the pockets of taxpayers that should have been spent better—disrespects how much everyday Queenslanders are hurting.

Then we have the federal Labor government that promised to reduce power bills by \$275 per year—97 times the federal government made this promise. Instead, they have now said that power bills will go up more than 50 per cent. These are broken promises—just like this state Labor government. They do not care about the wellbeing of the people, who elected them to serve in their best interests. There is the massive waste of Wellcamp—\$220 million for a white-elephant facility that Queenslanders do not even own. They have no shame; they do not care. It is not their money. It belongs to those people who are hurting, with the cost of living going through the roof, and this government wants more as it puts its hand in their pockets.

Waterford Electorate, Grants

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (9.03 pm): One of my favourite things about being an elected member of parliament is representing hardworking and resilient people. Between floods and natural disasters, increasing cost-of-living pressures and inflation, a lot of families and local businesses across my electorate have been doing it tough. However, the community of Waterford is tougher. The people of Waterford know how to bounce back, and I am so proud to be in the privileged position to help them do that. That is why I was so excited to announce the recipients of the Gambling Community Benefit Fund Disaster Recovery round last week.

The Gambling Community Benefit Fund is a fantastic initiative that allows community organisations to purchase items and make upgrades to local facilities. This round of grants was particularly aimed at helping disaster-affected organisations get back on their feet following the devastating floods. The mighty Bethania Rams football club received \$25,000 to renovate their fields and replace their goalposts, which had been inundated earlier this year. The Logan City Cricketers also received a grant to upgrade their oval, and Friends With Dignity, who provide incredible support for people impacted by domestic and family violence, received over \$26,000 to purchase new furniture. The Logan Beaudesert Country Music Club received more than \$22,000 for a new trailer. These grants will make a real difference to not only the organisations that receive them but also the communities that engage with these organisations. For any organisations that missed out this time around, there will be another opportunity to apply for up to \$100,000 when applications for the next Gambling Community Benefit Fund super round open in mid-January.

We know how these grants will go a long way towards helping our community bounce back from natural disasters, but it is also important that we are investing in preventive and emergency response measures. Last month I was proud to join the Minister for Police and the members for Logan and Woodridge at the opening of the brand new Loganlea Fire and Rescue Station. It is the first new station in our community for 37 years and it will make such a difference to keeping our ever-growing community safer. I inspected the facility myself and I have to say that, compared to the previous station, it is a huge contrast and is much needed to cater for our growing community. I thank Minister Ryan for his incredibly hard work and Minister Crawford, the former minister, for helping us to deliver this station for the Waterford community. I continue to fight for Waterford, and so does the Labor government.

Interruption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER'S RULING


Paper Out of Order

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): The member for Surfers Paradise sought to table a document that appears to contain reference to matters sub judice. It is out of order and not tabled.

ADJOURNMENT

Resumed.

Faith-Based Schools


 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (9.06 pm): I rise to speak on the important contribution of faith-based independent schools in Queensland. I thank Independent Schools Queensland, ISQ, who were in parliament tonight, ACS, CSA, AACS, ACC and the other representative groups of faith-based schools in Queensland. In 2020, an update titled *Economic significance of independent schools to the Queensland economy* noted the following: independent schools educate one in seven young Queenslanders; they save \$1 billion in recurrent and capital funding annually for governments by not taking up state school places; they contributed \$4.88 billion to gross state product through employment, infrastructure investment and international student programs in 2017-18—an average of \$40,000 per independent school student, an average return of \$3.66 for every \$1 of state and federal government investment; and they support 33,560 full-time direct and indirect jobs, worth \$2.95 billion in wages and salaries.

The February 2022 non-state school census found that over 141,000 students were enrolled in over 230 independent schools in Queensland of varying educational philosophies, religious affiliations, sizes and geographical location. Enrolments across the state have continued to grow, by 4.1 per cent in the past year and 25.8 per cent over the past 10 years. Parents and students value the autonomy. They say they value the choice, the diversity and the agility that is provided by these schools—and they value the religion, whether Christian schools, Muslim schools, Jewish schools or others.

Queensland parents and students are choosing these schools in increasing numbers and, in so doing, saving governments billions of dollars from education budgets. With respect to faith-based schools, the sweeping changes to Queensland anti-discrimination law recommended in the Queensland Human Rights Commission report has sent shockwaves through Christian, Muslim, Jewish and other communities, that are worried where the government might be headed. Professor Patrick Parkinson AM, professor of law at the University of Queensland, addresses the risks and impacts of these sweeping changes in his paper *Changes to anti-discrimination law in Queensland: why they matter to faith-based schools*. While he says that many of the proposed changes that update the legislation are sensible, critically the commission largely ignored or rejected the concerns of Christian leaders about their own schools.

The HRC report recommends further limitations on the rights of faith-based schools and tertiary institutions to organise themselves in a manner consistent with their faith and beliefs. It further reduces the religious freedom of Queensland parents to educate their children in accordance with their faith. It is in breach of international covenants that Australia has signed up to. This will be a big problem for faith-based schools and I ask the government to think very carefully about it.

Algester Electorate; France, Mrs B

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (9.09 pm): My electorate of Algester is a great place to live and raise a family. With terrific public infrastructure and a strong sense of community, is it any wonder that more and more people are calling the Algester electorate home? To ensure the livability of the area and help people get to and from school and work quicker, we committed to and are delivering upgrades to the Beaudesert-Algester roads and Illaweenah Street intersection. Construction is well underway, as Mr Deputy Speaker Martin well knows, on this over \$30 million investment to increase road capacity, ease congestion and cut travel times. Upgrades are also underway for bus stop relocations which will

expand public transport access to many more in the Algester electorate and in the Stretton electorate. The new cycling and pedestrian crossings will encourage more people to keep active and improve road safety for all road users.

Pallara is one of the fastest growing suburbs in the Algester electorate. The government is supporting this community with an additional \$4.1 million allocated for new classrooms at the Pallara State School. Additionally, after working with and lobbying on behalf of community members, we are also providing a supervised crossing for the school, significantly improving the safety of students and staff. The Pallara community also has much to look forward to in the way of public transport. The commitment to extend the 126 bus route into the Pallara and Heathwood communities connects more Algester constituents to the Greater Brisbane area. There is a great deal of infrastructure being built or already delivered right across the Algester electorate, whether that be new classrooms at Calamvale Special School and Calamvale Community College, new fences and playgrounds at Algester and Acacia Ridge state schools or new admin blocks and classroom upgrades at many other local schools. I am incredibly proud to represent and work with the people of the Algester electorate to deliver infrastructure upgrades that make real and lasting impacts in the lives of families right across our community.

In the remaining time I have left, I want to acknowledge a dear friend, great Labor woman and local resident, Mrs Betty France, who recently passed away aged 84. I first got to know Betty in 2014 when I became the candidate for Algester. For many years she had been the branch president, secretary and whatever other role was asked of her by the Algester branch of the Labor Party and, along with her wonderful late husband, Cec, held the branch together through the dark Newman years. She was also a stickler for the rules and could be very firm with branch members but also one of the most loving and supportive people you could meet. She worked on many election campaigns and to me she was like a second mum. I remember sitting in her lounge room many a time talking about life, politics—although that was more Cec's thing—and all things community. She will be very much missed by family and friends. Vale, Betty France.

The House adjourned at 9.11 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, 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, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting