



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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Phone (07) 3553 6344

## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

### Tuesday, 29 November 2022

Subject	Page
<b>ASSENT TO BILLS</b> .....	<b>3601</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 25 November 2022, from Her Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 25 November 2022.....	3601
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 21 November 2022, from Her Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 21 November 2022.....	3602
<b>SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>3602</b>
Gordon, Mr W.....	3602
Death of Queen Elizabeth II and Accession of King Charles III, Presentation of Address of Condolence and Congratulations.....	3602
Absence of Minister.....	3602
Acting Information Commissioner, Appointment.....	3602
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Oath of Office of Mr Paxton Booth as Acting Information Commissioner.....	3602
<b>REPORT</b> .....	<b>3602</b>
Information Commissioner.....	3602
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Information Commissioner Report 1: 2022-23—Mitigating the risks of privacy breach through staff education: How three government agencies educate and train their employees about their privacy and information security obligations.....	3602
<b>PETITIONS</b> .....	<b>3602</b>
<b>TABLED PAPERS</b> .....	<b>3603</b>
<b>MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>3606</b>
Herries Range Wind Farm.....	3606
Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence.....	3607
Queensland Australian of the Year Awards.....	3608
Sport.....	3608
Infrastructure Projects.....	3609
Economy.....	3609

# Table of Contents – Tuesday, 29 November 2022

Child Sex Offenders, Monitoring .....	3610
Suncorp Stadium, Events .....	3611
State Schools, Opening .....	3611
Skin Cancer Action Week .....	3612
Great Barrier Reef.....	3612
Gender-Based Violence .....	3613
Australian Training Awards .....	3613
<b>ABSENCE OF MINISTERS .....</b>	<b>3614</b>
<b>LEGAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE .....</b>	<b>3614</b>
Information Commissioner, Report.....	3614
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Information Commissioner Report 2: 2022-23—Publishing information about waste management.....	3614
<b>QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE .....</b>	<b>3614</b>
Cost of Living .....	3614
Housing Affordability .....	3615
Jobs Growth .....	3616
Social Housing .....	3617
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Article from news.com.au online, dated 28 August 2015, titled 'Asset sale plan cost Qld Taxpayers \$100m'.....	3617
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Document, undated, titled 'Final Plan—The Strongest & Smartest Choice: Queensland's Plan for Secure Finances and a Strong Economy' .....	3617
Energy and Jobs Plan .....	3617
Learner Licences, Cost .....	3618
North Queensland, Job Creation .....	3618
Vehicle Registration, Cost .....	3619
Coal .....	3619
Electricity Prices .....	3620
Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order .....	3620
School Infrastructure .....	3620
Cost of Living .....	3621
Youth Safety .....	3621
Domestic and Family Violence, Queensland Police Service Complaints .....	3622
Health Infrastructure .....	3622
Soft Plastics, Recycling .....	3623
Springfield, AFLW .....	3624
Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro Project.....	3624
Housing Strategy.....	3625
<b>MOTIONS .....</b>	<b>3626</b>
Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders.....	3626
Voice to Parliament .....	3626
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Document, undated, titled 'Uluru Statement from the Heart' .....	3632
Business Program.....	3637
Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to. ....	3641
Resolved in the affirmative.....	3641
<b>HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL .....</b>	<b>3641</b>
Introduction .....	3641
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022.....	3641
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes .....	3641
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights.....	3641
First Reading .....	3644
Referral to Health and Environment Committee.....	3644
<b>MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST .....</b>	<b>3644</b>
Cost of Living .....	3644
Nurses.....	3646
Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services .....	3647
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Bundle of documents, titled 'Project fact sheet—Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro Project' including two photographs.....	3648
Cairns, Youth Crime .....	3648
Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment, Performance.....	3649
Mount Morgan Goldmine .....	3650
Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro Project.....	3651
Cook Electorate .....	3652
Local Government, Conflicts of Interest.....	3653
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Article from the <i>Fassifern Guardian</i> , dated 16 November 2022, titled 'SR Councillors denied vote on harsh penalty' .....	3653
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Article from the <i>Beaudesert Times</i> , dated 16 November 2022, titled 'Council in chaos' .....	3653
Queensland Sport Awards .....	3654
<b>INTEGRITY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL; PUBLIC SECTOR BILL .....</b>	<b>3655</b>
Second Reading (Cognate Debate) .....	3655

# Table of Contents – Tuesday, 29 November 2022

<b>CORRECTIVE SERVICES (EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND SECURITY) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL</b>	<b>3678</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3678</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Corrective Services (Emerging Technologies and Security) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022	3678
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Corrective Services (Emerging Technologies and Security) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes	3678
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Corrective Services (Emerging Technologies and Security) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights	3678
<b>First Reading</b>	<b>3683</b>
<b>Referral to Legal Affairs and Safety Committee</b>	<b>3683</b>
<b>INTEGRITY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL; PUBLIC SECTOR BILL</b>	<b>3683</b>
<b>Second Reading (Cognate Debate)</b>	<b>3683</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Public Sector Bill 2022, amendments to be moved by Dr Amy MacMahon MP, explanatory notes and statement of compatibility with human rights to Dr Amy MacMahon's amendments incorporated.	3697
<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	<b>3705</b>
Buderim Electorate	3705
Daisy Hill	3706
Armitage, Mr S	3707
Bundamba Electorate, Flood Recovery	3707
Everton Electorate, Social Housing Tenant	3708
YMCA Springfield Lakes Community Centre	3709
Chatsworth Electorate, Crime Prevention	3709
Waterford Community	3710
Redlands, Infrastructure	3710
Brian Prince Awards; Bundaberg Christian College	3711
<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>3712</b>



## TUESDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2022

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The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

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

### ASSENT TO BILLS



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that on Friday, 25 November I presented to Her Excellency the Governor the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 3) and the Appropriation Bill (No. 3) for royal assent and that Her Excellency was pleased to subscribe her assent in the name and on behalf of His Majesty.

I have received from Her Excellency the Governor letters in respect of assent to certain bills. The contents of the letters will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the letters for the information of members.

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

Dear Mr Speaker

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

Date of Assent: 25 November 2022

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

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

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

25 November 2022

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 25 November 2022, from Her Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 25 November 2022 [\[1968\]](#).

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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: 21 November 2022

A Bill for An Act to amend the Building and Group Titles Act 1980, the Fair Trading Act 1989 and the Mixed Use Development Act 1993 for particular purposes

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

A Bill for An Act to amend the Betting Tax Act 2018, the Payroll Tax Act 1971, the Racing Act 2002, the Racing Regulation 2013 and the Revenue Legislation Amendment Act 2022 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

21 November 2022


*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 21 November 2022, from Her Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 21 November 2022 [[1967](#)].

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS


### Gordon, Mr W

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of the former member for Cook. At a future time, the House will formally note its condolences at the passing of the former member. However, I wish to place on the record my sadness on his passing. He was my friend and I believe he brought to this place an authentic voice for First Nations people, the Far North and regional Queensland. I wish to place on record my condolences to his family.


### Death of Queen Elizabeth II and Accession of King Charles III, Presentation of Address of Condolence and Congratulations

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that on Friday, 25 November 2022 I presented to Her Excellency the Governor the address of the Legislative Assembly adopted by this House on Tuesday, 11 October 2022 regarding its condolence on the death of Her Majesty Elizabeth II and congratulations on the accession of King Charles III.

### Absence of Minister

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have received advice that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and member for Miller will be absent from the sittings of the House from 29 November to 2 December 2022. The member's notification complies with standing order 263A.


### Acting Information Commissioner, Appointment

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I advise that on 18 November 2022 I administered the oath of office to Paxton Booth as Acting Information Commissioner. I table a copy of the oath.

*Tabled paper:* Oath of Office of Mr Paxton Booth as Acting Information Commissioner [[1969](#)].

## REPORT

### Information Commissioner

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from the Information Commissioner report No. 1 for 2022-23 titled *Mitigating the risks of privacy breach through staff education: how three government agencies educate and train their employees about their privacy and information security obligations*. I table the report for the information of members.

*Tabled paper:* Information Commissioner Report 1: 2022-23—Mitigating the risks of privacy breach through staff education: How three government agencies educate and train their employees about their privacy and information security obligations [[1970](#)].

## PETITIONS

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

### Maleny-Kenilworth Road

**Mr Powell**, 894 petitioners, requesting the House to plan and deliver a program of road widening, sight line improvements and increased vegetation management of Maleny-Kenilworth Rd between Maleny township and Curramore Rd [[1971](#)].

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

**D'Aguilar Highway and Mount Mee Road Intersection**

**Mr Powell**, 901 petitioners, requesting the House to signalise the intersection of the D'Aguilar Highway and Mount Mee Road [\[1972\]](#).

**Upper Coomera Cenotaph, Relocation**

**Mr Boothman**, from 580 petitioners, requesting the House to find a more appropriate location to reposition the Upper Coomera Cenotaph than that proposed by Main Roads; ensure the site is visible to passing motorists on Tamborine Oxenford Road and suitable to hold ANZAC services at the Cenotaph [\[1973\]](#).

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

**Fire Ants**

816 petitioners, requesting the House to stop indiscriminate spraying for fire ants on a large scale until further studies are completed as to the effect of such spraying on the insect populations and toxin residue in the environment [\[1974\]](#).

**Logan City Council, Former Councillors**

1,048 petitioners, requesting the House to issue an apology to the eight Logan City Councillors wrongfully dismissed and start negotiations on compensation [\[1975\]](#).

**Local Government, Road Maintenance**

784 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure local governments do not classify a road as unmaintained where it is needed to access properties from which they receive rates and fees and ensure property owners have fair and safe access to their properties [\[1976\]](#).

**Mareeba Hospital, Dialysis Services**

1,842 petitioners, requesting the House to enable kidney dialysis services to be accessed at the Mareeba public hospital [\[1977\]](#).

**Steve Irwin Way, Wildlife Corridors**

1,404 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure wildlife corridors are created and preserved as a fundamental part of the construction works and ultimate upgrade of the Steve Irwin Way [\[1978\]](#).

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—

11 November 2022—

- [1887](#) Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Hon. Furner), to a paper petition (3825-22) presented by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(3) from 139 petitioners, requesting the House to ban puppy farming in Queensland
- [1888](#) Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Hon. Furner) to an ePetition (3783-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 1,380 petitioners, requesting the House to block the imminent logging from going ahead and fast track Beerwah State Forest Lot 1 AP 22457 into national park
- [1889](#) Response from the Premier and Minister for the Olympics (Hon. Palaszczuk), to an ePetition (3708-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 1,026 petitioners, requesting the House to initiate changes to laws to allow a proportion of electors in a seat initiate a by-election within that seat in between general elections
- [1890](#) Response from the Premier and Minister for the Olympics (Hon. Palaszczuk), to an ePetition (3709-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 516 petitioners, requesting the House to modify the current e-petition system to allow analysis of the electorates which the petitioners belong as registered voters
- [1891](#) Response from the Premier and Minister for the Olympics (Hon. Palaszczuk), to an ePetition (3711-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 628 petitioners, requesting the House to allow a proportion of electors to veto recently passed legislation (or similarly, gazetted subordinate legislation) to ensure the views of the parliament are an accurate representation of the views of eligible voting citizens
- [1892](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. D'Ath), to an ePetition (3758-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 683 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure proper resources are available to Bundaberg Base Hospital; commence an investigation into poor performance of the hospital; and ensure the accountability of the hospital CEO and board members for proven past poor performance
- [1893](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Hon. Fentiman), to an ePetition (3810-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 511 petitioners, requesting the House to introduce laws to ban smoking on strata building balconies

- [1894](#) Response from the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing (Hon. Grace), to an ePetition (3713-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 1,361 petitioners, requesting the House to provide free menstrual hygiene products in all schools
- [1895](#) Response from the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing (Hon. Grace), to an ePetition (3801-22) sponsored by the member for Toowoomba North, Mr Watts, from 179 petitioners, requesting the House to provide an enclosed indoor sports facility for Toowoomba North State School
- [1896](#) Response from the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure (Hon. Dr Miles), to an ePetition (3811-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 656 petitioners, requesting the House to bring in a law that will allow the dismissal of Gold Coast City Council Mayor Tom Tate and Gold Coast City Councillor Darren Taylor
- [1897](#) Response from the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs (Hon. Scanlon), to an ePetition (3766-22) sponsored by the member for Barron River, Hon. Crawford, from 2,360 petitioners, requesting the House to buy back Taylor Point, Trinity Beach from developers for a conservation park
- [1898](#) Response from the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs (Hon. Scanlon), to an ePetition (3788-22) sponsored by the member for Burnett, Mr Bennett, from 1,041 petitioners, requesting the House to review all current development plans at Burnett Heads Port with a view to designating the remnant forest area as a Community Environmental Park or Nature Reserve
- [1899](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3710-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 354 petitioners, requesting the House to initiate changes to traffic laws to allow relaxation of standard traffic signal rules where there is extended visibility and suitable signage
- [1900](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3763-22) sponsored by the member for Moggill, Dr Rowan, from 605 petitioners requesting the House to ensure an integrated road and public transport plan for the western suburbs of Brisbane
- [1901](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3765-22) sponsored by the member for Theodore, Mr Boothman, from 1,538 petitioners, requesting the House to allocate an additional 500 car spaces to the Hope Island train station
- [1902](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3770-22) sponsored by the member for Moggill, Dr Rowan, from 1,528 petitioners requesting the House to fix Colleges Crossing with a flood proof river crossing solution
- [1903](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3777-22) sponsored by the member for Toowoomba North, Mr Watts, from 202 petitioners, requesting the House to utilise the School Transport Infrastructure Program for a larger parking area at Fairview Heights State School
- [1904](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3780-22) sponsored by the member for Nicklin, Mr Skelton, and a paper petition (3826-22) presented by the member for Nicklin, Mr Skelton, from 314 and 324 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to make the speed limit on Nambour-Mapleton Road 40km/h permanently
- [1905](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3782-22) sponsored by the member for Toowoomba North, Mr Watts from 180 petitioners, requesting the House to utilise the School Transport Infrastructure Program for a safer intersection at Stuart and North Streets for students of Toowoomba State High School
- [1906](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3789-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 169 petitioners, requesting the House to assess the need for a bus stop at Kingsthorpe Skate Park for students attending Oakey State High School
- [1907](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3802-22) sponsored by the member for Burnett, Mr Bennett, from 845 petitioners, requesting the House to review the cost and length of validity of the Queensland learner's licence
- [1908](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3812-22) sponsored by the member for Gympie, Mr Perrett, from 368 petitioners, requesting the House to install flashing lights on Carlo Road and Karrawa Drive and reinstate a school crossing supervisor for Rainbow Beach State School

15 November 2022—

- [1909](#) Auditor-General Report 6: 2022-23—Managing workforce agility in the Queensland public sector
- [1910](#) State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 31, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 31 August and 12 October 2022

18 November 2022—

- [1911](#) Department of Education—Annual Report 2021-2022: Erratum

21 November 2022—

- [1912](#) A Call for Change: Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service responses to domestic and family violence
- [1913](#) Behind the Call for Change: A companion report to A Call for Change, the report delivered by the Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service responses to domestic and family violence

22 November 2022—

- [1914](#) Private Health Facilities Act 1999: Private Health Facilities (Standards) Amendment Notice 2022, No. 159: Credentials and clinical privileges standard (version 6)



23 November 2022—

[1915](#) Queensland Police Service—Annual Report 2021-2022: Erratum

24 November 2022—

[1916](#) Director of Child Protection Litigation—Annual Report 2021-2022

[1917](#) Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions—Annual Report 2021-2022

[1918](#) Office of the Public Guardian—Annual Report 2021-22

[1919](#) Queensland Human Rights Commission—Shifting the focus: The third annual report on the operation of Queensland's Human Rights Act 2019, 2021-22

[1920](#) Response from the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing (Hon. Grace), to an ePetition (3741-22) sponsored by the member for Mount Ommaney, Ms Pugh, from 525 petitioners, requesting the House to facilitate the construction of a new purpose-built STEM facility at Corinda State High School

[1921](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3797-22) sponsored by the member for Toowoomba North, Mr Watts, from 202 petitioners, requesting the House to work with the Toowoomba Regional Council to investigate a scramble crossing for the Wilsonton State High School at the intersection of Richmond Drive and North Street

[1922](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3800-22) sponsored by the member for Theodore, Mr Boothman, from 586 petitioners, requesting the House to implement further measures to protect public transport drivers from assaults and to strengthen fare evasion laws

25 November 2022—

[1923](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 37, 57th Parliament—Public Sector Bill 2022

[1924](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 38, 57th Parliament—Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022

[1925](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 39, 57th Parliament—Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022

[1926](#) Health and Environment Committee: Report No. 27, 57th Parliament—Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022

28 November 2022—

[1927](#) State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 32, 57th Parliament—Examination of Auditor-General reports on the local government sector

## TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

### STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009:

[1928](#) Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 155

[1929](#) Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 155, explanatory notes

[1930](#) Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 155, human rights certificate

Major Sports Facilities Act 2001:

[1931](#) Major Sports Facilities (Townsville Stadium) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 156

[1932](#) Major Sports Facilities (Townsville Stadium) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 156, explanatory notes

[1933](#) Major Sports Facilities (Townsville Stadium) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 156, human rights certificate

Land Valuation Act 2010:

[1934](#) Valuation of Land (Fee Exemption) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 157

[1935](#) Valuation of Land (Fee Exemption) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 157, explanatory notes

[1936](#) Valuation of Land (Fee Exemption) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 157, human rights certificate

Forestry Act 1959, Nature Conservation Act 1992:

[1937](#) Forestry (State Forests) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2022, No. 158

[1938](#) Forestry (State Forests) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2022, No. 158, explanatory notes

[1939](#) Forestry (State Forests) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2022, No. 158, human rights certificate

Private Health Facilities Act 1999:

[1940](#) Private Health Facilities (Standards) Amendment Notice 2022, No. 159

[1941](#) Private Health Facilities (Standards) Amendment Notice 2022, No. 159, explanatory notes

[1942](#) Private Health Facilities (Standards) Amendment Notice 2022, No. 159, human rights certificate

Education (General Provisions) Act 2006:

- [1943](#) Education (General Provisions) (Prescribed State Schools) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 160
- [1944](#) Education (General Provisions) (Prescribed State Schools) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 160, explanatory notes
- [1945](#) Education (General Provisions) (Prescribed State Schools) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 160, human rights certificate

Work Health and Safety Act 2011:

- [1946](#) Work Health and Safety Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 161
- [1947](#) Work Health and Safety Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 161, explanatory notes
- [1948](#) Work Health and Safety Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 161, human rights certificate

Child Protection Reform and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2022:

- [1949](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 162
- [1950](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 162, explanatory notes
- [1951](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 162, human rights certificate

Public Trustee Act 1978:

- [1952](#) Public Trustee (Interest Rate) Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2022, No. 163
- [1953](#) Public Trustee (Interest Rate) Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2022, No. 163, explanatory notes
- [1954](#) Public Trustee (Interest Rate) Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2022, No. 163, human rights certificate

Public Records Act 2002:

- [1955](#) Public Records (Crime and Corruption Commission of Inquiry) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 164
- [1956](#) Public Records (Crime and Corruption Commission of Inquiry) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 164, explanatory notes
- [1957](#) Public Records (Crime and Corruption Commission of Inquiry) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 164, human rights certificate

State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999:

- [1958](#) State Penalties Enforcement (Dam Safety) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 165
- [1959](#) State Penalties Enforcement (Dam Safety) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 165, explanatory notes
- [1960](#) State Penalties Enforcement (Dam Safety) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 165, human rights certificate

Environmental Offsets Act 2014, Nature Conservation Act 1992:

- [1961](#) Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2022, No. 166
- [1962](#) Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2022, No. 166, explanatory notes
- [1963](#) Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2022, No. 166, human rights certificate

Building Units and Group Titles and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2022:

- [1964](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 167
- [1965](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 167, explanatory notes

#### MINISTERIAL PAPER

The following ministerial paper was tabled by the Clerk—

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

- [1966](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 33, 57th Parliament—Inquiry into matters relating to donor conception information, interim government response

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Herries Range Wind Farm




**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.35 am): When our government released our ambitious world-leading Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, a major motivation was to attract large-scale investment in renewable energy projects to Queensland. Already our plan is delivering. Queensland will now be home to one of the largest onshore wind farms in the world, with global energy giant Acciona Energia announcing its plans to develop a new \$2 billion wind farm project. This revolutionary game-changing project will deliver 1,000 megawatts of power from the Herries Range Wind Farm within the MacIntyre wind precinct west of Warwick.

This new investment brings the total value of the precinct now to \$4 billion and the total amount of renewable energy to 2,000 megawatts. That is enough to power 1.4 million Queensland homes. This is precisely the type of project our Energy and Jobs Plan is designed to deliver, making our state a world leader in renewable energy. Put simply, we are now a force to be reckoned with on a global scale, attracting massive international investment in our energy transformation.

Acciona Energia are one of the world's leading developers of renewable energy projects. With this \$2 billion initiative, they have given Queensland a ringing endorsement that our state is a renewable energy superpower. The 180-turbine Herries Range farm will support up to 600 jobs during the construction phase, and that is in addition to the 400 construction jobs at the first two wind farms within the MacIntyre wind precinct—the 162-turbine MacIntyre Wind Farm and publicly owned CleanCo's proposed 18-turbine Karara Wind Farm. That is also in addition to the 220 workers required to build Powerlink's transmission infrastructure that will deliver the clean energy from the MacIntyre wind precinct.

While industry partnerships like this will be critical to achieve the plan and bring more cleaner, cheaper energy into the system, we will maintain majority public ownership of the Queensland energy system. Queenslanders will have full control of our energy transformation. The Energy and Jobs Plan will drive \$62 billion in investment in Queensland, delivering an energy system that is made up of 70 per cent renewable energy by 2032. It will turbocharge every corner of the state, as well as creating thousands of job opportunities throughout regional Queensland.

### **Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.37 am): Last Friday I hosted the White Ribbon breakfast where I spoke about our government's latest significant reforms and released our fourth action plan to tackle domestic, family and sexual violence. This event is a powerful reminder that ending domestic and family violence is the responsibility of all—both men and women.

We heard from a panel of men who spoke about their experiences in dealing with the issue and the importance of engaging men and boys in the conversation, especially from an early age. However, the most powerful story came from domestic violence survivor Simone O'Brien, who in 2012 was beaten with a baseball bat to within an inch of her life by a former partner. Miraculously, the mother of three survived and is now a strong and powerful advocate for women against violence, travelling the country to share her story. Her message was to watch out for and listen to the red flags in the hope that other women will seek help and report it before it is too late.

That breakfast capped off a huge week of action by our government on domestic and family violence. Earlier in the week, cabinet considered and responded to two major reports, including the confronting commission of inquiry report into police responses to domestic and family violence. The inquiry, while at times raw as it shone a light into some dark places within the QPS, has been an opportunity to improve our responses, with the commission providing a road map for reform. We backed this with \$100 million to deliver, among other initiatives: more victim liaison officers; more domestic and family violence support workers in police stations, which is fundamentally important; more specialist domestic and family violence officers; and more specialist police prosecutors. We also announced the appointment of Special Coordinator for Police Reform, Steve Gollschewski.


We also announced a \$225 million package in response to the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce's second and final report into women's and girls' experiences across the criminal justice system. We know that women face barriers when reporting domestic, family and sexual violence, and how these matters are dealt with is not always up to community standards. We know the experience in our criminal justice system is different for women than it is for men. This reform package places victim survivors at the centre of how we respond to sexual violence and includes: court IT upgrades in 81 locations to make it easier for victims to give video evidence; establishing a victims' commissioner; education campaigns to improve awareness and understanding about sexual violence, including consent; more funding for services and the DPP; changing the law to move to an affirmative model of consent; and changing the law to recognise stealthing as rape.

I want to thank the Attorney-General for her work here. There are a lot of reforms here and I know she is absolutely up to the task of driving those reforms and making sure the implementation is done on time.

To carry out our fourth action plan, we have extended the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Council to 2026. I am grateful that co-chairs Vanessa Fowler and Bob Atkinson have agreed to continue in their roles. I thank all members of the prevention council to date for their important contribution.

Our government remains committed to our vision of a Queensland free from domestic and family violence. Since 2015, we have invested more than \$1.3 billion to address the issue. While we have made significant progress, we know that lasting cultural and generational change takes time. It also takes a village. Government, families, the community and the private sector—as a society we need to say 'enough is enough'.

### Queensland Australian of the Year Awards

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.41 am): Each and every day, we are inspired by the hard work, talent and generous spirit of Queenslanders. Many go above and beyond to make our state and our country a safer, healthier, more creative and more sustainable place to live. A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to celebrate a select group of outstanding Queenslanders at the 2023 Queensland Australian of the Year Awards. Since 1960, the awards have helped bring national attention to those individuals who make us proud to be Australian.

Our 2023 Queensland Australian of the Year is First Nations composer and educator William Barton. Growing up outside Mount Isa, William first learned the didgeridoo at the age of seven. He first performed with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra 10 years later, at the age of 17. Since then, William has taken his talent and culture all around the world, from Westminster Abbey to Carnegie Hall. We are thrilled to have this accomplished man as our Queensland Australian of the Year.

Queensland's Senior Australian of the Year is child protection campaigner Claude Lyle Harvey OAM. Nicknamed 'the mower man', Claude has spent—

**A government member** interjected.


**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I take that interjection. Claude has spent the last 17 years—think about this for a moment—pushing his lawnmower around Australia while raising more than \$1.5 million for the charity Bravehearts. It is a quirky Queensland story for a great cause.

The Queensland Young Australian of the Year is community advocate Talei Elu. Hailing from the Torres Strait island community of Seisia in Cape York, Talei has engaged her community in sport, organised beach clean-ups and arranged free feminine hygiene products for local women. She has also helped enrol more people in her community to vote, to be heard and to have a voice.

Finally, the 2023 Queensland Local Hero is humanitarian Melissa Redsell. As the founder of charity A Brave Life, Melissa provides support to young mothers dealing with issues including domestic violence, poverty and homelessness. By mid-2022, Melissa's charity had delivered more than 8,000 baby bundle care packages, providing essential supplies to mothers in need.

All four Queensland Australian of the Year recipients have incredible stories to share. We wish them all the very best as they compete at the Australian of the Year Awards to be held in Canberra.

### Sport


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.43 am): It was a big weekend of sport in Queensland. After the Brisbane Lions AFL Women's team won grand final hosting rights, we pulled out all stops to make sure the new Brighton Homes Arena at Springfield was ready for its first ever game. This was a massive undertaking, as you can appreciate, as the turf was only being laid a few weeks ago. However, by Sunday it was game on! The Brisbane Lions took on the Melbourne Demons and, while the game did not go Brisbane's way, the new \$82 million stadium, which was packed with a sellout crowd, was definitely a resounding success. I thought the tickets sold out within 15 minutes, but the mayor of Ipswich told me it was actually five minutes. The 10,000-capacity stadium, which we officially opened just before bounce, is an incredible investment in women's professional sport and the Greater Springfield and Ipswich communities. I am advised that this is the first of its kind for women in Australia. This is women supporting young girls and women in sport.

I would like to thank the sports minister, the member for Jordan, the Ipswich mayor, the federal sports minister and federal members for attending, as well as Richard Goyder, the AFL Commission Chairman, and Andrew Wellington, the Brisbane Lions Chairman, for joining me to open the new stadium. It is a great example of all three levels of government working together, as well as investment from the Lions, the AFL and commercial partners.

Brighton Homes Arena is kicking goals with a lot of firsts. As I said, it is the first AFL Women's facility in Australia to open to spectators with a grand final; it is the first team sport facility in Australia to provide elite training for professional men's and women's AFL teams; it is the first dedicated female football facility in the country; and it is the first completed Olympic venue since we secured the Brisbane 2032 games expected to be home to the modern pentathlon. We hope the grand final legacy will deliver a new generation of elite AFLW players to train and play at Springfield.

While I am talking Queensland sport, the man with the famous mo and mullet pulled off another impressive win on Sunday afternoon. Despite threatening storms and a halt of play for a time at Royal Queensland, we were lucky to see Queenslander Cam Smith secure his third Australian PGA Championship, paying tribute to his nanna, who is going through a tough time at the moment. It was a pleasure to present the Joe Kirkwood Cup to Cam Smith on Sunday. Our government is proud to support the event which Queensland has hosted for more than two decades. Our continued support through Tourism and Events Queensland remains a massive drawcard with around 30,000 to 40,000 spectators attending over the four days.

### Infrastructure Projects


 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (9.46 am): The Palaszczuk government is invested in supporting strong communities in every corner of our state. Our highly dispersed state is what sets us apart from all the other states and gives Queensland its vibrancy and diversity. I am pleased to announce a new round of projects that will get off the ground in Queensland's most remote regions, with backing from our \$1.5 billion 2021-2023 Remote Area Boards program. These projects are set to advance opportunities for tourism, jobs, clean energy and investment and help these remote communities get the activities and services they need. Queensland's five Remote Area Boards represent 60 per cent of the state, playing a vital role in supporting remote regions with limited resources. We greatly value the work they do to drive economic growth and improve life in Queensland's most remote communities. Our RAB funding is bridging the resourcing gap and helping to grow investment as well as economic and employment opportunities in parts of the state that might otherwise have missed out.

This exciting round of projects reaches the state's Far North, where the Torres Cape Indigenous Council Alliance has been allocated \$79,000 to progress Indigenous ecotourism developments in the Cape, Torres and Gulf region. The Mount Isa to Townsville Economic Development Zone has received \$270,000 to develop a carbon emissions strategy. The South West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils has been allocated \$55,000 to build its tourism industry and \$95,000 to raise the region's profile as an investment and lifestyle destination ahead of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

In Central Western Queensland, the Remote Area Planning and Development Board will receive \$120,000 for a study into water for economic development and a \$30,000 grant to develop new content for the FarOut campaign, providing job opportunities in the region.

Finally, Gulf Savannah Development has been allocated \$270,000 for an electricity and energy options analysis and plan to meet the region's future requirements around decarbonising electricity generation. This funding means remote regions can get on with the job of rolling out important initiatives like these regardless of location. It is geared towards creating good jobs, economic development and a brighter future for communities right across Queensland.

### Economy

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.49 am): Good jobs, better services, great lifestyle—all of these ambitions for Queensland rely on the strength of our economy. Recent economic data continues to show that the Queensland economy is leading the nation in the recovery from the pandemic. Australian Bureau of Statistics data for October shows that Queensland's unemployment rate fell to a seasonally adjusted 3.3 per cent in October, down from 3.7 per cent the previous month. That 3.3 per cent unemployment rate equals the lowest unemployment rate in the state's history. The last time that was achieved was in August this year.

Employment in Queensland is now 8.2 per cent higher than at the beginning of the pandemic. There are now 209,200 more Queenslanders in work than there were before the pandemic. Over that period Queensland's employment growth was the highest in the nation in both total and percentage terms. In the year to October 2020 in Moreton Bay South unemployment fell by 3.2 per cent to just

three per cent. In the year to October 2022 unemployment in Townsville fell 2.5 per cent to just 2.5 per cent. On the Sunshine Coast unemployment fell to 2.7 per cent. In Mackay it fell to a remarkably low 2.2 per cent.

When it comes to jobs growth, two regions recorded double-digit increases in the year to October. In Moreton Bay North the number of people working rose by 10.6 per cent and in Logan-Beaudesert it rose 10.3 per cent. ABS annual state accounts data shows Queensland's economy grew by 4.4 per cent in 2021-22, the strongest growth in a decade. Household consumption grew 3.5 per cent and private investment also rose by 8.6 per cent, the largest figure for a major state.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr Powell** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Logan, that is not helpful. The member for Glass House will use members' correct titles.

**Mr DICK:** Queensland's economy is strong, but it will need to be because what we will face in 2023 may be more of a challenge than anything we endured in the three years since we learned of COVID. Federal Treasury has made it clear unemployment will rise. The chaos and uncertainty in international energy markets show no sign of easing. That will inevitably lead to less confidence in the international markets on which our trade-based economy depends, but Queensland's fiscal buffers are strong and, most importantly, our people are strong. We will be ready for whatever challenges are thrown our way next year or at any time in the future.

### Child Sex Offenders, Monitoring



**Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (9.52 am): Child sex offenders are among the most repugnant of all people. Any form of child abuse is intolerable, while child sexual abuse is especially sickening. Child sex offenders are amongst the most heinous of all and, as such, they deserve to be subject to the strongest and strictest monitoring and reporting regimes available. That is why this week the Palaszczuk government will introduce new legislation to further toughen laws and crack down on those who prey on our state's most vulnerable, our children.

With these new laws Queensland will have the toughest laws in the nation when it comes to monitoring child sex offenders and, in doing so, we will right a wrong of the former Newman LNP government, which reduced the monitoring periods of child sex offenders. We will do this by doubling the monitoring and reporting periods for first-time and repeat child sex offenders. With this, any predator convicted of child sex offences will be required to report and be monitored by police—

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

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


**Mr RYAN:** With this, any predator convicted of child sex offending will be required to report and be monitored by police for periods of 10 years, up from five years, and repeat offenders 20 years, up from 10 years, while the most serious recidivist child sex offenders will be monitored for their entire life. These reforms will reinforce the strongest, most comprehensive monitoring laws in relation to child sex offenders in the nation. This is a very important piece of legislation. It allows our dedicated law enforcement officers to keep convicted child sex offenders under their watchful and ever-present eye for far longer than they previously could.

This week we rewrite the record and crack down on child sex offenders. This week we reverse the weak monitoring laws put in place by those opposite. This week we right their wrongs because, from this week, Queensland will have the toughest monitoring laws in the nation when it comes to child sex offenders. The Palaszczuk government will always crack down on child sex offenders because we will always put community safety first. We will cut them no slack and we will do everything in our power to better the outcomes for the community and to keep children safe.

This government is serious about community safety. That is why we have boosted and made permanent funding for the internationally acclaimed Task Force Argos and the Queensland Police Service's Child Abuse and Sexual Crime Group. We have also almost doubled the number of specialist child protection offender registry coordinators and we have introduced the toughest child protection laws in the nation.

The community can be assured that the Palaszczuk Labor government is relentless in targeting those who do the most harm to the most vulnerable in our community. We will keep that promise. We will always work hard to keep Queensland children safe.


## Suncorp Stadium, Events

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (9.56 am): Elton John, Red Hot Chili Peppers and Ed Sheeran are diverse international music acts with one thing in common: all three have booked Brisbane's Suncorp Stadium for concert events in the first two months of 2023, including Ed Sheeran having locked in three shows from 17 to 19 February. We are seeing a stream of overseas artists and their promoters putting together plans to get back on the road and tour after COVID. They want to play in Brisbane because of our great Queensland lifestyle. They want to play at Suncorp Stadium because of its central location, spectator capacity and public transport capability almost guaranteeing sold-out shows.

Each world-class concert event at Suncorp Stadium brings visitors to Brisbane. They contribute millions of dollars to our visitor economy from accommodation and hospitality to tourism operators. They support good Queensland jobs, although under the current six-concert cap at Suncorp Stadium there is room for only one more concert event in the 10 months after February 2023. Potentially, that is a lot of disappointed music stars and many more disappointed fans. In September and October this year we asked Queenslanders for their feedback on a temporary doubling of the Suncorp Stadium annual concert cap from six to 12 shows. From 236 responses, including 168 nearby residents and local businesses, more than three-quarters, or 78 per cent, supported increasing the cap for 2023 and 2024. Almost 77 per cent of residents living in the Lang Park traffic area agreed to more music at Suncorp Stadium. Stadiums Queensland will work closely with the operator of Suncorp Stadium, promoters and Brisbane City Council to minimise any inconvenience to local residents and businesses.

I want to reiterate that we are not looking to turn Suncorp Stadium into a permanent concert venue. Its primary purpose as a world-class rectangular stadium for three football codes is paramount. This is a temporary easing of the concert cap for 2023 and 2024 in response to the extraordinary post-COVID demand for Suncorp Stadium dates by some of the world's biggest music acts.

## State Schools, Opening

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.58 am): The Palaszczuk government has now officially opened all three of our newest Queensland schools: at Greenbank, Caloundra South and Coomera. I was delighted to be joined by the Premier to officially open Everleigh State School at Greenbank in Logan and Nirimba State Primary School in Caloundra South in Caloundra, a combined investment of \$105 million.

Just last Thursday I was warmly welcomed by the community of Coomera State Special School, in the electorate of Coomera, to officially open this world-class school which is now home to almost 150 students. This school is so popular in the community that enrolments are expected to hit 210 next year. We are bringing forward and expanding stage 2, doubling the number of new classrooms we are building from eight to 16. I was struck by the amazing signing choir and by the strong community partnerships the school has already built, with the local Rotary club and other nearby schools attending to show their support. Students will benefit from a new disability resourcing model for state schools starting in 2023, including a new category to support those with the most intensive needs.

These three schools alone represent an almost \$200 million investment, supporting 600 good construction jobs and providing even better services and amazing educational opportunities for their students. I was even able to brush up on my basketball skills at the Everleigh by sinking a two-pointer—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** If they do not believe me, it was caught on film! I take this opportunity to encourage all schools to apply for round 1 of our Go for Gold program, with \$7 million now available for all schools to apply for new sporting equipment. We are delivering four more new schools in our fastest growing communities for 2023—an investment of almost \$330 million, supporting 900 good local jobs.

We are also delivering \$220 million for additional classrooms; \$650 million for renewal projects such as the new ITD centres at Gladstone and Bundaberg; \$109 million to upgrade special schools; \$43.2 million for co-design projects in 18 of our discrete communities; and \$20 million for playground and tuckshop upgrades. This record investment in education is just another way the Palaszczuk government is planning and delivering for Queensland's future.

### Skin Cancer Action Week



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (10.01 am): Last week was National Skin Cancer Action Week, a week which seeks to raise awareness about a deadly disease and to promote sun protection. Australia has the highest melanoma incidence rates in the world, with one Australian diagnosed with skin cancer every 30 minutes. Two in three Australians will be diagnosed with skin cancer at some point in their life. Of all the states in Australia, Queensland's numbers are the most concerning, with our melanoma rate 37 per cent higher than the national rate in 2018. In 2019, 4,337 Queenslanders were diagnosed with melanoma of the skin and 322 Queenslanders died from melanoma.

A recent survey found that 49 per cent of adults and 45 per cent of children had been sunburnt in the previous 12 months. These statistics speak to the need for sun-safe practices—something I know about from personal experience, having been diagnosed with a melanoma this year. The good news is that most skin cancers are both preventable through use of sun protective behaviours and curable if detected early. It is important to know your skin and to check it regularly, looking for any changes, especially in spots or moles. Visit your GP for regular check-ups and, of course, if you notice anything suspicious.

As we head into summer, it is crucial for all Queenslanders to slip on protective clothing, slop on SPF30 or higher sunscreen—I go for 50—slap on a hat, seek shade and slide on sunglasses. This month I was happy to voice my support for a new online course now available to hairdressers, educating them on how to spot skin cancers. My own hairdresser spotted what turned out to be a melanoma on my scalp and helped put me on the path to treatment. I commend the Skin Cancer College Australasia and its chief executive officer, Lynette Hunt, on making this resource available. I encourage hairdressers to use this resource, as it could save a life.

I acknowledge the great work of the Cancer Council, partnering with the Australian government on their latest campaign for men, with fewer than half of Australian men actively seeking shade to protect themselves from the sun during summer. To all the dads out there who are telling their kids to wear their hats: make sure you do the same thing and put on a hat this summer. I want everyone to have a safe Christmas, so please make sure we are all being sun smart this summer.

### Great Barrier Reef



**Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (10.04 am): Last night Australia received the reactive monitoring mission report into the Great Barrier Reef. This report clearly spells out how the inaction of the previous Morrison LNP government placed the reef under even further threat by refusing to take climate change seriously. I twice had the opportunity to meet with the two scientists who prepared the report while they were in Queensland, and I acknowledge the work that has gone into preparing it and making recommendations.


We have said from day one that we understand there are significant threats to the reef and that governments at all levels need to take action to protect it. It was only because this government was elected and took meaningful action that the reef was kept off the in-danger list in 2015. We took a package of measures—no thanks to those opposite—to the World Heritage Committee that spelled out the action we would take. We banned the dumping of dredge spoil on the reef and we introduced strong tree-clearing laws and reef regulations to address land-based sources of water pollution—both measures opposed by those opposite—and we continue that work throughout our time in government. In fact, since this government was elected we have taken decisive action on the two biggest threats to the reef: climate change and water pollution. We have set a net zero emissions target, developing decarbonisation plans to reduce emissions across all sectors of the economy.

Last month we announced the most ambitious action to date on climate change, with a \$62 billion Energy and Jobs Plan that will generate cleaner, cheaper energy right on the reef's doorstep. It will transition our coal-fired power stations to clean energy hubs and reduce emissions in the energy sector by 90 per cent by 2035. This is incredibly significant, given that energy is our highest emitting sector in Queensland. We will invest \$500 million to deliver more large-scale and community batteries, building on other actions like our Advancing Clean Energy Schools program, which has seen 200,000 solar panels installed at 900 schools, and our \$55 million Zero Emission Vehicle Strategy. In last year's budget we also committed \$270 million to continue the Queensland Reef Water Quality Program and address water pollution, and I can announce today that we are doubling our compliance team. We are scaling up land restoration, supporting farmers to improve run-off, banning more single-use plastics and driving sustainability with our \$1.1 billion Recycling and Jobs Fund.



Most importantly, a lot has changed since this report was written. We have had a change of government in Canberra. This government is working with Queensland and finally acting on climate change—not saying that electric vehicles will ruin the weekend, not vetoing renewable energy projects, not letting fringe views and extremists dictate critical economic and environmental policy. It is a government we can rely on to work with us to protect the reef. Queenslanders know better than anyone the value of the Great Barrier Reef, and they want to see governments protect not only this incredible environment but also the economy that relies on this reef. The Queensland and the Australian governments agree that it is not appropriate or necessary to inscribe the reef on the List of World Heritage in Danger at this time, but I can tell Queenslanders that we will continue to build on our actions and work together to protect the reef and the communities and jobs that rely on it.


### Gender-Based Violence

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.08 am): Last Friday was the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and girls and marked the beginning of 16 days of activism to end gender-based violence. This year's theme is 'Unite! Activism to end violence against women and girls' and it invites everyone to play their role by showing support and solidarity with women's rights activists and resisting the attack on women's rights around the world. The 16 days of activism are a time for all Queenslanders to recommit to the prevention of domestic, family and sexual violence in our communities and our workplaces.

We know that violence against women is inextricably tied to gender inequality and a lack of respect for women and girls, and that is why it is up to all of us to call out toxic attitudes and the beliefs that underpin it. I am so proud that the Palaszczuk government has been a leader in this regard. Since 2015 we have invested over \$1.3 billion to tackle domestic, family and sexual violence. This unprecedented investment in our systems, communities and first responders means we are all better placed to understand and identify violence in many forms, both physical and non-physical. That is why we are backing the \$1.3 billion investment with laws and reforms that we need to make lasting change such as introducing our bill to strengthen responses to domestic violence and coercive control.

I also want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the brave women who came forward to tell their story in the commission of inquiry into police responses to domestic and family violence. The report that was released last week was difficult to read, but I say to those women: we hear you, we see you, we believe you, and now we are taking action. We must continue to drive the cultural change necessary to ensure that women are believed and supported. The Palaszczuk government will continue to do better, just as the whole community must continue to do better, and that is why events like the 16 days of activism are so important. They are reminders that we all have a role to play in ensuring future generations of women and girls can live in a world free of violence, and it is only through the sustained and deliberate effort of each of us that we can end domestic and family violence for good.

### Australian Training Awards


 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.10 am): Earlier this month it was confirmed that Queensland has the very best apprentices in the country. I was delighted to be at the Australian Training Awards in Adelaide when Cairns-based refrigeration technician Jennah Halley was named the Australian Apprentice of the Year. Jennah's inspiring story makes her a role model for others, particularly young women wanting to forge a great career in traditional trades. The mother of four returned to work after eight years as a single mum. Her brother, who is also a refrigeration technician, asked her to help out in his business for a few hours a week, and that was just the start of Jennah's journey that saw her complete a Certificate III in Air Conditioning and Refrigeration with TAFE Queensland last year. She is believed to be the only female qualified refrigeration technician in Cairns—a statistic she is keen to change. Her success on the national stage is already helping to break down barriers for women and First Nation peoples. Last week I asked her how she wanted to use this success and she said, 'I want to show people around me what excellence looks like in our industry.'

What an honour for Queensland's top training talent to be recognised at the Australian Training Awards in the other categories, winning five awards in total. Two silver medals were awarded to companies in Queensland—the first to Harness Energy in the Small Training Provider of the Year category. This is a company that specialises in safety and technical training and labour hire across oil and gas, transport, warehousing, construction, rail and freight, and mining industries. It is in my electorate too, so I am very proud. The Queensland Future Skills Partnership, led by BHP Mitsubishi

Alliance with CQUniversity and TAFE Queensland, also took out the silver medal in the Industry Collaboration Award. This partnership is designed to fund and facilitate the fast-tracked development and delivery of accredited training in automated technology. A bronze went to Sunshine Coast Technical Trade Training Centre for the School Pathway to VET Award—a fantastic recognition for a decade of great work. One of Australia's largest early learning providers, G8 Education, won the bronze in the Australian Apprenticeships—Employer Award category.

A huge congratulations to the runner-up for the Australian School Based Apprentice or Trainee of the Year, Matthew Siver, who is completing a traineeship with Metro North Health that will result in a Certificate III in Health Services Assistance. He said that this training pathway has ignited a passion for the healthcare sector, with his ultimate career goal to become a paramedic. Congratulations to all Queensland finalists. We are so proud to show the rest of Australia the great training that leads to good jobs in our wonderful state.


## ABSENCE OF MINISTERS

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.13 am): I advise the House that the Minister for Resources will be absent from question time and the House during this week's sitting as the minister is undertaking an important trade mission to the United Kingdom to promote opportunities in Queensland's critical minerals to global investors. I therefore advise the House that the Treasurer and Minister for Investment has been appointed acting minister for Minister Stewart and will take questions regarding the resources portfolio during question time this week.

I further advise the House that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads will be absent from the House this week due to illness. The Deputy Premier will take questions regarding the portfolio of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads during question time this week.

## LEGAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

### Information Commissioner, Report


 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (10.14 am): I lay upon the table of the House a report of the Office of the Information Commissioner, report No. 2 to the Queensland Legislative Assembly for 2022-23 titled *Publishing information about waste management*. I commend the report to the House.

*Tabled paper:* Information Commissioner Report 2: 2022-23—Publishing information about waste management [[1979](#)].

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, question time will conclude today at 11.14 am.

### Cost of Living

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.14 am): My question is to the Premier. Is life less or more affordable for Queenslanders after almost eight years of the Palaszczuk government?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member very much for the question. I will tell members one thing: under the LNP, electricity prices went up 43 per cent. That is where they went—up!

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is the absolute irony of the Leader of the Opposition—

**Mr Crisafulli:** A Premier who can't answer the question after eight years.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:**—who comes in here—

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** So rude; always whinging. We on this side of the House are implementing our policies. We have a plan. We will stay the course. Let us talk about the plans of those on that side of the House. Any plans? Any plan?

**Government members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Any plan? No plan. Perhaps the Leader of the Opposition should travel around Queensland and talk to some of the sacked public servants.

**Mr Dick:** Maybe he could go to his electorate!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I will take that interjection.

**Mr Bleijie:** He's not getting on a superyacht, that's for sure!

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana—

**Mr Dick:** What? Clive's?

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right: the LNP on Clive Palmer's superyacht. Perhaps the Leader of the Opposition should go around and speak to some of those sacked public servants. Do members remember that—14,000? If you do not have a job, you cannot pay the bills. Was the opposition not listening to the Treasurer when he said that we have the lowest unemployment rate that Queensland has had in its history? If you have a job, you have a chance of providing for your family. Let me also say this: because we own our assets this side of the House is giving back to Queenslanders. Thank you for asking the question because we have just recently given back a \$175 rebate. Why? Because we own our energy assets. What did those on that side want to do? They wanted to sell the assets and under their watch electricity bills went up 43 per cent. Thank you for—

*(Time expired)*

### Housing Affordability

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** My question is to the Premier. Queensland is now the least affordable regional housing market in Australia and Brisbane has suffered the sharpest decline in affordability. Does the Premier accept almost eight years of declining land release and missed social housing targets have contributed to this crisis?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The answer is no.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** No, it has not.

**Government members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right. We understand that there are pressures at the moment in the housing market, and we acknowledge that, but when those opposite were in office they did nothing—absolutely nothing—when it came to housing. They treated people who lived in social housing as second-class citizens. On this side of the House we understand the importance of that.

**Mrs Frecklington:** This is about out of touch.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I do not think so.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** No, no, no. We called a housing summit. We had a round table.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** You were there. You came along. You were invited.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Nanango. Member for Buderim.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** They have had their Weet-Bix this morning, Mr Speaker.

**Mr Fumer:** Fruit Loops probably.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right. Maybe. We understand the best thing we can do for Queenslanders is to give them a job because with a job you can actually pay the bills and provide for your family. On this side of the House we also value the importance of education and health care.

**Mr Crisafulli:** You take no responsibility.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** You are so rude!

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Leader of the Opposition, you will direct your comments through the chair or you will be warned under the standing orders.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The Leader of the Opposition is not only rude but also disrespectful. I am answering the question. I am constantly interjected on by the member for Broadwater. As I said, we had the Housing Summit on 20 October and we also announced an additional \$1 billion in the Housing Investment Fund which doubles our commitment.

**Mr O'Connor:** Over 25 years.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** So rude! Here we go again. Just rude.

**Mr Dick:** You wanted to privatise it!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That's right. The member for Everton—and I hope the member for Everton asks a question—wanted to privatise housing. He wanted to sell it all off. Our total housing investment is now a record \$4 billion and we have seen more than 13,000 social—

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We have seen more than 13,000 social and affordable homes delivered from now until 2027.

### Jobs Growth

**Ms PUGH:** My question is to the Premier and Minister for the Olympics. Will the Premier update the House on Queensland's latest jobs growth?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Mount Ommaney for that question because on this side of the House we value people getting jobs.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr Dick:** Stop yelling over women!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Yes, that is right. You have heard the Treasurer talk about our record low unemployment rate which means people out there in Queensland are getting a job. And, of course, those record rates in regional Queensland are phenomenal with a two in front of it. Who would have thought that? When we first came to office the unemployment rate was so high in the regions. Why? Because they sacked workers and that had a devastating impact across Queensland, especially in regional communities.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my left will cease their interjections or I will start naming members.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We know that there is nothing more important than a job. Since January 2015 it means that more than 461,000 jobs have been created in Queensland. I am pretty proud of that record because that means people have jobs, unlike those opposite who cut 14,000.

Our Energy and Jobs Plan will see an extra 100,000 jobs but also our Queensland tourism industry at the moment is supporting 174,000 jobs. In the year to June 2022 domestic tourism visitors spent over \$19.6 billion here and Brisbane airport have also advised that they are expecting three million passengers to depart through the domestic and international terminals over the holiday period to Australia Day. This is good news for Brisbane, Cairns, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Townsville, just to name a few of the areas that will benefit from record tourism numbers. Why are people travelling now? Because we kept them safe during COVID and we got them vaccinated, unlike those opposite who did not join our vaccination campaign.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** There is only one member who has the call and that is the Premier. Premier, you have 32 seconds remaining.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Our agricultural sector is also booming, currently supporting over 300,000 jobs. For the second year running agriculture in Queensland is—

**Ms Simpson** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:**—now worth over \$23 billion and it is a sector that many Christmas lunches will be relying on, providing 93 per cent of Australia's sugar cane, 69 per cent of Australia's mangoes, 60 per cent of Australian avocados and 43 per cent of Australian cattle. Our record is our strength in our industries.

*(Time expired)*

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will wait for silence, members.

### Social Housing

**Mr MANDER:** My question is to the Premier. The Premier said if an organisation—

**Mr Hinchliffe** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Sandgate, you are warned under the standing orders. I have just asked the House for silence. Member for Everton, please restart your question.

**Mr MANDER:** My question is to the Premier. The Premier said if an organisation has millions to spend on advertising then that money could be spent helping Queenslanders. Since coming to power the government has spent nearly \$200 million on advertising. How many social houses could have been built with that money?

**Dr Miles:** How many did you build?

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier! Treasurer! Members to my right!

**Ms Palaszczuk:** I take the interjection. The member for Everton did not build one single house.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, you do not have the call yet. Members to my right will cease their interjections or they will be warned. Premier?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The member is obviously referring to the comments I made last week about the Queensland Resources Council's \$40 million campaign run against our government about our royalties, the money from our royalties, from record profits, record exports going overseas, being returned into Queensland, being able to be returned to Queenslanders to back our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. I think that the Resources Council under Ian Macfarlane, the former National Party minister, is running a campaign backed by those opposite. Perhaps the Resources Council should go and find someone else to run the Queensland Resources Council. Perhaps that is what they should do.

**Mr Nicholls:** You didn't say that when Kirby Anderson was working for them.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am glad the member for Clayfield interjected because—Strong Choices. In one year \$70 million? \$100 million? Who knows. How much was that, member for Clayfield? Thanks for interjecting. The Christmas gift that keeps on giving. Here it is: the asset sales plan from the LNP cost Queensland taxpayers \$100 million in one year. I table that. Just for the record, let us table this plan again because we saw what that did. This was about selling off our electricity assets and sacking Queenslanders. The Leader of the Opposition is cut from the same cloth.

*Tabled paper:* Article from news.com.au online, dated 28 August 2015, titled 'Asset sale plan cost Qld Taxpayers \$100m' [1980].

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Final Plan—The Strongest & Smartest Choice: Queensland's Plan for Secure Finances and a Strong Economy' [1981].

**Mr Crisafulli:** No vision!

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Let me take the Leader of the Opposition's interjection because I am enjoying this today. He talks about vision. They have not even produced one plan. He has been the Leader of the Opposition for two years—the laziest opposition leader Queensland has ever seen. Even the member for Nanango produced a policy. Even the member for Clayfield produced a policy. The irony of standing up in this House and talking about housing when they do not even have one single idea or one single plan.

*(Time expired)*

### Energy and Jobs Plan

**Mr O'ROURKE:** My question is of the Premier and Minister for the Olympics. Will the Premier update the House on how the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan will support new jobs and industries and are there any alternative approaches?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Rockhampton for that question. Of course, on this side of the House we have a very clear plan. It is called the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. It is backing our renewables. It is backing our workers with the workers' charter. It is a vision for the future.

It is welcomed by the Queensland public. It is the most comprehensive plan in the nation. Yet still from those opposite we hear nothing. We hear crickets—absolute crickets—because they do not have a view on the plan. We would like to know whether or not they support the plan.

What we are doing is keeping our assets in public hands. We are putting the profits that are made by the generators back into Queensland households. We understand that cost-of-living pressures are hurting Queenslanders, which is why over a period of four years we have provided \$575 back to Queenslanders. That is more than \$1.1 billion of returns going from our public assets back to Queensland householders. We absolutely understand that there are pressures on families when paying their bills, although not from the increases we saw under the LNP. These are real, tangible returns with dividends going back to Queenslanders.

I was surprised to read an article in today's *Australian*. I say very clearly to the federal government: hands off our generators. There is no way that Queensland is going to sacrifice the returns that we are able to provide back to Queenslanders. I also say this to the southern states: Queensland is doing the heavy lifting when it comes to gas. If the issue is supply, New South Wales and Victoria can open up some of their gas fields. Queensland is always doing the heavy lifting and we need to make sure that, if there are any steps by the Commonwealth in this direction, Queenslanders are fully compensated. We will not hand it back. We will always stand up for Queenslanders. I am making Queensland's position very clear to the federal government and the New South Wales and Victorian premiers: our energy assets are working well in Queensland, we have the plan and we will not jeopardise the returns that are going back to Queensland households. I make that commitment to the people of this state.

### **Learner Licences, Cost**

**Mr MINNIKIN:** My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier explain to young Queenslanders why they must pay the highest learner driver's licence fee in the country and will the Premier commit to cutting that cost today?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I do not have the figures in front of me and I am happy to get back to the member. The Minister for Transport and the department set those fees. I am advised that the license costs \$186 and is valid for three years, which gives young drivers enough time behind the wheel to gain confidence and accrue their 100 hours. I also understand that the money goes back as an investment into the security of the licensing system. I will ask the transport and main roads minister to have a look at options for learner licences.

### **North Queensland, Job Creation**

**Mr HARPER:** My question is of the Deputy Premier. Can the Deputy Premier outline to the House the Palaszczuk government's plan to create jobs of the future in North Queensland and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for his question. I know how determined he is to make sure that everyone in Townsville and in the North Queensland region benefits from the incredible opportunities of the Palaszczuk government's Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. The North Queensland Renewable Energy Zone will drive jobs in renewables and in constructing the SuperGrid as well as in all of the industries that will be able to use that cheap, clean, renewable energy.

Townsville is set to be one of the main beneficiaries of the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. The Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct is at the heart of our plans to make sure people in North Queensland get the economic benefit and the jobs dividend of our investment in renewable energy. It will support companies in advanced manufacturing, mineral processing and new and emerging technologies. It is being constructed thanks to \$74 million from the Queensland and Australian governments, including \$38 million from the Queensland government. In September of last year, I announced that Pacific Metals', Townsville Energy Chemicals Hub would be a prescribed project. I can advise that site works to facilitate that tech project are now underway at Lansdown, including access roads. The US car manufacturing giant General Motors recently committed US\$69 million to the project, which is a massive vote of confidence in what the Palaszczuk government is doing with our renewable energy and jobs plan and, in particular, our support for manufacturing at the Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct.

All of this is possible because we own our energy assets. We have been able to rebate \$570 in dividends back to Queensland households because we own our energy assets after Queenslanders rejected the plan from those opposite to sell our energy assets, not once, not twice, but three times. It

comes as another state rejected another LNP cuts guy. The people of Victoria saw through Matthew Guy and voted against his plans for cuts. In Queensland, we have another cuts guy. It is not Matthew Guy; it is that guy, the member for Broadwater. In fact, there are a lot of guys over there and they are all cuts guys. When Queenslanders see one of them on TV and ask, 'Who is that guy?', they should know that it is the LNP cuts guy.

### Vehicle Registration, Cost

**Mr JANETZKI:** My question is to the Premier. Between 2012 and 2015, car rego was frozen. Since 2015, the cost for Queenslanders to register their cars has jumped by 25 per cent. Can the Premier tell Queenslanders why they are paying 25 per cent more for their rego under the Palaszczuk Labor government?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** My understanding is that it is to do with indexation and inflation. I am happy to talk in this House about what we are doing to ease the cost-of-living pressures for Queenslanders compared to those opposite. I make it very clear that no other government in Australia has been able to return \$575 to households as a direct cost-of-living measure. Is the Leader of the Opposition going to sell our electricity assets? That is a crucial question because there would be no returns to Queenslanders. When it comes to the most recent water rebate from SEQ, we have given \$55. We are recognising that this is an issue. Many issues that impact cost-of-living pressures are to do with inflation. In Queensland we provide \$6.8 billion in concessions, which is an increase of more than 10 per cent from 2021-22. Of course, that includes our electricity rebate.

**Mr Janetzi** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We are also providing \$153.9 million for the School Transport Assistance Scheme to reduce the cost of travelling to school and \$180.7 million for the oral health scheme to provide free dental care to eligible Queenslanders. This is understanding and recognising the cost-of-living pressures. As another example, in 2022-23 a low-income family in social housing with children in high school could be eligible for Queensland government concessions including up to \$295 per child in school textbook and resource allowance; the \$175 cost-of-living rebate on their electricity bill; the \$55 water bill rebate; an average rental benefit of around \$9,000 through programs that are run through Minister Leeanne Enoch's department; the School Transport Assistance Program for Students with Disabilities; general public transport and TransLink concessions; and a rental bond loan to ease the cost of moving into new accommodation. In contrast, those opposite sought to slash these concessions. I will never be lectured to on the cost of living by those opposite.

*(Time expired)*

### Coal

**Mrs GILBERT:** My question is of the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. Will the Treasurer update the House on the long-term global outlook for coal and what this means for Queensland's resources sector?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Mackay for her question. As much as anyone in the parliament, the member for Mackay understands the strength the resources industry brings to the Queensland economy, particularly to regional economies. Queensland Treasury actively monitors the global conditions that affect all the major sectors of the Queensland economy. It makes sense, therefore, that it keeps a close eye on international demand for coal.

Earlier this month Treasury published a comprehensive report *Queensland's coal industry and long-term global coal demand*. The report is largely informed by the International Energy Agency's *World energy outlook 2022*, published last month. The report dispels the misinformation about the Queensland coal industry that is peddled both by lobbyists and by activists. Firstly, while thermal coal producers have recently been enjoying prices as high as \$675 a tonne, the global demand for thermal coal is expected to resume its steady decline in the second half of this decade. That is a decline that started in 2013 when world global coal consumption peaked.

As Queensland produces only about a quarter of Australia's thermal coal for export, we are less exposed to that decline than New South Wales. It is a different story when it comes to metallurgical coal, used in steelmaking. At present there is no commercially viable alternative to metallurgical coal to make steel—nor is there likely to be for decades to come—for electric vehicles, locomotives, wind turbines and everyday life. That means the world will continue to need the finest metallurgical coal in the world. That metallurgical coal of course comes from Queensland.

Australia and Indonesia are the world's two largest exporters of coal but, while most Indonesian coal is thermal, most Australian coal is metallurgical because of Queensland. By 2050 the International Energy Agency sees Indonesia's export production falling by 30 per cent. Because of Queensland's metallurgical coal, Australian production is forecast to rise by 10 per cent to 2050.

While I am talking about Indonesian coal, there is another myth I would like to dispel. As the Queensland Treasury report points out, at prices below US\$300 a tonne Indonesia's effective royalty rate is higher than Queensland's. This comes after Indonesia increased its royalty tiers earlier this year. Today the price of coal is US\$247 a tonne. This means that anyone who tells you that Queensland has the highest royalties in the world is being deliberately dishonest. Queensland's resources sector is helped by accurate data and honest conversations, not by half-truths.

*(Time expired)*

### Electricity Prices

**Mr WEIR:** My question is to the Premier. Will Queenslanders' power bills on 30 June 2024 be higher or lower than they are now?

### Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, the way that question has been framed it is hypothetical. It is not seeking, as I heard the question, a forecast and it sounds like it is asking for an opinion. I rule the question out of order.

### School Infrastructure

**Mr POWER:** My question is for the Minister for Education. Can the minister update the House on the Palaszczuk government's investment in education, including in Logan, and is the minister aware of any other approaches that others might put forward?

**Ms GRACE:** I do not need a crystal ball for 2024 to let people know how we are investing in our schools. If there is one thing the Premier and I love doing, it is opening new schools. It was great to be at Everleigh State School in the electorate of Logan, very close to the electorate of Jordan—it was great to have both members and the Premier there—for the opening of this brand new, world-class facility in a really fast growing area of the state. We do not need crystal balls for that, because that is exactly what a Labor government does. I turned the first sod recently at Woogaroo Creek State School in Augustine Heights in the Jordan electorate. That school is due to open in 2023. The member's electorate is one of the fastest growing in Queensland and we are delivering infrastructure there in spades.

It is not just infrastructure that we are delivering under our \$2 billion infrastructure plan; we are also employing additional teachers. We have already employed up to 3,500 full-time-equivalent teachers and are on track to meet our teacher aide target. We are over the target that we set at the election campaign, with 1,521 full-time-equivalents employed since the election. We have a plan in place to employ teachers to deliver the education that our students need for the future.

The \$20 million Turn to Teaching program is remarkable. We have 51 people already training to become teachers with the support of the Department of Education. We are out now seeking applications. We have had 350 applications for Turn to Teaching, where people can get their masters in two years—an incredible record. It does not end there. We also have Trade to Teach, which is wonderful and led by the Assistant Minister for Education. We have 30 positions and 150 applications already. We know that education is the key. We know that teachers make a difference in the everyday lives of our students. It is so great to see our enterprise bargaining agreement getting up, with a 94 per cent 'yes' vote from teachers in the field.

Our \$100 million investment in mental health and wellbeing is rolling out across the state, with more than 200 health and wellbeing professionals now working in our schools. That is 200 psychologists, guidance officers, social workers and youth workers in schools providing for students' mental health and wellbeing. When it comes to any alternative policies I would love to say something, but I have the laziest shadow education minister in Australia and the cupboard is bare.

*(Time expired)*



### Cost of Living

**Mr BLEIJIE:** My question is to the Premier. Queenslanders are increasingly struggling to afford a home, keep a car on the road, insure their valuables and pay their water and power bills. What responsibility does the Premier accept for almost eight years of cost-of-living increases under the Palaszczuk government?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am happy to go through all of this again for members opposite because they seem to not be listening today. The best thing we can do is give people a job. We understand the dignity of work. We understand that the best thing we can give people is a job so that they can pay the bills and look after their family. That is why we have the ideas and the Energy and Jobs Plan, which is transforming our energy sector. That is why we have a plan—

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Ms King** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** No other government in Australia is able to give the \$575 that we have given back to Queensland households because we own our energy assets. The member for Kawana was part of the Newman government that oversaw average increases—

**Mr Dick:** Can't avoid the truth.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right. They oversaw average increases in—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I will wait until everyone is quiet.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my left! Member for Nanango, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The Newman government oversaw average increases in electricity bills of \$440 after promising to cut bills by \$120. Then they promised ongoing savings of \$80 a year on water bills and once they got into government that promise was restricted to those in South-East Queensland and became a one-off rebate.

Then the member for Clayfield tried to cut electricity concessions for 435,000 seniors and pensioners. Do members remember that? I remember that. I was here and I remember that. It was absolutely shameful. He increased insurance duty, stamp duty went up by \$361 million and there was an emergency management levy. Perhaps the best was from the member for Broadwater. What did he want to do?

**Mr POWELL:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b). The question was about the Premier's responsibility for cost of living in the past eight years and she is clearly not taking it.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, there is no point of order. The Premier is being relevant as I hear her answer.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am giving a history lesson for the new members because I lived through it; Queenslanders lived through it. The member for Broadwater wanted to impose a \$1 billion natural disaster levy. He is not the cuts guy; he is the tax guy. This is the tax guy who proposed a massive tax for Queenslanders.

**Mr Bleijie:** Out-of-touch Premier, checked-out Premier, red-carpet Premier.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Kawana is warned under the standing orders. The Premier's time has expired.

**Ms Palaszczuk:** So childish.

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, we can do without the commentary—and, Treasurer, equally so with regard to you.

### Youth Safety

**Ms McMILLAN:** My question is to the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services. Will the minister update the House on what the Palaszczuk government's plans are to keep our young people safe, and are there any alternative approaches?

**Mr RYAN:** I thank the member for the question. She knows that when you bring legislation to this parliament it says a lot about your values. It says a lot about your priorities. It says a lot about your principles and plans. We know that those opposite have brought nothing to this parliament—no values, no priorities, no plans, no values, no principles.

This government has a very proud record when it comes to bringing legislation to this parliament to make the community safer. It says a lot about our values. It says a lot about our principles. If we look at the statute book we see that we have the toughest laws in the nation when it comes to hooning. We have the toughest laws in the nation when it comes to youth bail. We have the toughest laws in the nation when it comes to organised crime. We have the toughest laws in the nation when it comes to child sex offenders.

Just a few moments ago I announced how we will make those laws even better by making them the longest, toughest and most comprehensive child sex offender laws in the nation. It says a lot about the values and priorities of a political party when it brings legislation to this parliament. This party, the Labor Party, led by the Premier, brings legislation to the parliament to keep kids safe and to hold paedophiles to account.

Those opposite brought legislation to the parliament which weakened monitoring laws for child sex offenders. What did their proposal do? When they passed that legislation in 2014, let us have a look at what Josh Bavas, then at the ABC, said. I know that Josh Bavas is a good journalist because people copy his work so this has to be good. What did Josh Bavas say in 2014? He said that '1,700 child sex offenders who have completed their prison sentences are no longer being monitored by the Queensland Police Service'. That was because of their laws. What a shameful record they had. It says a lot about their values and principles when they pass legislation which means 1,700 paedophiles go from being monitored by the police to not being monitored by the police.

Those opposite like to say that that is in the past, they have changed and all of that. Let us have a look at what Ray Hadley said three weeks ago. This is about child sex offenders and paedophiles. He said, 'I went to the opposition and I have to tell you they're as weak as water—wishy-washy.' This is their values—soft on paedophiles, soft on child sex offenders. We have a tough record.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Currumbin and member for Lytton, you are warned under the standing orders for quarrelling across the chamber.

### **Domestic and Family Violence, Queensland Police Service Complaints**

**Mr BERKMAN:** My question is to the Premier. Last week the government said it accepted all 78 recommendations of the commission of inquiry into police responses to domestic and family violence but has since cast doubt over a key recommendation to stop police investigating police. Can the Premier confirm the government will establish an independent police integrity unit led by a civilian and with civilian investigators to deal with all complaints relating to police?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I addressed this issue at length at the press conference and subsequent to that. As we said, we accept all of the recommendations in principle. We are working through them. We have appointed Steve Gollschewski and Linda Apelt to work through and see how that specific recommendation intersects with the Coaldrake review. The intent is for us to work together to have a clearing house for complaints and a stronger integrity review of complaints that are made in respect of police. Those people I just mentioned will be working through the details together and will be presenting their recommendations to government to make sure that it is a seamless process.

### **Health Infrastructure**

**Ms RICHARDS:** My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Can the minister please update the House on the Palaszczuk government's investment in new health infrastructure, including in my area of the Redlands?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for her question. I know how passionate she is about investing in health infrastructure and how proud she is to be part of the Palaszczuk government that has record investment of almost \$10 billion in capital infrastructure over the next six years across Queensland.

The member and I, along with other members, recently visited the Redland satellite hospital and the expansions at Redland Hospital. We announced the awarding of the contract for stage 1 at Redland Hospital—a \$62 million investment. We also announced investment of \$25 million for a 28-bed ward that will be installed there. It was wonderful to walk around the satellite hospital site and talk to one of

the project managers who said, 'Building the shell of these satellite hospitals can be done quite quickly, but the complexity lies inside because it is the equivalent of building a small hospital.' Why is it equivalent to building a small hospital? Everything going inside is what would normally be in one of our larger hospitals—dialysis, oncology, outpatient rooms, X-ray, virtual health, ambulance bays for drop-offs. These are all things that we would see in a major hospital.

Those opposite want to spend their time running around Queensland saying that they should not be called satellite hospitals. That is their priority—carrying on about the name. Everyone who walks into one of these satellite hospitals in South-East Queensland will not be worrying about the name on the outside of the building. They will be pleased to have these sorts of services close to home. They will have free parking and they will not have to travel as far for dialysis, mental health support, dental services, outpatient services—all of those things which these satellite hospitals will deliver.

It is great to see that we have turned the sod at Eight Mile Plains and at many of the other sites. We are shortly about to do so on Bribie Island. We have roofs going on, steelworks happening and cladding going up. It is so exciting to see these satellite hospitals coming out of the ground.

What I am concerned about is that the Leader of the Opposition—we do not have to look back to when they were in government—has already said they will cut waste in health. They have already said these are not hospitals. I want to know and the people of Queensland want to know what they will do with these satellite hospitals if they are in government. Will they sell them off? Will they privatise them? It is on their wish list. They are filling out their wish list for Christmas. They want to get into government so they can sell every one of these satellite hospitals off because they do not think they are needed, they have never supported them, they certainly would not have built them, and I have no doubt they do not want to run them. They need to be honest with the people of Queensland.

*(Time expired)*

### **Soft Plastics, Recycling**

**Ms BOLTON:** My question is to the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef. Regarding the closure of the REDcycle program for recycling soft plastics, will the minister advise what efforts are being undertaken by government to ensure there is a viable, compliant and sustainable soft plastics recycling scheme in Queensland?

**Ms SCANLON:** I thank the member for the question. I know a lot of people have been disappointed by the temporary halt of the REDcycle scheme. There are a number of reasons why the REDcycle scheme was put on a temporary hold—largely a result of systems in other states. However, I absolutely acknowledge that people rightfully want to recycle soft plastics. It is great to see how many Queenslanders want to recycle products. We have seen how successful that has been particularly in the Containers for Change program. We really want to roll that sort of system out to other sectors as well.

When it comes to our investment, we have a \$1.1 billion Recycling and Jobs Fund that is essentially targeted at a whole range of waste streams. We also announced, with the federal government, funding through the Recycling Modernisation Fund, which was targeted at those waste streams that have been banned for export which include soft plastics. I am hoping to make some announcements soon around some of those sectors that have been successful in receiving federal, state and industry funding.

When it comes to dealing with soft plastics, we obviously need to invest in the infrastructure needed to process these materials. We also need to make sure we have a system that is backed up by policy. One of the pieces of feedback from industry was that, while it is great to make sure we are supporting these industries with funding for infrastructure, we also need to make sure there is actually a product that has been purchased at the end.

One of the things we announced recently as part of our five-year roadmap for plastics was that we want to set a recycling target on those bags as well. It is something I raised at the federal environment ministers meeting to say that we should be doing this across the country. We really need consistent targets that say that when you are purchasing a bag it has a recycle component so you are not using virgin materials so we can repurpose those bags into more bags.

There is a lot of work going on in this space. That \$1.1 billion Recycling and Jobs Fund will hopefully be announcing soon the sorts of waste streams we will be prioritising. That includes things like food and garden organic waste. We are doing a number of trials at the moment in Rockhampton, Townsville and the Lockyer Valley. We are also doing a lot of work with schools because I know schools are really passionate about organic waste in particular.

I note that in the member's electorate we also have the Plastic Free Places program and we have that across the state. We are working with the Boomerang Alliance—I know we are doing some work in the member for Keppel's electorate as well—to encourage businesses and individuals to think about the products they are using. There are more sustainable options on the market and we really need to make sure that people are aware of those and that ideally they are manufactured here in Queensland.

There is a lot of work happening across the board. I want to give people confidence that we acknowledge people want to recycle these products. We will hopefully have a scheme set up soon that can make sure we can recycle and remanufacture these products going forward.

### **Springfield, AFLW**

**Mrs MULLEN:** My question is of the Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement. Can the minister tell the House how the community will benefit from the new AFLW arena at Springfield and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I thank the member for question. The member for Jordan has had a really strong commitment to working with the Lions and seeing through the completion of Brighton Homes Arena and delivering great community outcomes. It was a full house, as the Premier mentioned earlier, on Sunday at the opening game at the new \$82.1 million arena at Springfield. This was not just any game: it was the AFLW grand final. As season 7 minor premiers, the Brisbane Lions earned the right to host the decider and show the nation what they had achieved at Springfield.

The Lions-Melbourne Demons grand final showdown was in every sense a thriller. In hot and muggy conditions, the Demons eventually prevailed to claim a four-point grand final victory. The Lions' disappointment was tempered by Shannon Campbell being named player of the match and by making football infrastructure history. Brighton Homes Arena is Australia's first purpose-built stadium for a professional female football team. It is also the first potential Olympic venue to be completed since Brisbane was named host of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Brighton Homes Arena kicks goals with a multipurpose training facility for elite female and male athletes—a community sporting facility, a new base for Multicultural Australia in the region, and community medical and childcare facilities. This complex creates a great pathway and inspiration for young female Aussie Rules players of the future and also for wonderful positive activity in the local community by so many people. It has been great to see students from local schools using the facility already for Auskick and other activities—a great partnership between the Lions and local school communities.

Brighton Homes Arena also supported more than 260 good Queensland jobs during construction. It was made possible through a funding partnership between all three levels of government, the Lions, the AFL and commercial partners. It is a great example of how we can achieve great community outcomes by people coming together and supporting each other.

Equally, like so many building projects and so many good opportunities, the arena has been impacted by supply chain challenges. As a consequence, the Palaszczuk government did tip in an extra \$3 million on top of our initial \$15 million commitment and investment to get the project done. Despite requests to the former LNP federal government for a similar top-up, they flatly refused. That is a great example of those people who claim to be out there supporting good community outcomes being dragged kicking and screaming to fund anything despite the obvious community values in doing so. It is the same playbook that we saw with those opposite who at one point in time wanted to cancel the Commonwealth Games.

*(Time expired)*

### **Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro Project**

**Mr O'CONNOR:** My question is to the Minister for the Environment. The government's energy transition strategy rests on the unplanned and unfunded Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro project. Can the minister outline what environmental assessments her department has undertaken which supported the determination of this site as the government's preferred location?

**Ms SCANLON:** I thank the member for the question, although I do not accept some of the premise of the question. Like any project, all projects in this state have to go through environmental approval processes both at a state level and, if there are matters of national environmental significance, they

need to go through the environmental protection and biodiversity conservation process—a process that the federal government was supposed to improve on last term but failed to. Thankfully, we have a new federal government that actually takes the protection of the environment seriously.

When it comes to our Energy and Jobs Plan, I am more than happy to talk about our Energy and Jobs Plan.

**Dr Miles:** What about a nuclear plant? Where would you put a nuclear plant?

**Ms SCANLON:** Of course, the only plan we have heard from them is their nuclear plan. I take the Deputy Premier's interjection. We have heard criticisms from a number of members opposite about pumped hydro—

**Mr Janetzki** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Toowoomba South!

**Ms SCANLON:**—but we have heard nothing about what their actual emissions reduction plan or their renewable energy plan is. In fact, the shadow minister for the environment gets paid extra for being a shadow minister, but I have seen nothing from them about any policy—

**Mr O'Connor** interjected.

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

**Ms SCANLON:**—or any private member's motion—just laziness.

**Mr O'Connor** interjected.

**Mr Janetzki** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Bonney, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Toowoomba South, cumulatively you are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms SCANLON:** When it comes to our energy plan, I am more than happy to talk about our energy plan any day of the week: \$62 billion of investment, delivering the SuperGrid, making sure we maintain public ownership—something we know those opposite do not support. We saw the Leader of the Opposition walk through the asset sales picket line when he was last in power. We are providing our jobs guarantee. In fact, we know there are going to be more jobs—

**Ms Camm** interjected.

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

**Ms SCANLON:**—under our energy plan than if we did not provide it. We also know that energy prices will be better with this energy plan than if we did not have this plan and we did not provide this level of investment. I feel sorry for the shadow minister for environment because he would have nothing to work with with those opposite. We have members who do not even support renewable energy in the Liberal National Party.

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Ms SCANLON:** I take the Attorney-General's interjection. They went to the last election saying they wanted to scrap the renewable energy target altogether. Then they say they want to see a plan, we deliver a plan and now they have a problem with the plan, but they do not say what their plan is. No-one on this side will be lectured to about renewable energy or climate change by those opposite. We have just seen a reactive monitoring mission report that says governments need to take—

**Ms Camm** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Whitsunday, you are on a warning. You are interjecting. There are no interjections when you are on a warning. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Whitsunday withdrew from the chamber at 11.10 am.*

**Ms SCANLON:**—real and meaningful action on climate change. That is what we are doing. It will reduce emissions in the electricity sector by 90 per cent. Those opposite have nothing; they just criticise any renewable energy investment on this side. I will stand up on our record any day of the week.

### Housing Strategy

**Ms LAUGA:** My question is of the Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts. Will the minister update the House on the Palaszczuk government's delivery of the Queensland Housing Strategy and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

**Ms ENOCH:** I thank the member for Keppel for the question and her commitment to social housing along with many on this side of the House. I have been joined by many from this side of the House for sod turnings, the handing over of properties and site visits—everybody from the member for Greenslopes, the member for Waterford, the member for Logan, the member for Pumicestone and the member for Mackay. The list goes on and on because we are delivering more and more social and affordable homes right across Queensland.

In fact, since coming to office we have completed over 4,000 new social and affordable homes as a result of our strategy. Not only more social homes but we have also been able to commit \$14 million to an older women's strategy to support women over the age of 55 who may be, or are at risk of, experiencing homelessness. We have \$30 million for the establishment of two youth foyers and another we are beginning work on in Townsville, and I want to acknowledge the Townsville members at the recent sod turning with regard to that new youth foyer. We have delivered a \$21 million Immediate Housing Response Package to support homelessness services right across our state. We have replaced crisis shelters for women and families across our state and also delivered new ones.

We are not only building but also supporting Queenslanders into social housing. We have delivered over 200 new social homes since July this year; we have assisted 1,660 Queenslanders into social housing; and we have been supporting those who are in the private rental market through our private market assistance. Since July this financial year we have been able to provide 23,589 forms of private market assistance, including rental bonds, bond loans, rental security subsidies and other forms of subsidy. Last financial year there were almost 200,000 forms of that support.

That is all happening because we are delivering on our housing strategy. We are able to do that because we committed to that plan, and we have seen that through the increase in funding to support that plan. In fact, the Treasurer and Premier announced a doubling of our Housing Investment Fund. We are now at nearly \$4 billion in terms of the work we are doing to support the plan we have in Queensland. What do we see from those opposite? Not much, I have to say, when it comes to housing. They probably just scratched a few little things on the back of a serviette. Apparently, they have a three-point plan. One of those points is to deliver more social housing. What we saw when they were in government was 428 fewer social homes because of their strategy. We know their record. They do not support social housing. They sought a 90 per cent cut in the construction of social homes. On this side we deliver social housing—

*(Time expired)*

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

## MOTIONS

### Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.14 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders:

- (a) the Premier and Minister for the Olympics be permitted to immediately move a motion without notice regarding a 'National Voice to Parliament' with the following time limits to apply—
  - three minutes for all members;
  - with the question being put after one hour of debate; and
- (b) the business program motion to occur after the conclusion of the debate of the motion.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

### Voice to Parliament



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (11.15 am): I move—

That this House supports the implementation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, in full, including a constitutionally enshrined voice to our national parliament.

Now is the time for this parliament to show its support. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese took this to the federal election and I believe that now the time has come. We are in the fortunate position that as a parliament we can show our support to First Nations people here. On our side we have three

First Nations people and I am proud to have them in our government. If we are going to close the gap, if we are going to move forward as a nation, now is the time. The Uluru Statement from the Heart and the Voice to Parliament take nothing away from any of us. It only seeks to add, to give more by recognising the 60,000 year Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ancestry of our country.


I am proud to stand up in this parliament today and say that this House supports the implementation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart. I understand that Australia is the only nation in the world yet to formally recognise its First Nations people in the form of a treaty or constitutional recognition. I am appalled that just recently the National Party, under David Littleproud, has come out saying they are opposed to this. It is not right that the National Party seeks to divide our country.

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I take that interjection: as a Queenslander, at a time when we all should be working together. This is a great opportunity to move together as one. I am also concerned to hear that at the weekend the LNP State Council overwhelmingly backed a resolution calling on the federal coalition to oppose the Voice to Parliament in the coming referendum. Today finally is an opportunity for the Leader of the Opposition and those opposite to take a stand and stand up for every First Nations Queenslander and show this House supports the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

It is reported in the *Australian* that sources said the motion was opposed by a small number of representatives from the LNP council in a closed session which was attended by up to 200 state and federal MPs and party officials. Today is the day this parliament overwhelmingly sends the clear message that we stand on the side of every single First Nations person.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Before I call the next speaker I will remind the House of those members who are under a warning: the members for Buderim, Maroochydore, Sandgate, Clayfield, Broadwater, Pumicestone, Nanango, Lytton, Currumbin, Bonney, Toowoomba South and Whitsunday.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.18 am): I am going to embrace the opportunity to talk about First Nations people in this state and First Nations people in this country. I am going to start by making the observation that the Premier has said that she does not want to see anything that seeks to divide, yet we get this motion and the opposition is not given one minute's notice—not one minute.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! I will have order in this debate.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** If the Premier was truly looking for a unified position, if the Premier was looking for this parliament to send a clear message, would this not have been done in the spirit of cooperation? I contrast the way the Prime Minister has conducted himself in this debate with the way the Premier just did. I want to point to Mr Albanese's leadership and the way he has sought to build consensus on this versus the grubby wedge politics of this third-term, checked-out Premier. I will say two things about Mr Albanese. The first is that he has given this every opportunity to succeed by the way he has conducted himself, and the second is that Mr Albanese said that governments do not get better in their fourth term. I have to say that he is right about both of those.


I have been in all 16 Indigenous communities that have a council chamber in this state. I have walked there, I have listened, I have reflected on the challenges that they face, and I will say this to you, Mr Deputy Speaker: this parliament should come in here and with every ounce of effort we should determine the things that we control with those Indigenous communities and we should get them right. One of those is running water, where communities that many of our members represent do not have access to reliable water. Another is housing. In the Speaker's electorate people are crammed in homes and, to the great credit of the Speaker, he has called it out. There are not job opportunities.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The House will come to order. This is a general warning. I will start to warn members on both sides of the House if we continue to have a disorderly debate.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** People are crammed into houses, the standard of which no-one would accept anywhere else in this country. Job opportunities just are not there, unemployment is at figures that no-one should ever accept and children are put in harm's way, yet ministers give nothing to fix it. The government cannot come in here with cheap political stunts when the things under their watch are not being tackled.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Capalaba, you are on a warning. I had asked for the House to come to order and you continued to interject after that general warning. You are on a warning. I did not want to interrupt the speaker on his feet.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (11.22 am): What a disappointment. Those opposite cannot even come in here and tell Queenslanders whether they support a Voice or not. They are too afraid to say what they really think, so we get three minutes of guff from the Leader of the Opposition with no spine, no strength and no leadership whatsoever.

In this House we represent more than five million Queenslanders. This House has represented them for more than 160 years, but Queensland's history is much older with our first Queenslanders dating back tens of thousands of years. They are the proud custodians of this land, going back hundreds of generations, but the legacy of colonisation and marginalisation has entrenched institutional disadvantage, affecting everything from education outcomes to life expectancy. We all have a responsibility to right these old wrongs and close the gap.

That is why the Uluru Statement from the Heart is so important. It is a path to reconciliation with our First Nations people. While we see the Uluru Statement from the Heart and the Indigenous Voice to Parliament as a chance to come together, those opposite are looking to use them to score cheap political points and divide Queenslanders. On the weekend their state council, the LNP State Council, overwhelmingly backed a motion opposing the treaty. In his contribution, the Leader of the Opposition would not say if he voted for that motion and he would not say if he spoke against that motion. He would not say if at the LNP State Council he did the right thing or the wrong thing. From what he did say today, I suspect he did the wrong thing.

They are proposing a united campaign to deny First Australians their voice and representation that they rightly deserve to our federal parliament. They are weaponising racist stereotypes and misrepresenting the nature of the Voice to the detriment of our First Nations people. Tragically, the National Party represents many of the most disadvantaged Indigenous communities. In fact, David Littleproud himself represents many of those disadvantaged communities that he as leader of the National Party continues to demand are disenfranchised. Today Queenslanders deserved to know if those opposite share those views, and now we have learnt they do not even have the guts to tell us.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Before I call the member for Surfers Paradise, I would ask the Deputy Premier to withdraw that unparliamentary language.

**Dr MILES:** I withdraw.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I do not need assistance from that side of the House. Treasurer, you also used unparliamentary language in some of your contributions. I ask you to withdraw.

**Mr DICK:** I withdraw.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (11.25 am): Talking about cheap political stunts, that is exactly what we have had from this government—putting on this motion today with absolutely no notice. We are happy to debate it—not with prepared speeches and not to speak about what the federal government are talking about doing with what they have suggested over the last six months, but to look at what this government have done with their own treaty process. We have even had criticism from the people who have been tasked with doing the treaty process. Mick Gooda and Dr Jackie Huggins have castigated the process. This government had a report for months and months, and in Reconciliation Week Dr Jackie Huggins expressed her concerns about the fact that no action had been taken.

What about the lack of goodwill from those opposite when it comes to involving the opposition in something that is supposedly for all Queenslanders? The minister came to us and gave us a briefing the night before the big spectacular function on the Speaker's Green. He asked us to commit to something he could not actually give us a copy of and he asked us to sign it before it could even go through our shadow cabinet. That is not process.

The treaty process by this government is a shambles. Do not worry about some concept that those opposite are signing up to. As the member for Condamine said, what is the process, and what is the Voice all about? We have not been given any idea. Those opposite have not proceeded with their own treaty process in the way they said they would. The Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships has said we will have legislation in this House before the end of the year. Well, I am yet to see it. Do not worry about the Voice. What about the treaty process here in Queensland?


Let us have a look at the support they have given current Indigenous organisations. Cape York Partnership works throughout Cape York in Bamaga, New Mapoon, Djarragun, Mossman Gorge, Western Cape and Wujal Wujal. Every time this comes up for renewal, this government squibs about—



**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Pause the clock. I ask all members to cease their interjections.

**Mr LANGBROEK**: I am talking about Cape York Partnership and the fact that they are working on policy, empowerment, education, employment, health, language and culture, yet this government always looks to not renew their contract despite the work they do to get practical outcomes for Indigenous communities. I have been to Mapoon and I have been to Cherbourg. Those opposite should remember that there are as many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people amongst us as there are in far-flung areas of Queensland. We have the Family Responsibilities Commission and the federal government has cut the cashless debit card without any consequence for the families who have elected to be a part of that. This government needs to do better on the things that it is responsible for.


 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (11.29 am): After that contribution, I am more saddened than I have ever been before. This country has been living with an untruth for over 200 years, and that untruth is terra nullius. It has formed the basis of our Constitution, it has formed the basis of failed policies from centuries ago, and it is the basis of intergenerational trauma and racism which First Nations people are still experiencing today.

As you heard from the Premier, unlike almost every other nation, Australia does not have a formal treaty with the First Peoples of this country—the ancient cultures and peoples of this country. That is why the Uluru Statement from the Heart is so very important. It is an invitation to walk with First Nations peoples towards voice, towards treaty, towards truth so that we can overcome this untruth that we have been living with all of these decades.

In Queensland we are on our Path to Treaty, truth-telling and healing. We have a part to play in ensuring First Nations peoples have a voice to our federal parliament and that in decision-making and policy considerations we consider First Nations first. We are seeing that in Queensland. We are already doing the work here with regard to policies and service delivery. We know that closing the gap is so incredibly important. That is why you see that in the actual service delivery of education, health and housing.

All of the frontline services are already doing this work with regard to closing the gap, but what is missing is the overturning of this untruth that we have been living with all of this time, this untruth that First Nations peoples should not be counted as human beings, the untruth that our culture, the most ancient culture in the whole of the world, is not valid or valued compared to others. That is untruth that we have been living with. That is why the Voice is so very important. It means that we are saying in our Constitution that we are ready to understand the truth of where we came from and who we are and how we want to be into the future.

The Voice is fundamental to that. It is fundamental. That is why this motion should be supported where this House can fundamentally stand up and say that we will no longer live with an untruth, that we will absolutely embrace the truth of who we are and we will make sure that that is part of our Constitution and that we will support the Voice. The fact that the Nationals, not even knowing what the actual question is, are already saying no to it speaks volumes about where they come from and what they put as valuable.


 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (11.32 am): Unlike those opposite, I rise to speak to support this motion because I am proud to support the Voice to Parliament. Today is an opportunity for all MPs here and all parties represented to put politics aside and come together to support an important reform for our nation.

Let us reflect. The Voice came from Uluru, a statement to the heart from the heart. The Voice is an invitation from First Nations people to all Australian people, an invitation to walk with them and to make meaningful change. This is a grand nation. This is a grand gesture from the First Nations people of this country. It is First Nations people who have taken the initiative to try to heal our nation from the consequences of colonisation and the dispossession, the mistakes and the damage that was inflicted upon them. This is an act of extraordinary grace and good faith from First Nations people. They are extending a hand of friendship and a hand of reform.

Like many members and like many Queenslanders I had hoped that this would be a straightforward matter. All we have to do is say yes—yes to truth, yes to reconciliation, yes to the Voice. Sadly, in the last few days, what should be a simple matter of ‘yes’ has become much more complicated because the federal National Party has made the decision to oppose the Voice, led by its Queensland leader, David Littleproud, and following in the footsteps of its federal LNP leader, another

Queenslander, Peter Dutton, who opposed the apology to the stolen generations. David Littleproud is cut from the same cloth. Make no mistake: this is an awful, mean-spirited, hurtful decision. It would be appear to be a misguided effort to stoke the right wing of politics in this country and the right wing of the National Party, a cheap stunt to attract votes. It is a decision unbecoming of the party of the late Tim Fischer, a man who fought the extreme right, a man who could recognise that the national interest should surpass political interest. What a terrible shame. It is an opportunity lost, but one thrown away, cheaply discarded by the National Party.

The last thing that we wanted was this debate. Can I say this: we cannot ignore the National Party. It is an affiliate of the Liberal National Party here. The State Council of the Liberal National Party itself voted to oppose the Voice. What was the position of the Leader of the Opposition? He ran away. Weak, indecisive, he ran away today to his eternal shame.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (11.35 am): With one minute's notice, I have been given this motion which shows you the contempt with which this government is handling this parliament. It is about arrogance, hubris and political point-scoring. The least they could have done was give us forward information that they were going to do this. It highlights the arrogance of this government and the way that they treat this parliament as their plaything with their numbers, and they can do that in this unicameral parliament. I have a question for the government members over there: hand on the heart, how many members of the government have read the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full? One, two—there are quite a few that have not.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Through the chair, please, member.


**Mr STEVENS:** There are quite a few who have not, Mr Deputy Speaker, and I have not, yet I am asked to vote on something that I have no idea about with one minute's notice.

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Attorney-General, please cease your interjections. The member will be heard in silence.

**Mr STEVENS:** I might well want to vote in the positive manner. However, I cannot vote on something I know nothing about. I have not read the Uluru statement. As our leader said, the Prime Minister is taking it through a considered debate, asking different people from different areas whether it should go forward. This will be a constitutional referendum, as I understand it. With one minute's notice, to come in here and say, 'How are you going to vote on the Uluru Statement from the Heart?' is a load of rubbish from an out-of-touch, third-term government that does not deserve to be in for the fourth term. They are arrogant. There is hubris. Just ask Campbell Newman what happened to arrogance. Just ask Campbell Newman. In 20 months time, you will see what will happen for this sort of malarky to be carried on through this parliament. You are making an absolute shame of this parliament doing these sorts of political tricks. It is absolutely ridiculous. This government has no respect for this parliament. They just use their numbers for cheap political points. It is absolutely disgusting.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (11.38 am): I rise to contribute to the debate such as it is on this motion. I would like to begin my contribution by acknowledging the former member for Cook, Billy Gordon, who passed away suddenly and recently over the weekend. He provided a strong voice for First Nations people in this very chamber.

In 1962 a bill was brought before the federal parliament that sought to give the right to vote to First Nations Australians. Then in 1984 First Nations people in Australia were brought into line with everybody else and compulsory voting was introduced for them. Up until then it was completely optional. When I was born and when many of the people in this chamber who are sitting members were born, voting was still optional for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In 1967 we had a referendum to acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as citizens of this country, to put them on the electoral roll. Every single federal parliamentarian voted in support of it in that referendum.

That is why it was so disappointing to learn that the federal National Party has taken a firm partisan position to oppose the national Voice to Parliament when they have not yet seen the details. There has been no bill put before the parliament. They have adopted a position against the national voice without even seeing it. It is totally premature. It is the right of Queenslanders to know what the position of the Queensland LNP is when it comes to this issue. The reason we are debating this motion today is their federal colleagues have decided to take a position on it. We in this chamber need to know what their position is in Queensland. I cannot wait to see how they are going to vote.



**Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (11.41 am): I have just spoken with the Yuwibara people and the Wiri Biri people in my region, who have no idea about the situation we are talking about here. They do not understand whether the people who are going to be put into these positions of the Voice to Parliament will be democratically elected or appointed by the government.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr ANDREW:** It is not a disgrace; it is a fair question. The people have asked me to ask—

**An honourable member:** Your leader!

**Mr ANDREW:** It has nothing to do with my leader. I represent the people of Mirani in this place.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Through the chair, please, member.

**Mr ANDREW:** I listened to the member for Algeester's contribution here today. Yes, there is generational trauma and I do fight for all my people, including the original South Sea islander people. We are all interlinked with the Aboriginal people. They are all saying the same thing: 'What does this all mean? Where does it come from?'

**An honourable member:** What's your position?

**Mr ANDREW:** The position is show me what we are actually voting on. I understand it. I do not understand the situation.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr ANDREW:** I am not taking interjections.

**Mr Whiting** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Bancroft, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Mr ANDREW:** I always stand by the people and the people need to understand what this is all about. They do not understand.

**Ms Richards** interjected.

**Mr ANDREW:** I stand up for all people's heritage. We are intermixed. Even the member for Algeester will tell honourable members we are all intermixed with the Australian South Sea islanders. We stand by the people all the time. The problem is we are doing too many things at the top level and we are not talking to the people who actually live in these areas. I just got off the phone from them. They are asking me, 'What's this all about? How come no-one has actually spoken to us?' It was exactly the same with the Pioneer hydro project with the Yuwibara people.

**Ms Fentiman:** What about Eungella?

**Mr ANDREW:** They actually went there. I went well at Eungella, thanks. The point is this—

**Ms Fentiman:** How did the Wiri people go?

**Mr ANDREW:** They were fine. The point is this: they were never asked anything. They were never told anything. We did a signing here at parliament and then when we went out there we just organised and announced something that no-one even knew about. They still say, 'We don't know anything about what's going on. We don't know why they're coming into the electorate and saying this and putting up all these proposals.' Yes, it was generational trauma, and don't I know it? I might not be Aboriginal, but a lot of my family are and we speak about it all the time.

There are bills in parliament and recognition statements over there that cannot be acted on in this House in terms of the Australian South Sea islanders who are also Australian First Nations and Australian tribal people. We would like to get some clarity so we know what we are actually looking at and voting for and whether the government are appointing people or they are democratically elected in this process.

*(Time expired)*



**Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (11.45 am): I rise today as a proud lamalaig woman from Yam Island in the Torres Strait and a proud member of the Palaszczuk Labor government. I proudly stand today to support this motion because the Uluru Statement from the Heart has three objectives: Voice to Parliament, treaty and truth. I feel proud to support this motion because for the first time in history we have a federal government committed to taking the bold step to walk with First Nations people together—it is not symbolic or divisive, just hope for the future. Finally we have a seat at the table to have input into improving policies. For us as lawmakers, it is about acknowledging, accepting and looking beyond the traditions of fixing. It is about working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.


While I am on my feet I would like to table the Uluru Statement from the Heart for the benefit of the member for Mermaid Beach.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Uluru Statement from the Heart' [1982].

I would encourage him to take some time out to actually read what the Uluru statement is saying.


Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders have the lowest socio-economic outcomes in this country, and let's talk about that. In health, our people are dying young. In education, we are struggling to see positive outcomes because to get our children to graduate we must first address layers and layers of social problems. We have the highest representation of First Nations people being incarcerated, the group that is always being deemed to be the most disadvantaged and the group that everyone feels sorry for because for some reason society has come to see us as the group that just cannot seem to get it right. We can get it right. It is about giving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders a Voice to Parliament. If we are ever going to meaningfully close the gap we need the voices of our people, like those from the communities across Cape York and Torres Strait in my electorate, to be heard at the highest level of government. Enshrining anything in the Australian Constitution simply means we are protecting it under law from future changes in government.

It is disappointing to hear some of the questions and views of those opposite about the Voice to Parliament. For far too long Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been living under policies that have always been made just for them. Now there is a chance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to have a voice at the table, to talk about policies that affect them, to improve the lives of people in this state and, most importantly, we can become a more inclusive society where everyone has the same opportunities and we can live life as one.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (11.48 am): I would like to refer to the contribution made earlier by the member for Mirani. I think he made a very good point in saying that he had just been on the phone to the Indigenous communities in his electorate and they said they were not aware of the implications of this proposal. It seems they are as in the dark about it as we are. I do take the interjection that came across the chamber earlier on that we do not know the full details of what this proposal involves. The suggestion that anybody should be committing to support it in the absence of the details is wrong.

I pride myself on being in touch with the Indigenous issues that I face as the member who represents the people of the Southern Downs. I am sure that if I spoke with those people, as the member for Mirani said, they would be as much in the dark about what this proposal involves as we are. I make one observation: if you want to have influence and change things, being elected is the key. If this proposal provides for unelected representation then it is a proposal which I believe will be destined to have limited effect in advancing the interests of our First Nations people.


I simply cannot understand how the Labor government would politicise a matter like this—bringing this motion with one minute's notice when their members have been provided with speeches and are speaking from notes. I reserve my decision on whether or not I believe that this proposal is what is right and what will be in the best interests of First Nations people, or whether it will be symbolism and more talk without the action that is needed to assist people in Indigenous communities who are doing it tough.

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (11.50 am): I have never heard such a disjointed and rambling response from an opposition in my time in parliament. They still cannot work out whether they are voting yes or no to this motion. I support this motion. It is disappointing to hear the federal National Party jumping the gun by formally announcing that they will not support a constitutionally enshrined Voice to Parliament, before the question has even been drafted. Believing that the Voice to Parliament will not support efforts in closing the gap in Indigenous disadvantage shows how disconnected the federal leadership of the National Party is when it comes to Indigenous policy development and implementation.

Of course we need to be working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on the ground to develop policies and programs that will affect them. In fact, in order to change the levels of disadvantage experienced by First Nations people, having legislation, policy and programs informed by them is critical. In order for us as governments to facilitate a positive future for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, we need to have their voices informing change at the highest levels. This means informing the parliament.

Parliament needs to hear their voices for their future development and how we all get there together. It is not good enough to only have the voices on the ground. This has been the process for years and all of the Closing the Gap data and evidence tells us that this has not worked, because government has not listened to the voices on the ground. In fact, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are constantly telling me that they are sick and tired of telling governments the same things over and over again, with the policies and programs of the day not reflecting the input they have provided over and over again. If as a country we are going to improve the life outcomes for our country's First People then we need to have their voices heard and respected in parliament—collective voices who support our First Nations MPs.

The Uluru Statement from the Heart is not the voice of one or two Aboriginal people who have had their ear to the media; it is a call to action by First Nations people from across our country to enshrine a Voice to Parliament in the country's national Constitution. Isn't it about time we started to listen to the First People of this continent, particularly if our goal is to close the gap? Isn't it time we recognised more than 65,000 years of Australian history, the need to address the impacts of the last 250 years on First Nations people and the critical requirement of all decisions affecting them at all levels? I call on all members of this House to engage in this nation-building dialogue and to hear the collective voices of First Nations people. I am proud to support the implementation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (11.53 am): I am so proud to be supporting this motion today. I am so proud that it is a federal Labor government that will now take action. After years of inaction by those opposite federally, we are now as a nation progressing a constitutionally enshrined First Nations Voice to Parliament. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity.


I want to read from the Uluru Statement from the Heart. I cannot believe that there are members opposite who have not taken the time to even read it who stand up and are part of a debate, who let their party's council oppose it before even reading what it is about. As the Uluru Statement from the Heart says—

With substantive constitutional change and structural reform, we believe this ancient sovereignty can shine through as a fuller expression of Australia's nationhood.

We on this side of the House agree. We are proud to stand alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in working towards a better, fairer and more truthful Australia. I cannot understand why the LNP State Council and the Nationals will be on the wrong side of history on this. Why would the Leader of the Opposition stand up and be part of this debate and not say what he believes? Where does the Leader of the Opposition stand? What is the member for Broadwater's view? How did he vote at the LNP council and what is his position right now? It is not just that the Nationals and David Littleproud are now going to campaign against it; it is that the LNP here in Queensland are afraid to take a stand on anything.

It is pretty depressing when you long for the days of conservative leadership like John Howard, because at least he stood for something. At least he took a stand against the dinosaurs in his party—the sexist and racist attitudes of that party that allow them to take a vote opposing a constitutionally enshrined voice without even seeing the model. It is absolutely outrageous. We know that the member for Broadwater has form when it comes to not taking a stance on anything. He will not take a stance on quotas and getting more women into the parliament. He will not tell us their plans for abortion and a woman's right to choose. Now he will not say his own view or his party's view on a Voice to Parliament. On this side of the House we are so proud to stand alongside our First Nations people, and I am so proud of the First Nations members in our caucus for all that they do.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Before I call the next speaker, I acknowledge that we are joined in the gallery today by the former member for Woodridge, Desley Scott. Welcome, Desley.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (11.57 am): I proudly support this motion. I support it because it supports a statement that was put together by First Nations people, telling us what they want and what their vision is for Australia. We heard from the members for Algeester, Cook and Bundamba—their views and their vision of where things should go.

During the mental health inquiry earlier this year we heard very clear feedback from many First Nations people about the need for our nation to heal the very significant scar and damage at the core of its founding and that this was one of the most important things we need to do to address intergenerational trauma. That is why we made recommendations in relation to the Uluru Statement from the Heart. This is not window-dressing or a black armband view of history; this is something that will help our nation to move forward.


I grew up in a small town in North Queensland. I think it was pretty typical of a lot of towns across Australia: a school for the Catholics, a school for the Protestants and a school for the Indigenous First Nations people. I can tell you which school had the worst facilities. Where you went to school would have determined how you moved forward in life. We have changed a lot since then, and we need to change a hell of a lot more.

Every single Australian will have an opportunity to make a choice at some point in the next 12 months. The choice will be: will we continue as a nation of 'them and us' and 'us and them', or will we become a nation just of 'us'? Will we become a nation that is united, honest about our past and optimistic about our future? That is the real choice we have to make. I support this motion because the people of Greenslopes support it. It is why they formed the Greenslopes Reconciliation Group: they want to see reconciliation, in all its forms, moving forward.

It is so disappointing that we do not know the choices of the state LNP in relation to this. The people of Queensland certainly want to know the choices their political leaders are making. I am certainly making my views here clear, as is our entire party. I want to refer to Senator Gerard Rennick—another great Queenslander—who opposes this on principle because, as he says—

... Labor have done it with every other thing they have done. They introduce it. It starts off little and then it gets more and more and more.

I hope we get more and more and more. I hope we have more and more empowerment for First Nations people. I hope we have more and more empowerment, health care, educational outcomes, housing and everything else for First Nations people. That is exactly what I hope we achieve as a Labor Party.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (12.00 pm): I rise to make a quick and impromptu contribution to this motion. I must admit that I have not read the whole of the Uluru statement. I understand what it means and I understand some of the virtues of what it is trying to achieve. However, what I really understand is the people that I interact with in my electorate and the numerous First Australian people who come to my office every week. I am very proud that they will come in to talk to me about things, but this has never been raised with me. I have been going to Doomadgee and Mornington for 10 years and this has never been raised with me. What has been raised with me is how they get a job and what I can do to help them with their blue card. I have been asked how I can help them with these things. I recall a conversation that I had years ago in the coffee lounge with an MP who said, 'The fix for everything, mate, is a treaty.' I thought that I was a bloke who liked trying to fix problems in politics and I could not see how a treaty was going to help these people get a job in Doomadgee or in Mornington. That is what I am about fixing.

I could agree with this. I am not saying that I disagree with it, but what I get really annoyed about is that this becomes the focus and people say, 'Everything will be solved by the treaty.' Rather, we need to work with things on the ground now. I have been coming in here now for 10 years trying to get action on things like blue cards and title deeds. An alcohol management plan at Mornington Island took about eight or nine years to get. They are the things that are tricky and that are hard, but this becomes the priority. I could be excused for saying that, despite some very well-meaning people driving for things that they want and saying that this will be the answer to all of their prayers, I am not sure I agree with that. There is a lot of stuff that we should be doing right now that is a priority and it is very easy to use this as a smokescreen. We are putting in all of this effort here, but we are forgetting the things that are right in front of our noses and we are not acting on those.

**An honourable member:** Do both.


**Mr KATTER:** I take that interjection: why can we not do both? That is a very good question, because I have been putting these things on the table now and it confuses me why we are not acting on them. That is what I am saying. I have been here for 10 years saying, 'How about we have some action on blue cards?' I have my third bill before the parliament now and it is going to be knocked down. If members were to go to these communities and ask them what they want, they want some action on blue cards.

**Ms Grace:** Blue cards aren't the answer to everything, Robbie.

**Mr KATTER:** I do not have the answer to anything. You are quite right, Minister: I do not have the answer to everything, but I understand that blue cards are an issue.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): Pause the clock. Minister, you will stop your interjections across the chamber.

**Mr KATTER:** I understand where the problems are and I am not afraid to walk away from them or to try to resolve them, not by saying that everything will be solved by a treaty, and that is what I think is happening here.

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (12.03 pm): This motion that the House supports the implementation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full, including a constitutionally enshrined voice to our national parliament, is extremely important for the future of our nation and it says so much about who we are. I am concerned by the level of debate by some in this contribution and I am astounded that some have made no effort to even read the document. It is fundamental to us as a nation and as we move forward as a people.


The Nationals' announcement that it opposes a Voice to Parliament is incredibly disappointing and holds Australia back. A Voice to Parliament gives the Australian government the opportunity to make policies with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples rather than for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This is part of a process which we have been going through since we invaded this country. A Voice to Parliament gives many opportunities. Current policy-making does not have a systemic process for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to provide advice, meaning that the policy is often made for them, as I said, as opposed to with them. This is about a process of further engagement, so Senator Matt Canavan tweeting that 'the Voice is all about more jobs for bureaucrats in Canberra, not solutions for Indigenous Australians' is not just insulting; it is patronising and it is paternalistic.

**Mrs Mullen:** He was a bureaucrat.

**Mr HEALY:** Yes, so coming from a bureaucrat I find that even more entertaining. Noel Pearson's comments in relation to the Nationals leader's—proud little David; sorry, David Littleproud—announcement are absolutely spot-on. He said that the Nationals had 'foisted the mantle of leadership on a boy' of Littleproud, whom he also described as a 'kindergarten' child and incapable of leadership that is necessary for the country and for his party. He added, 'I really think the National Party is writing itself off for the future,' as it appears to have done in this chamber. What is the Queensland LNP's view? What is it going to do with a Voice to Parliament? Does it support the comments made by its colleagues David Littleproud and Matt Canavan? Is it going to write itself off for the future also? In my patch we have Warren Entsch, the member for Leichhardt. Warren Entsch recently made the statement—

My concern about a Voice to Parliament is a group of elitists will not represent the majority. You get a small group of individuals that hold out against the majority and it's generally about money.

That sounds very much like a particular party. It is absolutely remarkable and extremely disappointing to hear that. It is time for the Nationals and the Liberal Nationals opposite to make their position clear: do they support these atrocious comments of their federal Queensland colleagues or do they support a voice to federal parliament?


 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (12.06 pm): Today I proudly rise to support this motion and I do so because I have taken the view in this policy space to try to inform myself and to try to enable my community and my constituents to inform themselves and I am flabbergasted that people in this House have not bothered to read a one-page statement, let alone come into this chamber thinking that was a source of pride. That is just disgusting. I want to thank Minister Crawford for recently coming to Stafford to hold a community forum. As it turned out, this was held on 31 October which for me is the two-year anniversary of election day, so I could not think of a more fitting way to mark it and it was fantastic.

Those opposite might want to have a think about who is involved in this space, because while it was a forum about First Nations people and our First Nations history it was not a forum just for First Nations people themselves; it was a forum for our community. We had schoolteachers, community groups, sporting clubs, students and seniors groups and everything in-between, and that is because this is an issue that should impact all of us because it impacts all of our history and comes from all of our history. The forum was hosted at the Stafford Salvos. Thankyou to Major Ian Channell for hosting us and thankyou to Ms Cheryl Buchanan, who is the co-chair of the independent interim body. I want to give a particular shout-out to Moira Bligh, President of the Noonga Reconciliation Group on the north side of Brisbane, and a special thankyou to Kaia Skeen, a local student at Wavell High. My colleagues might remember her for giving the student reflection at the beautiful ceremony held here at Parliament House when she came along with her family.

**A government member:** So good.

**Mr SULLIVAN:** Yes, she is so articulate and should be an inspiration to all of us. I take my role as a community leader, which I think we are as MPs, seriously. I was lucky to grow up in a household where reconciliation was spoken about as the son of a modern history teacher. As a young lawyer I

spent some time working in native title, so I come at this from a different perspective but want to inform myself about what this new priority is in terms of truth-telling and in terms of treaty and in terms of a Voice to Parliament. I want to quickly give a shout-out to Dean Parkin, the Director at From the Heart, and want to paraphrase from his statements this morning when he was shocked by the Nationals decision. What he said was that establishing and entrenching an appropriate system of communicating with local communities and giving people a say about their own lives is absolutely practical. It is not a theory; it is about making things better for us as a country and of course for our people on the ground. I support the motion.

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (12.09 pm): I rise to give my contribution to the debate. Once again it is very interesting that we have not been briefed on this motion. We did not see that this motion was coming before the House. None of us had a chance to prepare for this debate. Ever since we were asked to sign up to this some months ago—and I see the minister across the chamber—the KAP has not been briefed with one word on what we are looking at doing into the future, not at a state level, nor what the voice in federal parliament will mean. We have not been briefed.


If there was a group of people who wanted to work with both sides of the House, the first thing we would want to do is to make sure that people in our electorates understand what voting for this will mean or what it will mean for the First Nations people in this area. As a member of parliament, when I am asked by First Nations people in my electorate what signing up to the Voice or voting in the referendum that may come from federal parliament means, I do not know what to tell them because we do not know. We have not been told. These are proposed constitutional changes to the guiding documents that run this whole country. The reality is people will be asked to sign up to something or vote on something and they have no idea what it will do.

**Ms Grace:** I think they will at the time.

**Mr DAMETTO:** Let us hope. You cannot sell a secret and this has been shrouded in secrecy until now.

**Ms Grace:** Have you read the document?

**Mr DAMETTO:** I do have the document in front of me, the Uluru Statement from the Heart. There are a lot of words in here, but there is not a lot of detail on what it will mean. I think it must be very hard for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members elected into parliament to be told that their voice in federal parliament has not broken through the party structure. We have a Labor government here in Queensland that says the only way to get a proper voice in government and proper consultation with First Nations people is to have a constitutional voice enshrined in parliament. I think that is a shame. It is a shame that the problems with health, education, crime and employment in this state have not broken through the party structure and changed things when it comes to regulation and legislation when having caucus meetings. Yes, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders need to be better represented in this country and state, but it should not take a Voice to Parliament to get through to the government of the day.

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (12.12 pm): Today is a defining moment in time. It is the time when we as Queensland parliamentarians elected to this place voice our opinion with regard to our First Nations people: how we respect them, how we deal with them and how we see their society and our society being one voice together. That is why I rise today to support the motion of a Voice to Parliament, to support the Uluru Statement from the Heart. I have been privileged in the past to be a former minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships. I have been privileged to be a former senator and work on regional and remote Indigenous community committees led at the particular time by a former National Party senator, Nigel Scullion. He would be appalled to hear the opposition that we are hearing from those opposite with regard to this motion.

This is our opportunity to tell the rest of Queensland how we as a government see the future of our First Nations people. They never had a chance to have an opinion on how they wanted their education, health or children dealt with.

**Mr Dametto** interjected.

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


**Mr FURNER:** Today is an opportunity for those on all sides of this House to voice their opinion on how they want to hear the voice of our First Nations people in the future. With absolute respect, our First Nations people do not have the privilege of having a voice when it comes to their future. A



constitutional Voice to Parliament in the future will recognise the sins and hurt of the past of our First Nations people and will make sure we work together to provide a better future for them. It is important that we act today in a responsible manner to support our First Nations people.

The member for Stafford and myself have been privileged to attend the Teralba Park Stolen Generations Support Group on National Sorry Day and hear the stories from the past. I encourage everyone to listen to their Indigenous communities: go to your remote Indigenous communities: if you are invited, and hear firsthand what has happened in the past. You will get a better appreciation and a better understanding and be in a position to not only support motions like this but also support the constitutional vote into the future. I vote wholeheartedly in support of this motion today.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the next speaker, I advise the chamber that I have given permission for an extension of media access to allow pool cameras into the chamber.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (12.15 pm): I am so proud to rise to support the motion of the Premier to see the implementation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full, including a constitutionally enshrined voice to our national parliament, and I am proud to be part of a Labor government that will deliver this constitutional change and structural reform in this country.

In 2011 I was proud to be one of the first, if not the first, principal in this state to introduce Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander school captains as part of the student leadership team at my school. First Nations children made up 25 per cent of my student population at that time and they deserved a voice. I understand the power of leadership—my leadership and the leadership of my students—to challenge beliefs, values and attitudes and the opportunities leaders have to alter the path of students' lives and to improve their life outcomes. When we empower others by giving them a voice we publicly challenge racist stereotypes, conscious and unconscious racist bias and when we lead we importantly determine and share our deepest values. When we afford all a voice we afford all the opportunities assured to white Australia.

Leading the introduction and implementation of the Uluru statement will afford all people in this country the opportunity to deeply reflect on their own values and how these values, attitudes and beliefs are shaped. For those of us on this side of the House, we acknowledge the social construct of power. We understand how power is constructed, inferred and assumed. For the same reasons that I badged the first two Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student leaders in my school back in 2011, the Albanese Labor government will introduce and implement the Uluru Statement from the Heart.


For tens of thousands of years our First Nations peoples have been treated as second-class citizens for no other reason than for the colour of their skin. The world's oldest continuing living culture, our First Nations peoples have never been given the respect that they deserve simply because of the colour of their skin. I am ashamed of our past and the actions of those forebears in positions of power, namely the white and the middle-class privileged, which make up a considerable part of this chamber. I am ashamed of our history as a country, and we all should be.

I led schools as a principal for 13 years and whilst I worked tirelessly and strategically to improve the educational outcomes of my First Nations students, and can proudly share that every First Nations student in my schools received a Queensland Certificate of Education, I am ashamed by the socio-economic outcomes, the health outcomes, the educational outcomes and the incarceration rates of our First Nations people, especially our children. As a principal I got tired of visiting my children in prison. I support this motion.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

### Business Program

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (12.19 pm): I move—

1. That the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Public Sector 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 Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Public Sector Bill, a maximum of eight hours to complete all stages;
  - (b) the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill, to complete all stages by 12 pm on Friday, 2 December 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 Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Public Sector Bill, one hour before the expiry of the maximum hours for those bills;
    - (ii) for the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill, by 11.15 am on Friday, 2 December 2022.
4. If the nominated stage of each bill has not been completed by the allocated time specified in 3., or by 12 pm on Friday, 2 December 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.

Here we are again, on the eve of Christmas, debating the last business program motion of 2022. As members will note, three bills are the subject of the motion before the House today, two of which are cognate. As such, the House will consider the Public Sector Bill and the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill as a cognate debate for a maximum of eight hours and the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill for the remainder of the week, finishing at around 11.55 am on Friday. The finish time has been selected as the traditional valedictory speeches that occur at the end of each parliamentary year will take place then.

While I note that most likely there will be disagreement from those opposite to this motion, the times that have been set are based on feedback from the Manager of Opposition Business and the member for Noosa at last night's Business Committee meeting, where the view of the non-government members was for more time to be spent on the cognate debate. As such, the motion reflects this.

In respect of the work of the House, the records reflect that 32 government bills have been considered and passed by this House so far this year. I am advised that, of the 32 bills considered, 18 bills were debated without any impact on the time parameters set by the House. I remember a few occasions when the opposition has grandstanded about wanting to stay here all night debating legislation, yet the bills were put before any of the time frames actually set by the House had been reached. I am sure that, as the system matures—as opposed to the opposition maturing—we will continue to see the benefits of the system. I hope we can get to a point where, like the Victorian model, we simply set the bills for the week and the question is put at the end of the week without needing to set allocated times for individual bills. However, that will take maturity. I did suggest that at the Business Committee meeting last sitting week, but the opposition is not supportive of the idea at this stage.

I must state for the record that the idea of time frames for bills and motions is not new. When in government those opposite moved countless motions on debates either setting time frames or moving that a bill be passed during that day's sitting. I have been advised that those types of motions were moved about 17 times when those opposite were in government, although that does not include any motions whereby they shut down the voice of the opposition. I say this to give a comparison and to note for the House that time frames have been used in this parliament, parliaments across the country and parliaments across the globe to manage their business.

In closing, I take this opportunity to thank all of the parliamentary staff for their work and support to keep this place operational during 2022. In particular, I thank the amazing attendants in the chamber, led by Angie, who all do a great job of keeping the people's house running, especially during the very difficult times this year with COVID. We are very grateful for their work.

I say a special thankyou to all of the retiring parliamentary staff for their many years of dedicated service, including Mary-Ann Lloyd, who works upstairs in the office next to mine. Mary-Ann works in Hansard, ensuring that every word is captured for future generations. After 47 years of service to the people of Queensland we say thank you, and we wish you all the very best on your retirement.

With those short words, I commend the motion to the House. I hope that the contributions of those opposite to this motion are both respectful and constructive. I am hoping, seeing it is the final business motion of the year, that they may even support it.



**Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (12.22 pm): I rise to speak against this motion. I note that the LNP will oppose the motion, which is yet another motion to shut down debate and scrutiny that should occur on legislation. I think it was very instructive that, during the last sitting of parliament, we saw the embarrassing spectacle of no less than an assistant minister stand in this place and complain that the opposition had dared to ask a question in consideration in detail. For those members who do

not understand the standing orders and the procedures of the House, usually when you do not have gagged debates members of the House are able to ask questions of the government to hold them to account and have greater scrutiny on the clauses during consideration in detail. That was always the practice until it was brutally guillotined by the standing gag motions of this government. This cognate debate motion, which is yet another motion to guillotine debate, means there will be less opportunity to speak on clauses in consideration in detail.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Ms SIMPSON:** I take that interjection from the member opposite who hopes that people do not understand the standing orders and the way they used to apply before this government guillotined debate. Never in the history of this parliament, until the Palaszczuk Labor government came in, did we see these disgraceful attacks upon the right of members to have a voice in this parliament. Let us have a voice in this parliament. Let us show respect for members from diverse backgrounds rather than having a government that finds it an inconvenience to listen to voices that do not agree with theirs. They find it a nuisance to allow parliament the opportunity and the time to scrutinise legislation not just on the second reading debate but also in consideration in detail. It was embarrassing to have an assistant minister of the Crown stand in here in the last sitting and complain because she thought that members were not allowed to ask questions of ministers in consideration in detail as she had never seen it, which is because this government has abused its power in the parliament. They have ridden over the top of those who were elected but are not from their side of the House, that is, the crossbenches and the formal opposition.

We oppose this motion because of all of the times when there should have been more opportunity to scrutinise legislation. This Labor government is choosing to gag motions and cut debating time on integrity bills. They talk about integrity but when the parliament has an opportunity for scrutiny they do not like it. This parliament, of all places, should have the time and the opportunity to scrutinise legislation and to hear the voices of those who elected us to this place, even though the government does not want to hear them, not just on the second reading debate but also in consideration in detail.

It is also quite interesting that, once again, we see this government slipping in a number of amendments that will, if there is time, be debated in consideration in detail. These are embarrassing amendments that they slipped in at the last moment. We may go into the detail of the amendment, if there is time in consideration in detail, to ratify magistrates who were apparently invalidly appointed. That amendment to the integrity bill has just been tabled in the House. I was not consulted as the LNP spokesperson for integrity. I am not aware if anybody else from the non-government benches was consulted about the fact that amendments to the Integrity Act have been slipped in. We may not have a chance to ask questions in consideration in detail when those amendments are put forward because that is the way that this government operates. It does not like scrutiny even now, of all the times, when integrity bills raise major questions. Multitudes of independent officers of this state have raised integrity questions with the government. We know that more things need to be answered, with full scrutiny and full opportunity and without gag motions.

It is about time that members opposite understood the rules and the history of the House as to when the detailed consideration of clauses and substantial amendments can actually occur. Democracy will be better served when all voices are respected and are not gagged by this government, which is drunk on power and does not like to hear different voices but uses the weight of its numbers to shut down debate and stop the opportunity for scrutiny. I guarantee that we will be back in here to fix things because they tend to muck it up.

*(Time expired)*



**Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (12.27 pm): I rise to speak in support of the business program motion circulated by the Leader of the House. It has been very instructive to hear the contribution of the member for Maroochydore. I reassure the member for Maroochydore and the House, through you, Mr Deputy Speaker, that I do understand the standing orders. I have seen them in practice in effective ways both in this parliament and in previous parliaments. Fundamentally, the core principle of the standing orders is that the House is supreme and the House determines what happens. Any understanding of the standing orders means you need to understand that.

However, the reality is that, within that context and within the framework of the business program as agreed by the House, the opposition can manage their own business. They can manage their own affairs in order to get full access to the opportunities for scrutiny of debate that the member for

Maroochydore was yearning for. If there were not a complete parade of members parroting the same lines they have been issued and repeating the same points, there would be an opportunity for scrutiny to occur. There would be an opportunity for consideration in detail to occur.

For the member for Maroochydore to criticise people about their lack of understanding of the context of the consideration in detail is quite ironic, because she continues to call people 'chairpersons' in that process, and there are a whole lot of other things that go on in that space. It demonstrates that there is not an understanding on her behalf of how it has been operating over the past almost 20 years.

I reiterate that it is entirely within the opposition's powers and ability to manage its own affairs in order to operate within the business program—as oppositions do in parliaments throughout the world such as at Westminster, in the House of Commons, where the leader of the house comes in at the beginning of the week and says what the time frames for debate will be. There is not even an opportunity for members to vote on it. That is how it works in the mother of parliaments. The suggestion from those opposite, particularly the member for Maroochydore, that this is an aberration in terms of the traditions of parliament demonstrates a complete lack of understanding of the history of parliamentary practice and process and the way it has evolved globally to make sure that people get a chance to have their voices heard.

It involves capability, management and restraint. It means that you do not take the lazy approach to how you deal with matters and bills. I suspect that those opposite are not keen to manage their own affairs to be in a position to do the examination that can occur in consideration of detail because they have not done the preparation. Oppositions in this House—with some notable exceptions under leader of the opposition Palaszczuk and leader of the opposition Beattie—over the past 30 years have not had the capability or the intention to take the time to do the work—lazy, lazy, lazy.

This opposition has failed to manage its own business in the environment that the business program allows. It allows them input into decision-making through the committee process and allows them, once the determination is made by the House in this debate, to manage their own time and their own business in order to get those opportunities for scrutiny. They are all examples of how they can manage their business within the framework of this process that allows the parliament to operate with sensible hours and operational times. We see that it could happen. We see it in other parliaments throughout Australia, not to mention parliaments across the rest of the world. Let's make sure we are focused on what we as a parliament can do to do the business that is required. Let's not, as I have already heard during this debate, blow that dog whistle by trying to conflate this matter with the issue of a voice for First Nations people.

*(Time expired)*



**Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (12.32 pm): In relation to the business program motion for this week, I am particularly concerned about the proposal to make cognate two important bills. The new long title of those bills should be the 'Contempt of Parliament Bills', because this government is treating this parliament as its plaything, to do with the business program whatever it wants. I will not talk about the bills specifically, but I can say that the committee of which I am deputy chair, the Economics and Governance Committee—

**Mr Purdie:** A great deputy chair.

**Mr STEVENS:** Thank you, member for Ninderry. We have spent hours drilling public servants on both the integrity issue and the public sector issue. Submitters have taken the trouble to make submissions and the time to come forward. Now we are going to cognate these two different bills. That can be done, I understand, without the lesson from the member for Sandgate.

The bottom line is that, as a member of that committee, I will now have five minutes to speak on each bill—that is the same time for a speech on a matter of public importance—because of the curtailing of the time the government is allowing for debate. We spent a lot of time considering these two important bills—as the chair would know, yet he supports this motion. I could be surprised; he might yet cross the floor. The bottom line is that we spent a lot of time considering two important bills. The government did not introduce one bill; it introduced two important bills for our committee to investigate. Now, for the sake of convenience, members of the committee such as the members for Ninderry and Coomera will have just five minutes to speak to each bill. What part of democracy and free speech does that represent? I understand that an MPI speech is limited to five minutes, but this is about the voice of the people, including the people of Mermaid Beach. I am entitled to put forward their views, as is every member in this House. I should have the opportunity to do that. We used to have 20 minutes to speak to bills—and I understand that some speeches were a little repetitive—but in terms of the standing orders—

**Mr Purdie:** Not yours!

**Mr STEVENS:** No, mine were 20 minutes full of interest! Now I have only 10 minutes of interest. Under the terms of this motion to debate these two bills cognately, unfortunately I will have only five minutes per bill to speak about the intricacies and the nuances of the bills and how they will affect people, particularly in the Public Service. I will not pre-empt the debate, but some major issues were raised through the committee process that will not be able to be fully explained in the time I will be allotted. That is unfair and undemocratic.

Earlier in the House a motion was moved with one minute's notice that dealt with material that most people on both sides of the House had not read. This government is treating parliament as its political plaything. It is all about trying to get themselves re-elected for a fourth term. They will do anything, say anything, move anything, cut debate and cut the free speech of parliament.

Let's talk about Westminster. We have the Queensland Westminster system. It is a different system from the one the member for Sandgate alluded to earlier. It has been made particularly for the members of Queensland parliament. Basically, by cutting down the opportunity for full and frank debate—it has continued to be done—we are ruining the business program. For government members to jump up and say, 'You have the opportunity to alter the business program' is a nonsense because the numbers are weighted in favour of the government. It continues to use parliament as its little plaything in terms of how it wants this to play out for its media benefit and political advantage. It does not matter whether it is compulsory or preferential voting—I think the member for Sandgate gave us 18 minutes notice of that change—or cognating debate. This is ridiculous.

*(Time expired)*

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

**AYES, 48:**

**ALP, 48—**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, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

**NOES, 37:**

**LNP, 32—**Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, 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.

**KAP, 2—**Dametto, Knuth.


**PHON, 1—**Andrew.

Pairs: Bailey, Gerber, Mellish, Camm.

Resolved in the affirmative.

## HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (12.32 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011, the Medicines and Poisons Act 2019, the Mental Health Act 2016, the Public Health Act 2005, the Radiation Safety Act 1999, the Recording of Evidence Act 1962, the Transplantation and Anatomy Act 1979 and the Water Fluoridation Act 2008 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Health and Environment Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 [1983].

*Tabled paper:* Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes [1984].

*Tabled paper:* Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights [1985].

The Palaszczuk government is focused on making Queensland home to good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle. To ensure our health services continue to deliver for future generations, our government is committed to significant reform in Queensland Health. At its core, this reform must be about innovating the way we deliver care, including all health workers working to their full potential and skills. The Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 will implement key policy initiatives to support better public health outcomes for Queenslanders and ensure health legislation is contemporary and effective.

Our public health workforce work in high-pressure, complex environments day in and day out. Going above and beyond can pose safety risks and impact their physical and psychological health. Queenslanders can only stay healthy if we have a healthy workforce to support them. That is why this bill will amend the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 to require hospital and health boards and hospital and health services to proactively consider ways to support the health, safety and wellbeing of their staff. The amendments will enshrine in legislation that the physical and psychological health, safety and wellbeing of the public health workforce is appropriately prioritised.

HHSs already prioritise the safety and wellbeing of their workforce; however, the bill ensures this obligation is clear. It will require boards and HHSs to promote a culture and implement measures within their HHS to support the health, safety and wellbeing of their staff. The obligations will apply to all staff working in public sector health services—our doctors, nurses, midwives and allied health professionals through to the operational and administrative staff who keep our HHSs running. The requirements will complement Queensland's Work Health and Safety Act, Work Health and Safety Regulation and the new managing the risk of psychosocial hazards at work code of practice, which will commence on 1 April 2023.

Health security officers play a crucial role in ensuring everyone within a hospital stays safe and secure. The bill amends the Hospital and Health Boards Act to make clear that health security officers cannot provide a direction for a person to leave hospital and health service land if the person requires emergency medical treatment. This amendment is reflective of current practice whereby security officers communicate with clinical staff before providing a direction to a person to leave HHS land, to ensure they are not preventing access to essential medical treatment.

The bill will amend the Public Health Act 2005 to authorise schools to disclose student information to Queensland Health's vision screening program. Each year, Queensland Health's vision screening program screens around 45,000 Queensland prep students for the presence of amblyopia, known as lazy eye, and amblyopic risk factors. Screening a child takes less than five minutes, but can help to give them the best possible start to their education. Early detection of vision problems ensures a child can be treated early, reducing the impact on their learning and development.

The Public Health Act already allows student information to be shared between schools and public dental and immunisation programs. The bill inserts the Queensland Health Primary School Nurse Health Readiness Program, known as the vision screening program, as a program to which student information can be disclosed under the Public Health Act. This will enable vision screening nurses to oversee the consent process for vision screening without relying on school staff.

Sadly, we all have someone close to us who has been affected by cancer. Around 31,000 Queenslanders are diagnosed with cancer annually and over 9,400 Queenslanders lose their lives to cancer each year. The Queensland Cancer Register is one of the largest population-based cancer registries in Australia. It is a unique data source, bringing cancer data together to provide an accurate picture of cancer in Queensland. Information from the register assists in planning the care for cancer patients in Queensland, monitoring and evaluating the quality of cancer treatments and outcomes of cancer care, and providing data for research. The bill will amend the Public Health Act 2005 to modernise the Queensland Cancer Register. A technological solution has also been developed in collaboration with the CSIRO to reduce the impost of the proposed new requirements for diagnostic imaging practices.

The bill amends the Recording of Evidence Act 1962 to establish a new statutory framework for recording the proceedings of prescribed tribunals and providing access to copies of records and transcriptions of the proceedings. The tribunals to which the new framework will apply will be prescribed by regulation. It is intended that the Mental Health Review Tribunal will be a prescribed tribunal. In recognition of the different requirements of smaller tribunals such as the Mental Health Review Tribunal, the bill establishes a new framework that provides greater flexibility in how the proceedings of prescribed tribunals may be recorded and how records of proceedings may be provided.

The new framework provides safeguards to protect the privacy, safety and wellbeing of persons referred to in records or transcriptions by providing that access to a copy of a record or transcription may be restricted under the Recording of Evidence Act or another act, or by an order of a court, tribunal or judicial person.

The bill also amends the Mental Health Act 2016 to support the Mental Health Review Tribunal to contemporise its recording of proceedings with the use of technology. The amendments to the Recording of Evidence Act will require all tribunals to ensure a recording or transcription is available to any person, unless prohibited by legislation or a tribunal order. The bill will ensure this applies

appropriately to the sensitive and typically closed nature of Mental Health Review Tribunal proceedings. These amendments will promote fairness, accountability and accessibility in hearings about the treatment of vulnerable people in our community.

The bill also amends the Mental Health Act to remove the requirement for an adult with capacity to waive the right to be represented at a Mental Health Review Tribunal hearing in writing. The requirement for waiver to be in writing is an administrative burden for patients and can create a barrier to individuals exercising their rights in a timely manner. It has resulted in situations where the Mental Health Review Tribunal is unable to dismiss a legal representative even though a person with capacity has chosen to waive their right to representation. In these circumstances, the Mental Health Review Tribunal must adjourn the proceeding until the written waiver can be completed. During an adjournment period, a person's involuntary treatment can continue without independent review, or access to important treatment may be delayed.

A person's right to legal representation will continue to be protected. The Mental Health Review Tribunal will remain responsible for assessing a person's capacity to waive the right to a representative. If the Mental Health Review Tribunal assesses a person as lacking capacity to waive their right to representation, they will not be able to do so. The Mental Health Review Tribunal will also retain the ability to require a waiver in writing if they consider it necessary. Given the importance of the right to representation, the amendment only allows a verbal waiver in place of a written waiver if the Tribunal is satisfied that this would not cause injustice to the person who wants to waive the right.

Amendments to the Medicines and Poisons Act 2019 will allow for the disclosure of information to protect the health and safety of members of the community. To enable the public and wholesalers to verify whether a person they are dealing with has appropriate approvals to deal with medicines or poisons, the bill will provide that the chief executive of Queensland Health can disclose information from the substance authority register by providing information directly to a person or publishing information from the register on the department's website where it is in the public interest and disclose information from the administrative action register directly to a person where it is in the public interest. However, the bill will remove the ability for the chief executive to publish the administrative action register on the department's website. The bill will also make other technical and clarifying changes to improve the operation of the Medicines and Poisons Act.

We know that organ and tissue donation saves many lives each year—a single donor can save up to seven lives. I remind members that, if you are not on the donor register, if you have not had the conversation with your family and your loved ones, please consider doing so because it could save not just one life but many lives.

**Mr Stevens:** I'm on it.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I am glad to hear that. I take that interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. On a side note, on my way in this morning I noticed that the blood bank has their van outside the front of parliament, if anyone would like to contribute in that way as well. We know how, especially going into summer and school holidays, we need to ensure that we have sufficient blood and plasma supplies.

Families are always asked to say 'yes' to tissue being removed from a deceased loved one in a hospital. As only two per cent of people who die in hospital can be considered for organ donation, every opportunity counts.

The bill will amend the Transplantation and Anatomy Act 1979 to ensure that consent processes are consistent between public and private hospitals for the donation of human tissue, such as organ donation. The amendments will enable families in private hospitals to provide verbal consent to organ donation, followed by written consent.

The bill will also remove the requirement for a Queensland doctor to be granted a ministerial permit before they can obtain tissue already approved under the Therapeutic Goods Administration's Special Access Scheme. The bill removes the duplicative approval process. The TGA has a thorough, well-established oversight process in place for the tissue products available under the scheme. Tissue products obtained through the Special Access Scheme may be needed to assist a person who is seriously ill, who is facing death without access to the treatment.

Finally, the bill will amend the Water Fluoridation Act 2008 to remove the requirement that fluoridation decisions be notified specifically in a newspaper and replace it with a requirement that the decision be made publicly available. We know that it is important that we use other media streams to notify of these measures when we have fewer and fewer print newspapers operating, particularly in the

regions, in our local communities. The bill will make two technical amendments to the Radiation Safety Act 1999 to improve the operation of that act and its interaction with the Radiation Safety Regulation 2021.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring that Queensland's health legislation is serving the needs of Queenslanders. This bill will facilitate initiatives that promote the health of Queenslanders and support the effective operation of our health system.

Many of the things that I have covered in this bill will help create efficiencies across our health system, but the one I am most proud of is the fact that we are entrenching the safety of our staff, our health workers, across the health system into the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011. The fact that the objects of the act will require our boards and our HHSs to proactively support the health, safety and wellbeing of their staff sends a clear message that we expect those hospital and health services and their boards to support those staff members each and every day—because, if we do not look after our staff and their wellbeing, how can we expect them to look after the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders? We value our staff and we know that this is an important step forward in providing them with a very strong message that we support their wellbeing and that that is an obligation on all the HHSs and the boards. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (12.58 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.


### Referral to Health and Environment Committee

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

Sitting suspended from 12.59 pm to 2.00 pm.

## MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

### Cost of Living

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): The cost of living is crippling Queenslanders and Premier Palaszczuk is bad for their budget. How much more can Queenslanders afford of a government that has checked out of doing anything in the middle of a full-blown cost-of-living crisis? The Premier was asked directly about this on countless occasions today and she only had two defences: (1) it is the previous government's fault; and (2) people have a job. Somehow the fact that people have a job means that the Premier and her government can check out of doing anything about the pressures that are being felt on household budgets across this state. It shows the hubris and arrogance of this government to suggest it is someone else's fault and responsibility.

When a question on another topic was raised the Treasurer said, 'Finally, something that matters.' Why doesn't the cost of living matter? Why doesn't the pressure Queensland families are feeling matter? If you listened to the Premier you could be fooled into believing it has never been better. Tell the worker who will sleep in their car tonight that things have never been better. Tell a working family who has to choose between paying the electricity bill or the home insurance that things have never been better. Tell the young Queensland who cannot afford their learner's licence that it is the fault of a government that left office when they were in primary school. That is what we hear from this government: it is always someone else's fault; it is never their responsibility. They have checked out on the things that matter to Queenslanders.

May I reflect on the experiences that Queenslanders are telling me and our party as we get around Queensland. They tell us their electricity bills are going up and they are fearful of where they will end. They tell us their insurance bills have risen and are rising to the point where they wonder whether or not they can afford to keep insurance. They tell us that their car rego continues to go up and



they wonder whether or not they can keep it on the road. Today we asked a question that was not answered so we are going to ask it again: when will we have cheaper electricity prices? The shadow minister even put a date on it so maybe this government could be held accountable for what the minister has been saying; that is, the government will put downward pressure on electricity prices and it will be cheaper for families.

So far, all we have seen is a project that has no money attached to it, no planning, no consultation with First Nations people, no consultation with the people living there, no KPIs that will be met on the way and no environmental approvals. Today we found out that the minister did not even know about it. Somehow this is going to be the panacea that puts downward pressure on people's electricity prices. We are hearing of businesses that are already getting their renewal notices and their forward pricings, and it is frightening. In the days ahead we will articulate what it means to those hardworking Queenslanders. Twelve months to two years ago when those price rises came through Queenslanders thought that would be the end of the road. It is only the beginning, and the government believes it is someone else's responsibility because they have checked out.

A driver's licence is the key to independence and the key to a job. Just this morning my office was contacted by a Queensland learner who cannot afford to pay for their child's licence. They told me about the impact that is having on their household. A Queensland learner's licence costs more than any other state. Today the shadow minister asked the Premier and the Premier was clueless. The Premier had never even heard of the furore that is burning amongst Queenslanders. This is a hot topic that Queenslanders are talking about and the Premier had never heard of it. The Premier was given a piece of paper, and after saying that she was unaware of it she then said that she would look into it.

Let me help the Premier look into it. In the Northern Territory it costs a young person \$25 to get their learner's; in New South Wales it is \$26; in Victoria it is \$26; in Tasmania it is \$35.29; in the ACT it is \$51.10; in South Australia it is \$69; and in Western Australia, which you would think would be the outlier, it is \$126.10—but no, in Queensland it is \$186.55! That is seven times more expensive than New South Wales and Victoria. That means a learner is seven times less likely to get the keys to a vehicle to go and get an apprenticeship or traineeship. It means they are seven times more unlikely to have the freedom that comes with a vehicle and a licence to go and see friends and families. Boy oh boy, have our teenagers not been through enough in the last couple of years? After becoming aware of the issue today the Premier said she would look into it. There is no need to look further: they are the facts. Do the right thing and square the ledger. Give them a break; they have been through enough. It is time they stopped being treated as the whipping boys and cash cows of this government.

Rising rents are a challenge for thousands of Queenslanders if they are lucky enough to get a home. Today we found out that Brisbane city has seen the steepest annual climb in housing affordability and regional Queensland is the most unaffordable regional area in Australia. This housing crisis is eight years in the making. When the shadow minister attempted to ask a question today about the contrast between spending money on advertising and money on social housing, we could not even get a straight answer. We had to get another history lesson.


At a time when Queenslanders cannot get into a home, at a time when social housing has not even come close to keeping pace with the population, and at a time when \$220 million was spent on a political 'get square' with the federal government for an asset that we will never own, this government refused to answer a question about housing. The Premier said that her government was not responsible for the lack of new housing lots. Whose fault is it that infrastructure has not kept pace with demand and therefore lots have not been opened up? Whose fault is it that social housing has not kept pace with the increased population and demand? Whose fault is it that community housing sectors in other states seem to have been able to deliver more benefits for people than the one here in Queensland? There is only one common theme, and that is a tired third-term government which after eight years has checked out.

The Queensland Audit Office highlighted the consequences for a government that fails to plan, deliver and evaluate. That consequence is being felt tonight at kitchen tables across this great state and it will be felt tomorrow night. The government has promised that this week in parliament they are going to table their response to the housing summit. Many Queenslanders went to the housing summit in good faith. The shadow minister and I went in good faith to hear about the solutions that were put forward. The government said it would take further action, but those Queenslanders sleeping in their car tonight or on a friend's couch are hopeful it will be more successful than what they have seen to date. The government said there were two signature projects. One was emergency housing at Griffith uni. This is a building that is there, it is in place, but it has been many months and still no-one is living in it.

We heard about the granny flat revolution. The government cannot tell us how many granny flats, what approaches have been made, how many people have moved in or what any KPIs are. It was a media announcement and then they walked away. It is never about planning, delivering and evaluating; it is always about the media announcement and how they can get through to the next crisis so they can say they are doing something about it.

In 2015 if an average house in Brisbane was purchased by a first home buyer, they would not have paid one cent in stamp duty. Today that first home buyer would pay over \$20,000 in the middle of a full-blown housing crisis and a cost-of-living crisis. This government has failed to plan, it has failed to deliver and it continues to fail Queenslanders on the cost-of-living crisis they are experiencing.

### Nurses

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (2.10 pm): My nanna was a nurse. My mum was a nurse. Two of my aunts were nurses. My sister was a nurse. Two of my cousins are nurses. In my family, nurses are way up there as some of the most important people in the community. They are completely selfless and they are dedicated to our wellbeing. During COVID, they went above and beyond in ways that they probably never imagined they would be asked.

We need nurses. In fact, when we look at the jobs that are most in demand both now and projected for the future, nurses are at the top of the list. We literally cannot do without them. We especially need them in our regions. In rural and remote communities, we desperately need them because sometimes they are the only health workers available.

It is why we must go all out. We must do everything we can to make sure we are training and retaining nurses in our regions. It is why we are funding to the tune of \$51 million new and upgraded TAFE facilities to fund nurses and allied health professionals at campuses across the state—in Hervey Bay, Toowoomba, the Redlands and the Gold Coast. It is why we are supporting a major increase in enrolments for nursing students in the regions, with a 30 per cent increase in North Queensland, a 16 per cent increase in the Darling Downs and a 13 per cent increase in Far North Queensland. I have spoken to so many of those students and they are full of hope and promise, knowing that they are going to fulfil such important roles.

It is why I am incredulous at the extent to which the LNP is going to stop nurses from wanting to take jobs in the regions and stay in those jobs. Why do they hate nurses? Why do they hate the regions? They already know that the LNP cut nursing numbers when they were in government. We have the opposition leader saying that he is still going to cut them but he is going to do it slower. He is over there talking about cost of living, but as the Premier said this morning if you have a job, you do not have as many worries about cost of living. If you know you are going to have job security, that will go a long way towards helping.

We had the disgraceful comments by the member for Mudgeeraba about nurses—the woman who claims her nursing background like a badge of honour but was sanctioned by her own professional association—when she called regional health staff duds. Why did none of those regional members say a word to the nurses in their regions to apologise? Why did they not say a word when the LNP cut staff in their communities?


Why did the members for Scenic Rim, Lockyer, Condamine, Toowoomba North, Toowoomba South, Southern Downs, Warrego and Gregory say nothing when the LNP cut 295 health staff from their HHS, and why are they not apologising for what the member for Mudgeeraba said? Why did the member for Whitsunday say nothing when the LNP cut 229 health workers from her HHS, and why is she not apologising to the 34 students studying nursing in her region for the member for Mudgeeraba's comments? Why did the members for Burnett, Callide, Nanango, Gympie, Ninderry, Maroochydore, Buderim, Kawana and Glass House say nothing when the LNP cut 445 nurses from their HHS? Why did the member for Burdekin say nothing when the LNP cut 411 health workers from his HHS, and why did he not apologise to those nurses when the member for Mudgeeraba called them duds? Not one single member has apologised.

Here we are facing workforce shortages across the state and a crisis in workforce shortages for healthcare workers, and they are doing every single thing they can to tear down nurses. Nurses are fearful for their jobs. They know they are disrespected. They do not know whether they are going to be able to put a roof over their family's heads if the LNP gets into government. They do not know if they

will be facing cost-of-living pressures—and the gall of the Leader of the Opposition to talk about cost of living when the 14,000 people they sacked when the Newman government was in power faced a cost-of-living crisis immediately because they did not have jobs.

What we need is to hold our health workers up. We need to assure them that they have jobs. We need to assure them that we value them. We need to make sure people in our regional communities are supported to live the life they deserve and need. That party which says it represents regional communities is tearing them down and not building them up. They should be ashamed.

### **Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.15 pm): When the Attorney-General said this morning in the House on domestic violence, ‘We hear you, we see you, we believe you,’ I looked across at the police minister because I was so incensed at what he said last week when he said that he was not aware of the cultural issues that have been reported in the domestic violence royal commission. Back in 2018 I wrote to Minister Mark Ryan about these cultural issues but there was an absolute deafening silence from the minister.

I spoke recently with Lou Lander, a survivor of domestic violence. In 2018 Lou wrote to me. Some of her accusations included that she was told by police that she hardly looked like a victim of domestic violence. I wrote to the police minister about that in 2018. He responded and said he had referred it to the police for investigation. I then wrote to him again in 2018 and said that I did not accept his response because it was a most serious matter and given the issues raised I thought he would have taken the matter seriously, rather than just write back a couple of paragraphs.

He then wrote back to me, and bizarrely the police minister said to me that my comments were ‘unfair and unfounded’. ‘We believe her, we see her’—no, the police minister did not. He did not believe Lou Lander and he did not see Lou Lander. I was so incensed and angry when he said a few days ago that he was not aware of these issues because we have been writing to the police minister about these issues for years. He has been the police minister for six years.

I wrote to the Premier in March 2019 expressing no confidence in the police minister’s ability to be able to handle and believe the domestic violence survivor Lou Lander. I pleaded with the Premier for support and assistance. I said that how Minister Ryan responded was a disgrace and that it was an apathetic response to my constituent. In showing how disgraceful the response was, I said that I was shocked and appalled at Minister Ryan’s attitude towards my constituent where he did not believe her. I then wrote to the Premier in May 2019, after receiving a response from the Premier where she said she would have her department look into it. I never got a response to that. I asked, ‘What do you mean look into it?’ I then hand wrote a note to the Premier in which I said I was very concerned at how her police minister had so flippantly dispensed with this issue and Ms Lander’s concerns.

I thank Ms Lander for the bravery and courage she had to stand up and call for this minister to resign. The police minister said two days ago that he remembered the case well. If he remembered it well, he should have looked down the barrel of the camera a few days ago and apologised to Lou Lander for not taking her matter seriously enough. He should have looked down the barrel of the camera and apologised to all domestic violence survivors and sufferers in this state whom he has failed to do anything for during the last six years. He has failed to acknowledge the seriousness of this issue.

He is like a kid in this portfolio. He is a juvenile. He has used the Pullen family for his own political advantage. He has used domestic violence victims for his own political advantage, saying he has taken the matter seriously when we know he clearly has not. He then stood up today and started talking tough on crime. I remember years ago he said that getting rid of bikies in Queensland was just like crushing a cockroach. That is the juvenile man we have in the police portfolio at the moment. He does not take these matters seriously. The LNP will be accused of many things, but being soft on paedophiles we will not cop and being soft on sex offenders we will not cop.

This government would have everyone believe they are tough on law and order. If they were so tough, if this police minister was so tough, we would not have the youth crime crisis we have in the state at the moment. When we moved legislation to put sex offenders in jail indefinitely, the Labor Party opposed it. They opposed it because they stuck up for the sex offenders and the paedophiles in this state. We were the party that put in legislation that said, ‘Put them in jail forever.’ They said no and they opposed that legislation when we moved that legislation in this House. Cry me a river, Minister Mark Ryan. You are not tough on crime. This Labor government is not tough on crime.


Finally, can I table this? Project fact sheet: Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro project. Look at the picture—dry, arid farmland. I went up to where this pumped hydro scheme is going to be developed and look at the contrast. Look at the valleys. The government would have you believe that this is just dry and arid farmland; it is not. I table that.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of documents, titled 'Project fact sheet—Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro Project' including two photographs [1986].

Where is the environment minister standing up for the environment? Where is the Minister for Communities standing up for communities? Where is the Minister for Indigenous Affairs standing up for the native title holders of that land? No consultation, unfunded, no plan, wrecking lives and wrecking livelihoods, without any business case, without any EIS. It is a disgrace!

*(Time expired)*

### Cairns, Youth Crime

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (2.20 pm): The shadow minister for integrity has no integrity and is deliberately misleading Queenslanders. The data provided by the LNP in Cairns last week relates to unlawful use of motor vehicle offences, not the number of vehicles stolen, which in many cases may involve—

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

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Can I deal with what I was going to deal with before I take your point of order, please? Member, you have used unparliamentary language. I ask you to withdraw.

**Mr HEALY:** I withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Do you still have a point of order?

**Ms SIMPSON:** I took personal offence and it is untrue. I ask that it be withdrawn. If that is the matter the Deputy Speaker is referring to, thank you.

**Mr HEALY:** The data provided by the LNP in Cairns last week relates to the unlawful use of motor vehicle offences, not the number of vehicles stolen which, in many cases, involved multiple offenders in single vehicles or multiple offenders committing the same offence in the same vehicle. In other words, the data presented by the LNP is deliberately misleading. Not only is it highly irresponsible but also it reflects a desperation by those opposite. The LNP have been caught out a few times distorting the truth, just like the fibber from Maroochydore on Cairns crime statistic issues.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence. The matter is untrue and offensive, and I ask that it be withdrawn.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Cairns, the member has taken personal offence. I ask you to withdraw and I note it is unparliamentary language.

**Mr HEALY:** I withdraw. Just last week, the desperate opposition leader also claimed there has been a decrease in the number of police. The simple facts of the matter are that police numbers are up by 401 since 2020 and that is taking into account natural attrition. In addition, we have had hundreds of graduating police from Brisbane to Townsville just recently, and the minister has made it very clear that there are challenges in relation to jobs and labour. We know that is happening in all sectors, and it is no different for the police, but we continue to aim for the high targets, the unprecedented targets that we have already set. The opposition leader's fondness for untruths reflects his desperation. He is not getting any traction.

In Cairns, it is not unusual to see adult crime statistics conflated into a story about youth crime by the LNP. Make no mistake about it, the data on kids stealing cars is absolutely concerning and unacceptable, but we continue to be honest with our community about that. However, inflated figures incorporating adult offenders into youth crime in Cairns is disingenuous and a disservice to the public, and reflects the growing desperation of the member for Broadwater for some kind of traction and his out-of-touch, lazy opposition who have not done anything about it. Nobody in Far North Queensland appreciates an LNP politician, with no credibility, flying up from Brisbane, making negative, destructive and inaccurate comments about Cairns and the region. The opposition offer no solutions and prefer to peddle hysteria and fearmongering.

More than two years ago, the LNP's member for Burdekin promised he would deliver their crime plan within six months. It is more than 650 days and there is still no sign of any plan whatsoever—absolutely nothing. They simply prefer to roll grenades down the corridor of government and then drop smoke bombs when asked to show their own plan. They absolutely lack substance.

I can reassure the community of Far North Queensland that I and my fellow state members of parliament, and every member of the Palaszczuk state government, is firmly focused on dealing with the youth crime challenges, and we are being honest with our community about it. In dealing with this matter in an honest way, I personally have sought the facts so as to see what government can do to help fully engage and be truthful with our community. As a member of parliament, I have been the first in 17 years to attend court. I have been to detention centres. I have been informed about the nature and criminal activity and that for me is part of obviously ensuring that we are getting the best outcomes. By contrast, those opposite have given little regard for the facts but have sought mainly to create a climate of fear—one that exacerbates the difficulties of policing and law enforcement without offering any meaningful solutions; one that demeans the hard work and dedication of thousands of men and women in blue who serve and protect our great state every day.

However, our government remains focused on solutions and outcomes. The testimony to this responsibility is this government's commitment to adapt and evolve in crime prevention initiatives. We know that new methods of crime fighting and crime prevention need to be adopted and we are looking at those in every way. Being nimble and innovative in our approach is part of our responsibility, so having access to all data and being aware of the latest and best methods in policing will always be a priority. However, when we look on the other side of the chamber, there is not a suggestion, merely they have made announcements that they will be cutting services. That is what they did. We can expect to see a significant dislocation happen if anything happens.

I make this comparison: on the opposite side we have fear and misinformation without obligation and answers; on this side we have a commitment to the truth, a quest for better outcomes and tangible results.

### **Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment, Performance**



**Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (2.26 pm): It is that special time of year again where we start to put up the Christmas decorations and the family start to argue, 'When do we begin Christmas?' I know my teenage daughters argue that you put the Christmas tree up on 1 December or the last day of school before holidays, but what it also means is we start to turn our mind to the year that has been, what has been achieved in the year that has been and the year in review. I think it was the late Her Majesty who talked about the annus horribilis for her being back in the early nineties. I reckon this year was that year for the Treasurer. In fact, his worst ever year began about 12 months ago today. It is interesting that we talk cost of living today because when the Treasurer announced his renters tax back in December last year, he was asked by a journalist, 'Do you feel at least a little bit bad for the people who are doing it tough in these housing affordability conditions?' The Treasurer's response at the time, which portrayed much of his view, was, 'No, not at all.' Even here again today we see the government not focused on the cost-of-living pressures that are facing Queenslanders.

Back to the Treasurer's year that was. We started the year with the Omicron wave going across Queensland. I remember standing with businesses in Cairns as they struggled for survival with tourism operators. We saw the cost of car registration go up and the Treasurer tried to argue it was the opposite. We had ballooning land values on flooded properties in Brisbane with the Treasurer having nothing to say. We saw tenancy bonds moved from the Residential Tenancies Authority into general revenue with the Treasurer passing notes over to me to prevent me from arguing the case here in this House. When the privacy of 10,000 people was breached by SPER, what did the Treasurer say? 'I don't lick the stamps.' That is what the Treasurer had to say at a time when people's privacy had been breached on a large scale.

We had the dodgy valuation by which the Titles Registry was corporatised. The Treasurer promised in this House there would be no cuts to services. What have we seen? Over-the-counter registry documents that cannot be filed in many regional places around the state.

We then had the budget—the broken promises and the health funding that was committed, half of which beyond the forwards and only one per cent of that health funding in this financial year. Then during estimates we had example after example of waste from this government across portfolios. The Treasurer has lost complete control of the spending. Whether it be the Minister for Transport and the infrastructure blowouts, whether it be on a roller-coaster, koala spending, it does not matter; they have lost control to the tune of \$3 billion.

After that we saw the unforeseen expenditure contained in a bill that came into this House—\$2.8 billion. The Treasurer again cannot contain the wasteful spending of his colleagues and he has lost control of the budget. What did we see recently? We saw that billionaires were given taxpayer

money—unknown to the taxpayer. What did this government get in return? They got advertisements across the board—newspaper upon newspaper. We still do not know how much money was given to billionaires and what the connection was between the advertisements and the money that was given.

We have heard recently that we are seventh in the country in terms of infrastructure spending—more calls on the transport minister who has lost control of the spending and lost control of delivering infrastructure in this state.

Then we saw a patients tax. GPs are already under significant pressure but now we see the Treasurer sending out the OSR to make changes to payroll tax collection regarding GP practices. Just this last week we saw there has been \$5 million in government advertising—blatant political advertising—in the five months since the budget and this week with the absence of the resources minister, who is abroad, we saw the Treasurer take over as resources minister.


This is a Treasurer who has proven himself in the last 12 months to be out of touch with the concerns of everyday Queenslanders and the cost-of-living pressures facing them. His credibility is lying in tatters. He is at war with industry. He is completely out of touch with the concerns of renters in Queensland.

**Mr Watts:** He is at war with the Premier.

**Mr JANETZKI:** He is at war with the Premier, who cut him off at the knees in relation to his renters tax when he would not listen to anybody else.

The Treasurer is out of his depth and this past year he has proven to be damaging to the Queensland economy.

### Mount Morgan Goldmine

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.31 pm): In the early 1900s Mount Morgan goldmine was the world's largest goldmine. However, since 1990 it has been unused and is contaminated with acid water. It has been under state government management to remediate the legacy environmental safety risks. During the mine's life about 250 tonnes of gold and 360,000 tonnes of copper were extracted from the mine with about 134 million tonnes of waste rock and tailings generated.

There was positivity but also scepticism amongst the Mount Morgan and Central Queensland community when Heritage Minerals bought the leases to the site last year with plans to rework thousands of tonnes of tailings to extract an estimated 7½ tonnes of gold and 5,600 tonnes of copper. Last week was truly a eureka moment when I was onsite with the Treasurer and resources minister to announce that new technology will breathe new life into the mine and will create more than 130 direct jobs with the support of the Palaszczuk government's Invested in Queensland program. The Heritage Minerals-led project to reinvigorate the Mount Morgan goldmine will provide immense financial and environmental benefits to the local community. The tailings-processing plant onsite is an absolute game changer with the potential to process nearly 10 million tonnes of existing gold or tailings, recovering an estimated 260,000 ounces of gold and 5,600 tonnes of copper with potential to continue operation for decades to come.

The project will create up to 133 full-time jobs by commercialising the remaining resources and it is expected to generate almost \$40 million in new mining royalties to the state over its first seven years of operation. This is an example of the resources industry continuing to support good jobs in the regions, but it will also have huge environmental benefits and will significantly reduce the state government's environmental site management and remediation costs.

The Heritage Minerals plan includes the construction of a new water treatment plant to lower the level of contamination in the open-cut pit, treat all water captured by the site's seepage interception system and help meet regulatory requirements for the release of treated water into the Dee River. New technology will allow the process to reduce cyanide consumption by 50 per cent, detoxifying the mine's tailings stream and improving clean water discharge. An article states—

Heritage Managing Director, Malcolm Paterson, said the Queensland Government funding would allow preliminary work of the environmental rehabilitation of the old mine site to recover gold and copper from the mine tailings to now get underway to deliver a project with the potential to support jobs for another 100 years.

"The Mount Morgan mine created so much wealth and prosperity and had wide-ranging impacts, including providing the impetus for the establishment of BP ... as well as the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, Australia's oldest medical research institute," he said.

... Our project will respect and protect that proud history, and create new jobs and opportunities for the future of Mount Morgan and the broader region."

Given the mine's storied Queensland history, metals mined from Mount Morgan would also be ideal for production for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games gold, silver and bronze medals. Once Heritage Minerals finalises funding and finance approvals with the Australian government, which they expect within coming weeks, the preliminary works including an access road, admin buildings and drainage works can be commissioned. Heritage Minerals is also working on recruitment and rostering new staff at the mine.

Attracting new investment in Queensland is a major priority for the government with a range of investment programs available to support significant projects and create new jobs for Queenslanders. There is a whole lot of new enthusiasm in the entire Mount Morgan and Central Queensland communities as a result of this announcement—a really strong partnership between the Palaszczuk government, Heritage Minerals and also in collaboration with the federal government and the Rockhampton Regional Council, which has been working together with Heritage Minerals for a number of years.

I commend Heritage Minerals, Malcolm Paterson and their team for the work they have put into this project, the skills and expertise that have been required to get this project to this stage. It is not a typical mining project. It requires a lot of really technically advanced mining and tailings technology and resources and it is only Heritage Minerals that has been able to do that.

There has been a number of proponents over the years, but Heritage Minerals has come in and put their mind to it. They have now been able to guarantee that next year they are going to start work on construction of the mine and also start rehabilitation of the site, which is incredibly important for the entire Mount Morgan community. The Dee River is contaminated and for many years governments have grappled with how to rehabilitate that river. Now we have a pathway forward and it has only been as a result of collaboration and partnership between the Palaszczuk Labor government and the private sector in Heritage Minerals.

### **Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro Project**



**Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (2.36 pm): This morning I asked the environment minister about the role her department has played in deciding why the Pioneer Valley is the preferred site for pumped hydro. Why was this chosen above all other options? What was the answer? There was no answer. The environment minister could not say what, if any, advice or assessments were provided by her department in choosing this location. That is staggering. What was this massive decision based on? Was she even consulted by the energy minister on this decision? Of course, all projects do go through environmental approval processes at different levels of government, but that should not prevent the Queensland government from working in a united way to properly plan projects transparently.

For the last two months we have heard the government talk big about their glossy brochure, and the Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro is the biggest part of that plan. On 28 September this year the Premier said—

A new dam in the Pioneer Valley near Mackay will supply half of Queensland's entire energy needs with clean, reliable and affordable renewable energy.

This was the centrepiece of their announcement. It understandably came as a shock to the people who live where this project will go. The first contact many of them had was when a property valuer knocked at their door. Yet when we look at the detail of the Energy and Jobs Plan it becomes clear that this was less of a plan and more of a sham. It is not funded. Not a cent was in the budget or in the recent unforeseen expenditure that this parliament passed. There is no detail. The government has failed to adequately explain why this site is the best. From the answer we heard this morning it seems the environment minister has not even been part of that decision-making process.

The Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro fact sheet is just two pages long and the second page has no specific information on it. One part of that second page is a description of the environmental and social assessments. Under 'environment' all it says is—

Understanding the environmental issues and impacts is one of the guiding principles in the development of PHES. Environmental assessments include existing tenure and use of land, impact on flora and fauna, hydrological assessments, water source and the impact on waterways, water supplies and requirements for environmental offsets.

Given this description and the close proximity to the Eungella National Park we would have thought that the department that manages and cares for that national park would have been part of the initial assessment process. I understand they are not the lead agency for this project, but surely the environment minister should be asked for input when major projects like this are proposed. Surely even some of the initial evaluations should have been completed by now or maybe they have not been.

Has this government gone all-in on a multibillion dollar project without even considering what the potential environmental issues could be? We have seen before the state government's inability to deliver. Near the electorates of the minister and me on the Gold Coast we have the long overdue second M1. Labor has not even managed to get the detailed designs done for this road in nearly eight years in government. I was recently told by TMR that the designs for just one of the three parts of the government's first stage—that is another story—between the Bonney and Gaven electorates will not be completed until mid to late 2023. That is just the planning; that is not even the construction, which could blow out even more. If the government cannot even build a 16-kilometre road in a corridor that is 90 per cent owned by the state at the start of the process, how can it be trusted to deliver another major project of a far larger scale?

We support the transition to renewables—there is no argument about where our state is heading—but we continue to question this government's ability to deliver. We need genuine action to address climate change. We need ambition, but we also need honesty and to measure progress and delivery.


The environment minister's inability to see the importance of openness was again on display this month when she was faced with questions about contamination near the Linc Energy site on the Darling Downs. When the cyanide scandal first broke, the minister did not think it rated making a comment and kicked into media management mode. It took days of further questions before the minister backflipped and agreed to publicly release all of the water sampling results. Openness and transparency are important and, once again, this government has failed to respect Queenslanders enough to be up-front with them. It should not have taken brave whistleblowers from within—

**Ms ENOCH:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Obviously there are remarks being made on that side by members who are not in their own seats.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): I remind members that you need to be in your own seat if you want to participate in the debate.

**Mr O'CONNOR:** It should not have taken brave whistleblowers from within the environment minister's own department to leak this information. Why did they take that extreme step if there was nothing to see here?

### Cook Electorate

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (2.41 pm): Here we are at the end of yet another productive year. I take this opportunity to speak about some of our government's investments in the Cook electorate. I have never been more proud to represent a government that delivers for all people, no matter where they live. When I travel around the Cook electorate I am excited to see where funds are being spent to support our services and to protect our great lifestyle.

We have seen record investment poured into health over the years, with major upgrades to tired, old health facilities. Thursday Island Hospital received a massive injection of funds to upgrade the existing facilities. In September I was fortunate enough to visit the TI Hospital with the Premier and the health minister, Yvette D'Ath, to inspect some of the works taking place. It is certainly going to make a huge difference to health care in the Torres Strait, helping locals to have a pleasant experience when utilising the service.

The outer islands of the Torres Strait also benefited from major upgrades, with millions flowing into upgrading primary healthcare centres in Masig, Poruma, Ugar and Dauan to support the health needs of people living in the outer islands, potentially preventing hospitalisation. I was so impressed to see the newly refurbished primary healthcare centre on Masig Island when I visited in August. It is new, modern and another fine example of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to health in this state.

During my recent visit to the western cape I took the opportunity to visit the Weipa Integrated Health Service to inspect the newly built birthing suite. I thank the director of nursing, Kindee, who gave up her valuable time to show me around the hospital. When I visited the hospital in 2021 we had just made the announcement that we would bring birthing services to Weipa. I returned this year to see the birthing suite completed and set up with everything to facilitate a positive birth experience for an expectant mum. I am proud that women in Weipa and its surrounds will now be able to have babies closer to home with the love and support of family and loved ones.

While in Weipa I visited the Evans Landing boat ramp. If you have been to this boat ramp you will understand the fascination for boaties and their boat ramps. I have come to love boat ramps, because I know what they mean for local communities. Delivering this vital infrastructure means that boaties can continue to do what they love in a safe and measured way. I am proud to deliver the Evans



Landing boat ramp, along with boat ramps at Newell Beach and, most recently, in the Bloomfield River. In Mossman I joined Minister Ryan to officially open the new Mossman Fire and Rescue Station. I give a shout-out to the hardworking fire and rescue personnel for the hard work they do to keep our community safe.

This government has never been shy when it comes to providing support to communities to unlock future opportunities. This government continues to invest in improving road conditions in Cape York and supporting local employment. The sealing of the Peninsula Developmental Road and the arterial roads connecting Cape York communities to the spine of the PDR shows how important state and federal investment is to supporting job continuity in Cape York while making access to communities safer. We have committed funds to build a case study for the Mareeba bypass—something I know Mareeba Shire Council and local councillor Lenore Wyatt have been advocating for for so long in order to get heavy vehicles out of the town centre.

Clearly, our job is never done, and the one thing that sets the Palaszczuk government apart from those opposite is that we are about community. We constantly look to the future to see what more can be done. We are a government committed to creating opportunities for communities. In the arts, we have announced funding for a new arts centre in Coen. The Treasurer and I visited Coen earlier this year and heard from internationally renowned artist Naomi Hobson about her passion for art and using art as a vehicle to open up new social and economic opportunities for her community.

In tourism, we have committed vital funds to Pajinka in the Northern Peninsula Area—funds that will help traditional owners to build a solid tourist destination for the thousands of visitors who make the journey up the PDR every year to visit the beautiful Pajinka, the northernmost tip of Australia. An investment in the tourism hub on Thursday Island will enable communities to manage the influx of tourists visiting the region annually and will enable the community to plan to deliver tourism in a measured way. The two new splash parks in the Douglas shire and Mareeba shire will support young families in the region, and I cannot wait to see these splash parks delivered for my communities. It has been a busy and exciting year. I am proud of all of our achievements in Cook, and I look forward to 2023 and what it will bring.

### Local Government, Conflicts of Interest



**Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (2.46 pm): This month we have seen an appalling example of the broken conflicts-of-interest regime in Queensland's councils. On 8 November, Scenic Rim Regional Council, on the casting vote of the mayor, determined to take no action on an agenda item because it was determined that all councillors had a suspected conflict of interest. That conflict, it seems, was argued to exist for two reasons: first, media had reported on matters that would arise in debating the motion; and, secondly, councillors had been lobbied by residents and community interest groups about issues arising in the motion. I table relevant media reports.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Fassifern Guardian*, dated 16 November 2022, titled 'SR Councillors denied vote on harsh penalty' [\[1987\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Beautesert Times*, dated 16 November 2022, titled 'Council in chaos' [\[1988\]](#).

I will leave it to other councillors and residents to comment on the motivations of those who voted in particular ways; however, if a councillor cannot properly and objectively consider a matter of local political debate in the public interest because there has been media reporting about it and a bit of a local campaign, what are they there for? Democracy means media reporting and people telling local representatives their views and asking them to reflect those views. Balancing the merits of those voices and views against the overall public interest is the fundamental task councillors are supposed to carry out. It should never be considered a conflict of interest. If it was, no representative anywhere would ever make a decision unless in a vacuum of silence, zero media reporting and zero public lobbying. That is not a modern Queensland; that is bleak totalitarianism. We all deserve better when it comes to local decision-making in Queensland.

The laws that enabled this conflict of interest to stop debate are state laws. Nearly 18 months ago the minister pledged to streamline these conflict-of-interest rules, and what have we seen? Nothing. This conflicts regime is confusing and defines conflicts far too broadly, making it prone to manipulation by councillors seeking to alter voting outcomes by alleging conflicts on the part of other councillors. It can rob communities of a voice at the council table. That is what happened on 8 November. The minister stands condemned for failing to fix a clearly broken conflicts-of-interest regime for councils.

The former member for Hervey Bay had a way of describing things like this: it starts with 'bull' and ends with 'it'. The council conflicts regime and the outcomes it enables in local government, including in the Scenic Rim, fit squarely within that description. The minister—

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

**Mr KRAUSE:** I withdraw. We need local councillors to do the job that residents expect of them in a democracy: to represent local voices and views. These conflict provisions undermine public confidence in local government in a huge way. Fix it, Minister; it is up to you.

Last Thursday it was announced that Scenic Rim council would have an adviser appointed to it by the state—something that only occurs under the Local Government Act when the director-general believes the council is not performing its responsibilities properly or complying with laws applying to it or it is otherwise in the public interest for an adviser to be appointed. In that context, an adviser being appointed to Scenic Rim is extremely concerning. I sought a briefing from the minister's office about this which occurred on Friday, and I thank the minister for this.

My first and main concern was why was an adviser being appointed. I was informed that the department had been watching Scenic Rim council, in particular the conduct of its meetings and conflicts of interest management since the 2020 election—over 2½ years. The department is concerned about the downward trajectory of council in handling these matters. It has concerns that the conflict provisions are not being used appropriately or correctly and that, despite numerous training sessions and regular departmental assistance being provided to council—including stepping through specific scenarios; sitting in on council meetings to observe, assist and advise; and the deployment of a specific officer to Scenic Rim governance matters—it got to the point where the department was seeing little or no improvement in this space.

I was informed that the department does not intervene lightly and nor does it like intervening in councils by appointing advisers. However, it was considered necessary nonetheless. The appointment is to be for three months initially and is done in part owing to the saga that has developed about conflicts of interest arguments, not just from 8 November but also going back to conflict arguments in the debates about the CEO's tenure and other issues stretching back to 2020 when the department started monitoring the council. The department's concerns accord with a perception in the community that particular councillors can seek to accuse others of having a conflict on motions where removing a councillor or two from a vote will change the outcome in a substantive way. I asked the department whether the appointment of an administrator had been considered. The response was that it had not been considered. This development in respect of Scenic Rim highlights in a vivid way why the conflicts of interest provisions must be fixed, and quickly. Eighteen months ago the minister promised to act. The conflicts regime is a malign influence that, when mixed with local politics and intra-council politics, brings a toxicity to councils that kills off vibrant local representation and undermines democracy in local government. Fix it, Minister.

### Queensland Sport Awards



**Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (2.51 pm): Last Thursday night the people behind all levels of Queensland sport gathered in Brisbane to celebrate the 27th annual Queensland Sport Awards. Volunteers, administrators, officials, individuals and teams from the grassroots right through to elite champions were all there along with the inductees into the Queensland Sport Hall of Fame and the latest Queensland Legend. I was fortunate enough to be joined by Her Excellency the Governor, Dr Young, along with the Premier in her role as patron of QSport and around 650 others to acknowledge the achievements of everyone who makes Queensland sport great.

While the headlines from the night are undoubtedly going to go to golfing superstar Cam Smith and his win in the Sports Star of the Year category, this was truly a night where all of sport was celebrated and some of the true characters came to the fore—people like Officiator of the Year Aleisha Neumann, a teacher at Marsden State High School who is one of the very best hockey umpires on the planet; people like Ann-Marie Warren, winner of Volunteer of the Year and President of the Gympie AFL Club who, along with her committee, has dealt with her club being underwater three times in the last 12 months; but especially people like Audrey McLaughlin. Audrey was one of the inductees into the QSport Hall of Fame alongside household names like Jonathan Thurston, Laura Geitz, Jamie Dwyer, Sally Pearson and one of the very important but early figures of Queensland Rugby League Harry Sunderland. Audrey is not well known like those people, but she should be. With her first involvement in the sport of softball in 1948, Audrey has been a rep player, Queensland coach, Australian coach, Australian selector, umpire and administrator. She was an assistant coach in the first Australian team to win the World Championships in 1965 and coached Queensland for 21 years. Fittingly, diamond

No. 1 at Downey Park is named in her honour. This spritely 91-year-old only ceased coaching masters softball 18 months ago and stole the show with her grace, wit and left the crowd in awe of her dedication to her chosen sport.

**Ms Grace:** We love grace.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I take that interjection from the member for McConnel. It would be remiss of me not to mention the one man who has gone above and beyond to strengthen the sporting industry, and that man is Peter Cummiskey. After 25 years as CEO of QSport, the industry peak body for organised sport throughout Queensland, Peter will step down in March next year. His lustre and gravitas will be missed. I must acknowledge that he is a Sandgate local. His introduction to sport was by being a well renowned AFL player, or Aussie Rules player as it was known at the time, at the Sandgate Hawks.

**Mr Nicholls:** Lives in Clayfield.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** He lives in Clayfield now—I know that—but he took that as his platform to then become the Australian Rules presenter on *Sportscene* in the seventies and I remember his visage from those days on Sunday mornings. Peter has worked tirelessly to promote and sustain the development of organised sport in this state. He has been instrumental in delivering targeted education and training for the sporting sector, and I want to acknowledge the member for Springwood in the House. In his former role as minister for sport, he was a great supporter of that work QSport had done. Peter Cummiskey has led the coordination of the prestigious annual Queensland Sport Awards and Hall of Fame and has worked alongside government liaising with the sporting industry to help develop COVID-safe industry plans which guided the return to play of the industry during the pandemic. Undoubtedly the strong relationships Peter has built up with multiple stakeholders over many years played a key role in Queensland being one of the first jurisdictions in the world to see the return of community sport in 2020. Peter leaves this role with Queensland Sport in outstanding shape. As we embark on the exciting green and gold runway ahead of us towards Brisbane 2032, I am sure there are further ways in which he will continue to contribute to sport and to the Queensland community, but in the meantime on behalf of all Queenslanders I want to thank Peter for his service to sport.

## INTEGRITY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### PUBLIC SECTOR BILL

Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill resumed from 14 October (see p. 2820) and Public Sector Bill resumed from 14 October (see p. 2818).

#### Second Reading (Cognate Debate)



**Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (2.57 pm): I move—

That the bills be now read a second time.

These two bills were introduced by the Premier on 14 October this year and represent significant milestones in delivering the Palaszczuk government's commitments. At the outset, I wish to thank the committee members and the committee secretariat for their consideration of these two bills. I want to thank the member for Logan, the chair, for ensuring the bills were properly scrutinised and considered, and he did an excellent job. I also wish to thank those who made submissions to the committee and appeared as witnesses as part of the committee's inquiry.

Turning first to the Public Sector Bill 2022, the bill was referred to the Economics and Governance Committee, with the committee making one recommendation—that the bill be passed. Our government is committed to an integrated and responsive public sector with purpose and integrity focused on improving the lives of Queenslanders and delivering even better services right across the state. The bill both modernises public sector employment laws and seeks to rejuvenate the capability and capacity of the public sector workforce. This is in response to Mr Peter Bridgman's independent review of Queensland public sector laws titled *A fair and responsive Public Service for all* and Professor Coaldrake's report titled *Let the sunshine in: review of culture and accountability in the Queensland public sector*. Both reviewers explored how government can build better public services—Mr Peter Bridgman through the lens of public employment laws and how these impact responsiveness and Professor Coaldrake through the lens of culture and accountability. The bill also represents the

culmination of extensive and rigorous shareholder consultation and consideration. I thank all stakeholders involved, especially in relation to the constructive and collaborative role they played in this process.

Central to the objectives of the bill, and as contemplated by the Bridgman review, are three pillars of fairness, responsiveness and inclusiveness. I will now turn to specific elements of the bill. In 2020, the Palaszczuk government progressed stage 1 of the public sector reforms that delivered on the recommendations of the Bridgman review by enshrining fairness, employment security and positive performance management as central to Queensland's public employment framework. This week, the Palaszczuk government is further delivering on this commitment by reinforcing and extending these reforms to all relevant employees of the public sector.

Previously Queensland's public employment framework applied only to the core public service, comprised of departments and public service offices. Under this bill it will apply to a broader public sector, made up of a wide range of Queensland government entities—generally, to any entity established under an act for a state or public purpose. This will bolster the stage 1 public sector reforms by ensuring they are applied to all relevant employees of Queensland's public sector. This includes the Palaszczuk government's commitment to employment security, which recognises that permanent public service employment is an essential feature of an effective Westminster system of government, something those opposite failed to appreciate during their time in office.

**Mr Power:** When they sacked them!

**Ms GRACE:** I will take the interjection from the member for Logan. They indeed did sack 14,000. This bill extends conversion to permanent employment mechanisms beyond the public service to the broader public sector. It also extends accountabilities for chief executives to undertake proactive workforce planning, reducing reliance on temporary and casual employment from the outset. This gives greater effect to the government's stated commitment to permanent employment. The bill also carries over the positive performance management framework established as part of the stage 1 public sector reforms to the broader public sector. The bill sets out a fundamental requirement not only for all employees to focus on their own performance but also for managers to manage performance positively and proactively. This will ensure the legislation fosters a highly skilled public sector workforce.

By extending the scope of public employment legislation from the core public service out to the broader public sector, the bill recognises the importance of an integrated public sector where entities work together to achieve the best possible outcomes through the best use of resources. Taken together, these reforms centre fairness in the public employment framework. They do this by maximising permanent employment and ensuring fair and transparent decision-making and accountability for managers and chief executives consistently across the whole of the public sector.

The bill also moves beyond stage 1 public sector reforms to introduce changes to strengthen fairness and responsiveness across the public sector. The first of these is a recognition of the role the public sector plays in supporting the government to reframe its relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. In supporting this role, the bill requires public sector entities to recognise the importance of the right to self-determination to Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It requires chief executives to take active steps to ensure their entities fulfil this role, including through new planning and reporting requirements and obligations to foster and promote cultural capability and safety at all levels of the public sector. I would like to thank those First Nations stakeholders who offered their feedback and perspectives to support this important reform.

Secondly, this government understands that equity, diversity, respect and inclusion are key to building a fair and responsive public sector that reflects the wide range of views, experiences and perspectives that make up Queensland. That is why this bill introduces new equity and diversity measures for public sector entities. This includes obligations for chief executives to promote equity and diversity in employment matters and conduct a comprehensive program of auditing, reporting and planning on the progress of equity and diversity in their entity, including for diversity target groups. The bill also requires chief executives to promote and support a culture of respect and inclusion for all public sector employees. It strengthens accountability and oversight with powers of the Public Sector Commissioner and the Special Commissioner for Equity and Diversity to oversee these new obligations. These reforms embed equity, diversity, respect and inclusion in our public sector employment framework and are nation leading. We are the first jurisdiction in Australia to do this.

Thirdly, the approaches under the bill regarding mobility and taskforce arrangements have regard to other developments in public administration, including understanding the lessons learned from the way in which the public service supported the COVID-19 response. These concepts are related to the

observations of the Coaldrake report to build capability through executive mobility and generally to promote better cross-agency collaboration in tackling emerging, priority or regional issues facing Queenslanders.

There are some elements of the bill that specifically support the public sector workforce renewal and culture dedicated to accountability and performance as envisaged by Professor Coaldrake. In particular, the bill supports the Coaldrake report by ensuring the continued independence of specific integrity bodies that do not employ public servants. It does this by not including the Queensland Ombudsman and the Crime and Corruption Commission in scope of the bill and introduces an alternative mechanism to enable public sector employment arrangements to be applied to their staff. The bill implements recommendation 5 of the Coaldrake report by establishing the Public Sector Commission's role as the key leadership, oversight and central human resources agency, with functions to promote an ethical public sector culture and to facilitate the development of a highly skilled chief executive service and senior executive service.

The bill also implements Coaldrake's recommendation that agency chief executives be appointed on fixed-term five-year contracts unaligned to the election cycle for their first appointment. The bill provides that contract terms must be five years unless the individual requests a shorter term. This is also consistent with Commonwealth public service legislation.

Professor Coaldrake's recommendation that two external community members be appointed to the new Public Sector Governance Council to ensure it has access to valuable commercial and community insights is also included in the bill. The bill also establishes the shared public sector stewardship roles of the Public Sector Governance Council, the Public Sector Commission, the Public Sector Commissioner, Special Commissioners and chief executives. This reform is vital to ensure a responsive, well-led public sector where cultural change can occur and safe and respectful environments are promoted.

For the benefit of the House, I will now outline some of the amendments that I will move during consideration in detail. While the committee did not form a view with regard to the relationship between statutory office holders and public sector review functions, the committee noted it is open to government to enable that this important review function occur via an alternative structure. The government has listened to the feedback provided by the Electoral Commission of Queensland and the Queensland Human Rights Commission during the committee process. To respond to this feedback, and to ensure the ongoing confidence in the independence of the Electoral Commission of Queensland and the Queensland Human Rights Commission, it is proposed to progress an amendment to exclude these entities from the application of public sector reviews under the bill. It should be noted that these provisions of review were already in the existing Public Service Act and were just being transferred over, but for the avoidance of doubt, amendments are proposed to both the Electoral Act 1992 and the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 to include arrangements that will ensure the Electoral Commission of Queensland and the Queensland Human Rights Commission are subject to periodic strategic reviews.

The consequential amendments are necessary to ensure these entities will be subject to a formal review mechanism, which is what Queenslanders would expect of their integrity type bodies. The proposed treatment of these two entities is modelled on treatment of core integrity bodies such as the Ombudsman, Information Commissioner, Auditor-General and Integrity Commissioner, where preservation of the independence of these bodies has also been prioritised.

I will also move an amendment during consideration in detail to clarify that, if a chief executive of a public sector employee is permitted or required to offer to convert the employee's employment to a permanent basis under the bill, the employee can be employed permanently despite anything in another act which provides for their basis of employment. This amendment will also serve to address an issue raised by the Office of the Public Guardian during the committee process.

It is also proposed to make an amendment to the civil liability protections under the bill to extend those protections to associates, judges or members of other courts of record. This will futureproof the legislation and ensure consistency of treatment for associates. In particular, the amendment will have the effect of capturing associates to members of the Land Court. We are going to treat them all the same.

The elements of the bill I have outlined support public sector employees to be responsive to the needs of the community, to give frank and fearless advice to government, and to deliver the best possible outcome for Queenslanders. The bill will further the government's commitment to being fair, responsive, inclusive and a leader in public administration.

I also note that no statements of reservation or dissenting reports were made to the committee report. I can only conclude that those opposite have a new-found respect for the Public Service and will be supporting the legislation before the House. We all know the track record of those opposite when it comes to Queensland's public sector. They were in government for only three years, yet the destruction and devastation that they did to the Public Service and public sector more broadly knew no bounds. It included sacking over 14,000 public servants, which is something that Queenslanders will never forget and that we will ensure they never forget. Queenslanders need an effective and efficient public sector that is well equipped and skilled to deal with the challenges of today and tomorrow. This legislation will provide a modernised framework for the public sector to operate within.

I now turn to the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, which further demonstrates the Palaszczuk government's commitment to integrity and accountability. This bill was also referred to the Economics and Governance Committee. The committee made one recommendation: that the bill be passed. The bill provides a range of legislative amendments to strengthen Queensland's integrity and oversight framework. As outlined when the Premier introduced the bill, Queenslanders rightly expect their government to provide public services that are transparent and accountable. They want to see those services delivered in a contemporary integrity framework that maintains and improves a culture of accountability.

The primary purpose of this bill is to strengthen and enhance the independence of the Auditor-General, the Queensland Audit Office and the Queensland Integrity Commissioner. The bill also makes minor amendments to the Ombudsman Act 2001, the new Public Sector Act 2022 and the Superannuation (State Public Sector) Act 1990 mentioned in schedule 1.

A key means to enhance the Auditor-General's independence is to remove the Queensland Audit Office from the operation of the new Public Sector Act and to enable the Auditor-General to employ staff under the Auditor-General Act 2009. Importantly, existing Queensland Audit Office staff will retain their current terms of employment, with their superannuation and leave entitlements preserved. Those staff will also have the option of electing to return to being a Public Service employee within six months of the relevant provisions commencing. It should be noted that these proposed new employment arrangements will commence on proclamation up to one year after the passage of the bill. This will provide enough time for the Auditor-General to develop and consult with staff on a new employment framework, which is very important.

The Auditor-General will also be made an officer of the parliament and be required to make an oath or affirmation administered by the Speaker or the Clerk of the parliament. Noting that the committee's report commented on the possible consideration of amendments to include affirmations, I can advise the House that the Acts Interpretation Act 1954 defines 'oath' to include affirmation. As such, it is not necessary to amend the bill. The Speaker will also have the power to grant a leave of absence for the Auditor-General, instead of the minister.

The Auditor-General's independence is further strengthened by removing the need for the Treasurer's approval of any proposed increases in basic rates of audit fees. Instead, the Auditor-General will be able to propose an increase to basic rates of fees once per financial year, which the parliamentary committee has to approve. In deciding to approve or not approve the proposed increase, the parliamentary committee may have regard to the government indexation rate and advice from the Treasurer. The parliamentary committee must provide a report to the Legislative Assembly detailing the reasons for approving or not approving any requested increase. Providing for the parliamentary committee to consider the government indexation rate and advice from the Treasurer enables the committee to consider broader economic factors that may impact on appropriate annual costs of audits to government. To further enhance the Auditor-General's independence, the Audit Office will be able to undertake audits of government owned corporations without having to receive a request from the Treasurer, a minister or the Legislative Assembly.

The Coaldrake report recommended that any outstanding matters from the previous 2013 Finance and Administration Committee inquiry and the 2017 strategic review of the Auditor-General be implemented. One of those recommendations was captured in this bill: to allow the Auditor-General the discretion to undertake an audit if requested by the Legislative Assembly instead of the current legislation that compels the Auditor-General to do so. In the Economics and Governance Committee report, the chair commented—

This bill would define the Auditor-General as an Officer of the Parliament, yet at the same time provides the Auditor-General with the capacity to ignore an audit request by the Queensland Parliament. This seems at odds with the primary democratic sovereignty and role of the Parliament and should be further considered.

I could not agree more with the chair of the committee and I thank him for his consideration of this important matter. It makes a lot of sense.

It should be said that the proposal was recommended some time ago and the proposal should be read in the current context of other reforms that the government is progressing, the primary one being that the Auditor-General will be an officer of the parliament. That has been the change. As such, it would be an absurdity for an individual, let alone an officer of the parliament, to be empowered with the discretion to ignore the will of the parliament, that is, the members elected on behalf of all Queenslanders. While I am sure that, practically speaking, the current Auditor-General would respect the convention of the Legislative Assembly and undertake an audit if it were requested by this House, it is appropriate for protections to be put in place to ensure that it is crystal clear that the parliament's wishes are and remain paramount. As such, the government will not be progressing with this element of the bill and it will be removed in consideration in detail.

Turning to the office of the Integrity Commissioner, this position is further strengthened through the amendments proposed in this bill. The amendments are consistent with the Yearbury strategic review recommendations. The Integrity Commissioner will not be subject to direction on the way they perform their function or the priority they give to integrity issues. An Office of the Queensland Integrity Commission is also established through this legislation. The office will consist of the Integrity Commissioner, the Deputy Integrity Commissioner and integrity officers. The designation of persons who can seek advice directly from the Integrity Commissioner will be further refined, as recommended by the Yearbury strategic review, so that the small office of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner is not overwhelmed by a potential large number of requests. Former designated persons will be able to seek advice via their departmental integrity processes or from ministerial advisers through their minister, assistant minister or chief of staff. The new regulation-making power will improve transparency concerning how new persons or classes of persons are designated, enabling flexibility into the future.

The Yearbury strategic review sought to relieve the Integrity Commissioner of administrative processes in relation to declarations of interest that have no relevance to the legislative functions of the role. The need for statutory office holders to provide a copy of the declaration to the Integrity Commissioner will be removed as well as the need for the Integrity Commissioner to report on compliance by statutory office holders and the CEO in an annual report.

Strengthening Queensland's integrity and oversight framework also involves building on the lobbying reforms already announced by the Premier following the release of Professor Coaldrake's report. This includes making unregistered lobbying, which is already prohibited, an offence with a maximum penalty of 200 penalty points.

In respect of the Ombudsman, the proposed amendments to the Ombudsman Act 2001 will bring the timing of strategic reviews of the Ombudsman into line with other integrity bodies by reducing the review period to five years instead of the current seven.

Part 5 of the bill outlines a number of minor amendments to the proposed new Public Sector Act that will provide further clarity regarding the removal of the Auditor-General from this proposed new act as well as ensuring that the Integrity Commissioner is appropriately referenced and provided with required powers under this new legislation.

The proposed commencement date for the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 is by proclamation for the various provisions except those in relation to the Integrity Commissioner receiving copies of declarations of interest. These sections, sections 50 and 56, will commence when the new Public Sector Act commences.

I also wish to advise that I have been asked by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice to move amendments to the Magistrates Act 1991 during consideration in detail to rectify an urgent matter. While I note that these amendments are outside the topic of the discussion of the bill before the House, the amendments I have been requested to move are important and time critical. The amendments will retrospectively validate the appointments of and any relevant exercise of jurisdiction by three acting magistrates who were invalidly appointed because they were over 70 years of age at the time of their appointment. The amendments will provide certainty in relation to the validity of decisions made by those acting magistrates.

I note with interest that there was also no statement of reservation or dissenting report to the report with respect to the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I can only once again assume that those opposite will be supporting these new measures, which is interesting because in respect of the office of the Integrity Commissioner the track record of those opposite is seriously questionable.

Even though the CCC released a report which methodically went through the issues surrounding a laptop in the Integrity Commissioner's office, there has been absolutely no apology by the opposition or the Leader of the Opposition for their outrageous comments about 'goon squads' and 'raids'. They still carry on to this day about the contents of the laptop as if there were some secret conspiracy, like it was a Hollywood blockbuster event! Those opposite might like to take the opportunity during the debate—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** Listen to them all, Madam Deputy Speaker. They should be embarrassed. Those opposite might like to take the opportunity during the debate today to rectify their past actions and claims. For example, it is open to these opposite to apologise for their outrageous scaremongering comments and to apologise for their savage cuts to the Public Service.

In respect of the substantive elements of the bills before the House, those reforms are part of an overall package of reforms being progressed by the Palaszczuk government to ensure that our public sector workforce is covered by a legislative framework that is modern, simplified and employee focused and ensure that Queensland has a strong, independent and robust integrity system.

I commend these two bills introduced by the Premier to the House. I look forward to the debate and hopefully—I will not hold my breath—the apologies with regard to the outrageous misinformation by those opposite. I commend the bills to the House.



**Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (3.23 pm): My contribution to the Public Sector Bill and Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill cognate debate will start by focusing on the fact that it is a cognate debate, and that should tell us all that we need to know. For two important matters such as this to be debated cognately is a true sign of how little regard the government has for both matters. This House has less debate and less scrutiny than ever before. This House has fewer sitting days than any other parliament on mainland Australia. This House has a committee system which the government wants to be nothing more than a rubber stamp and an estimates process that has been compromised. This is not the action of a government that wants to let the sunshine in.

I want to start by talking about the Public Sector Bill, particularly its genesis with the Bridgman review. It has taken four years after it was originally commissioned to get the next wave through. I question whether we would have seen any of these reviews if it were not for a damning report from Professor Coaldrake—yet here we are, four years later. The Public Service must be valued. It must be respected. It must provide fearless and frank advice. The Public Service needs job security.

The Premier has spent an inordinate amount of time conducting a scare campaign about the Public Service and has spent zero time fixing the culture of entrenched fear she has overseen. Today in this House—and indeed in recent times—we have seen a juvenile scare campaign. Today government members even sought to replicate the juvenile scare campaign we saw in another state. Let me give a message to the Public Service: few elected representatives learned the lesson of Public Service upheaval more than I did. I had to walk the floors and thank those public servants after I lost my seat. I say to every one of those public servants across the two departments I administered how much I valued and respected them. My record of valuing and respecting those public servants is something I am very proud of.

Amongst those public servants were a vast array of people in different areas from different backgrounds. Some have gone to other careers, including in public life. The mayor of Ipswich was one of those public servants. I knew her politics. She was treated no differently. So, too, was the member for Hervey Bay, who was a public servant in the local government department. He was a good public servant and did his job well. I knew his politics and I respected the job he did.

When it comes to reductions in the Public Service, two things stand out: Queenslanders have said unequivocally that they do not want them; and, equally importantly, they just do not work. A Public Service that is secure in its employment, empowered in decision-making and free to give fearless and frank advice will help a government drive more efficient projects and help rein in the billions of dollars of waste that is rife in this government. When those opposite seek to run yet another juvenile scare campaign, as they have repeatedly, time and time again—

**Mr Walker:** Tell us about a laptop.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I will get onto that. The current situation in the Public Service is one where its members do not feel valued and respected. The 2021 Working for Queensland survey results show how much a lack of leadership is impacting their ability to do the job. Some 34 per cent of public servants



feel burnt out by their work; 38 per cent do not think that poor performance will be appropriately addressed in the workplace; 49 per cent think there is too much red tape in their work; and 25 per cent do not think their organisation is well managed—a lack of leadership, vision and compassion. This is a government that has checked out in its third term and, after 10 years in office, is trying to run yet another scare campaign aimed at a Public Service that does not feel valued or respected. Professor Coaldrake's review, which I suggest is the reason the Bridgman review has finally had the second iteration—

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Bush): Pause the clock. The member for McConnel will cease her interjections.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Professor Coaldrake in his report spoke of 'an atmosphere of fear'—fear of unwanted career impacts and loss of employment status for unwelcome advice. That is not fearless or frank. The report speaks of pressure from some ministerial staffers for responses that minimise problems—ministerial staffers walking around like they were generals. It also speaks of discouragement from providing written advice on difficult topics and of senior public servants directing employees to sanitise advice and alter recommendations to align with what was presumed to be the minister's position. We saw an example of the altering of a report by the then state archivist on the mangocube email saga where comments damaging to the government were removed—a state archivist who was pressured.

**Ms Grace:** Discredited.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I wish to take the interjection. This is a state archivist who the minister is now saying is discredited because he wanted to blow the whistle on a dodgy, rotten government; a state archivist whose only crime was to want to bell the cat when it comes to a minister asking for a report to be changed to protect the bacon of another minister. That is the culture. Never have I wanted an interjection more than that one. From the author of making up stories comes discredited.

There was a director-general taking steps to prevent a report from reaching the minister's ears so as to ensure that the minister could continue to plausibly deny knowledge of the matter, and we still do not know who that director-general was. Are any of those opposite going to explain that and talk about the culture?

The Auditor-General's report titled *Managing workforce agility in the Queensland public sector*, released in November, highlighted workforce planning in the Queensland public sector is not sophisticated enough to build and grow a workforce that can meet changing needs and priorities. We all know we need more doctors and nurses on the front line. We all know that police numbers have not only not kept pace with population and rising crime but also not kept pace with attrition.

**An opposition member:** What about teachers?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Teachers on the front line have had promises made to them that should have been promises kept. The minister's only solution to misleading people on the teacher promise was to try to move the goalposts. The Auditor-General's report states—

The public sector is unwieldy due to long-established hierarchical structures and processes, and a silo approach.

Finally, it also stated that 'only 10 of the 20 departments have developed and implemented a strategic workforce plan'.

I want to thank the public servants who have bravely spoken out; the brave, respected public servants calling out the bad behaviour of this bullyboy government—the former integrity commissioner and the former state archivist who again has been slurred in this place. The opposition is regularly contacted by public servants willing to shed light on the government's failures. It has been the public servants who have asked the health minister to go looking for where the shortfalls come, where the ambos have not been and where they have not been able to meet the demands. Imagine the frustration of that ambo waiting at the end of a ramp when they know at the end of a line is a Queenslander who cannot be served.

Public servants are telling us what documents to RTI. I say to each and every one of them that we have respected their confidence and, as a result, the leaks will keep coming. This gives me confidence that, at its core, the Public Service is made up of a great group of people who want a better future for Queensland. We intend to give it to them. Why does this matter? Queenslanders rely on public servants to deliver the services they need every day. If public servants cannot focus on service delivery, if the culture is rotten, if the pressure is there every Queenslander suffers.

The LNP will not be voting against this bill, but this is not a vote of confidence in the way that this government treats public servants. To quote the Coaldrake review: 'The tone set at the top is essential.' If Premier and her government do not change, all the legislation in the world will not fix the systemic culture that has been able to develop for over seven years—a culture of entrenched fear. Examples of this government not willing to change have been plentiful in recent weeks alone. We had a minister who sat on a report that was 13 months old and that she had for eight months take it out at 8 pm on the day their youth crime crisis came to the fore. We had the Linc cover-up where a minister aware of contamination on adjacent land failed to tell the council, the community, conservationists or even the landowners. We have the government funding Jackie Trad's legal case to keep a CCC report secret. We had the sacking of the Mackay Hospital board while the media was focusing on a DV report. We had the member for Maryborough calling for public servants who had raised issues with Professor Coaldrake to be identified and questioned about an anti-Labor agenda.

When it comes to a government that I lead, I reflect again on the words of Professor Coaldrake—'The tone set at the top is essential.' We are serious about changing the culture around the way the government empowers the Public Service. That is why we will have a minister for integrity. The government does not have one. They do not believe in it. They had a chance to talk about integrity and made the debate cognate. That is why a government I lead will have a minister for open data and it will be a serious minister for open data.

Public information will be public. It will drive ministerial accountability. It will drive a culture of service. It will drive a culture of improvement. It will mean that Queenslanders can be proud of the services they get and public servants can be proud of the ministers to whom they give fearless and frank advice and who are willing to accept it. That is the way the organisation must work.

A government I lead will have a minister for customer service. It is something the government will not entertain because it does not value the relationship between the Public Service and the customer. If a government is serious about ensuring that Queenslanders have a world-class service they will put customer service at the forefront. I look at the contrast between New South Wales and Queensland when data was breached and it came to the replacement of people's licences. I look at the contrast between the line-ups versus a simple approach because the government did not listen to the Public Service that was giving advice about how to empower people to keep the data and give it in a non-harmful way.

The LNP believes in a Westminster government where the Public Service gives fearless and frank advice. I want public servants to be as enthusiastic about delivering the outcomes for Queenslanders as Queenslanders are about receiving them. I give a message to those public servants listening: we look forward to working with you. We believe that Queensland's best days lie ahead of it. The customer and the public servant will go together and form a relationship that makes everyone proud to be a Queenslanders.

The LNP supports the amendments following the Electoral Commissioner Mr Vidgen's concerns about some of the potential impacts of the legislation. We welcome those changes. To think that there could have been a perceived or real threat to the ECQ's independence is, quite frankly, incredible.

In terms of the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, the government is walking away from its commitment to implement the Coaldrake review lock, stock and barrel. Professor Coaldrake recommends removing the power of the Treasurer to approve the fees of the Queensland Audit Office. Instead, this bill gives the power to a parliamentary committee that the Treasurer can advise.

This is the first tranche of Coaldrake review related reform. The government has not committed to when the reforms will be implemented lock, stock and barrel. Will they take years to introduce further reforms like they have with the Bridgman review? Are they just waiting until people have moved on and we are all focused on another crisis? Will the government ever be serious about integrity? This legislation is intended to make it look like the government is acting on the integrity crisis that has gripped this government. It is a half-baked effort at best. Where are the cabinet documents that the government promised would be released in 30 days? The government committed to that over 150 days ago.

Where are the measures to address the poor behaviour of ministerial advisers against public servants? Where is the plan to prevent greater oversight of complaints made against senior public servants? These are just some of the Coaldrake review recommendations that the government has conveniently forgotten about and we will not—

**Mr Smith:** No announcements, no action.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I take that interjection because it is always about the announcements. It is always about the media release. There is never the analysis of planning, delivering and evaluating. The government does not have the discipline to plan, deliver and evaluate. That is the reason the Public Service feels so uninspired by them. That is why there is an entrenched culture of fear.

This legislation is intended to make it look like the government is acting, but all it is doing is buying time. The failure to act shows that the government is not serious about improving integrity. Again, if we do not see a government committed to change then nothing will change.

The LNP welcomes the provisions in this bill to provide more independence for the Integrity Commissioner—and don't we know that is needed! The LNP fought for more independence for the Integrity Commissioner when a laptop was taken without her consent. It should never have happened, and that is why we were so strident in our defence. The Integrity Commissioner wanted to stay on for estimates to answer questions and the government would not allow her. That tells you everything you need to know.

**Ms Grace:** When you resign, you resign. That is normally what happens.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I take the interjection from the education minister. The education minister said, 'When you resign, you resign.' After the bullying and intimidation and standover tactics, the Integrity Commissioner was not allowed to speak—

**Ms Grace:** You're making it up. That is unfounded and you know it.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I will take the interjection. If someone could give her a microphone, we could do a duet here. This is magnificent. This was an Integrity Commissioner who just wanted the ability to tell her story. Officers of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner are subject only to the direction of the Integrity Commissioner.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Bush): Pause the clock. Members, the volume is getting too loud. I have been extremely generous in allowing for debate. That generosity will be withdrawn from now. I will start cautioning members.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** The budget of the Integrity Commissioner is still set by the government. I call on the government to adequately resource the Integrity Commissioner to perform its functions to the highest standard. Queenslanders want, and deserve, an Integrity Commissioner that is independent in every sense of the word. The LNP will fight to achieve this.

I note that an amendment will be introduced by the LNP to implement changes to the approval process for the Auditor-General's fees to bring the legislation in line with the Coaldrake recommendations. The opposition should not have to do this. The way the government has introduced this legislation to make it look like the power of the Treasurer to influence the Audit Office, through approval of their fees, has been removed shows that the government has not changed. Even in the amendment they still cannot bring themselves to be open and transparent. The government are only interested in maintaining their power.

I conclude by saying the following: the fact that this debate is cognate, the fact that one of the government's most senior ministers has used the last 20 minutes to besmirch the very people who triggered the integrity crisis burning through this government, the fact that there are recommendations from Professor Coaldrake that could have been implemented immediately and they have continued to stall, the fact that the government would do nothing other than run a juvenile scare campaign to try to belittle and bully Queenslanders because of a lack of vision, show everything you need to know about this government. Whilst we will be supporting this cognate legislation today, I make this point: nothing short of a royal commission into this dodgy rotten government will get to the bottom of what is rotting Queensland—a tired, third-term government.

**Ms PEASE:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member used unparliamentary language. I ask him to withdraw.

**Mr Mander:** In your opinion.

**Ms PEASE:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to another point of order against the member for Everton at the back who made disparaging comments to me as well.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Bush): Member for Lytton, is your point of order taking personal offence?

**Ms PEASE:** No. My point of order was that the member for Broadwater used unparliamentary language. That was my first point of order.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will take advice on that point of order first. Member for Broadwater, you did make unparliamentary comments. I ask that you withdraw.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I withdraw.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Lytton, do you have a second point of order?

**Ms PEASE:** Yes, I do. I take offence at the member for Everton's comments and I ask him to withdraw.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Everton, the member for Lytton has taken offence and asks that you withdraw.


**Mr POWER:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. How can the words 'in your opinion' be taken as personal offence? That is stretching—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You know as well as I do that it is a subjective test. The member has taken offence and has asked that it be withdrawn.

**Mr MANDER:** I withdraw unreservedly.

**Ms PEASE:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to another point of order. I ask that the member withdraw again because he was reflecting on the chair in the manner in which he withdrew and in making fun of this House.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Lytton, there is no point of order.

 **Mr POWER (Logan—ALP) (3.46 pm):** What we have just heard was remarkable. We know that he has to creep away because he cannot hack—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush):** Pause the clock. Members, I will ask for silence.

**Mr STEVENS:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member knows quite rightly that there are to be no comments about members not in their chairs or outside the House.

**Mr POWER:** My apologies, Madam Deputy Speaker. I was merely making reference to the opposition leader creeping around the chamber, not outside the chamber.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members, I ask that we resume the debate in a professional, collegiate way as far as we can. The member for Logan has the call. I did not hear the comment; however, there is a custom. I will allow the member to return to his debate and ask that he be heard in silence.

**Mr POWER:** That was a truly remarkable speech when we know that 14,000 public servants were sacked. We did not hear the member for Broadwater reflect on those 14,000 public servants who were sacked. Instead, we heard the member for Broadwater reflect on his own sacking. He talked about wandering the halls so sad and lonely as a cloud. He was not worried about the 14,000 public servants he sacked, nor indeed the services that had been cut. He was only worried about his own job being cut. This is disappointing and is a reflection on the member for Broadwater. If we were ever unfortunate enough in Queensland to have his leadership, we would see those 14,000 workers sacked again. They would include 4,400 health workers and 1,800 nurses and midwives. We cannot risk that.

I also need to mention that this was an opportunity for the member for Broadwater to show some true leadership, to show the House that he is contrite and understands what integrity is about. He should have apologised for the debacle that was Investigation Workshop and the false accusations that were perpetuated by the member for Broadwater and the member for Maroochydore that were contained in this document *Investigation Workshop*.

**Mr Hart:** Read clauses 59, 60, 61 and 62.

**Mr POWER:** The member for Burleigh says to read it. It says—

There was no evidence of improper disclosure.

It says that on the front page. It continues—

The circumstances in which the laptops were retrieved ... the descriptions of 'raid' and 'seizure' do not reflect the reality of what occurred. Further, the circumstances in which one laptop was 'wiped' are wholly unremarkable.

This would be an opportunity for someone who purports to be the shadow minister for integrity or a future minister for integrity to say, 'I recognise that the CCC has made an adverse finding against misinformation on issues of integrity.' Even though the member for Broadwater is so weak that he is unable to make an apology to this House, this would be an opportunity for the member for Maroochydore to do the right thing and try and creep back some credibility. I will not be holding my breath, but this is their opportunity. The CCC's adverse finding against this misinformation hangs over the head of the member for Maroochydore.

I came to speak on the Public Sector Bill and the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I want to thank the committee for its good work. We have a good relationship when trying to deal with these important issues. We are often distracted by the misinformation of the shadow front bench. The Public Service we have should reflect the great diversity that is Queensland. All workforces in Queensland should embrace diversity and not miss out, but especially the Public Service because it serves all Queenslanders. We also want to note that having standards there so workers have security is important because that is how families know they have a secure and stable income.

When we look at previous generations of the Public Service sometimes it was treated like an exclusive club. We have to wonder how many opportunities we had to employ fantastic Queenslanders we threw away. If we are not welcoming these people we are missing out on getting the very best. As a third generation teacher, I know what a great difference teachers make in life. We want the best. My own grandmother Tess was from a generation who was forced to leave her teaching profession when she got married. Grandma Tess would have continued to be a great teacher, but our Public Service and our students were worse off because of these rules. At that point the majority of teachers were men; however, now 80 per cent of our teachers are women. The education department encourages flexible work arrangements to keep teachers in the workforce and continue to make a difference. I myself as a young teacher taught part-time with another teacher who chose to use the flexibility offered. We acted as a team and taught the curriculum together. As was made clear in the introductory speech of the Premier, it absolutely maintains the primacy of merit in hiring and promotion processes but it also ensures we are not ignoring the merit of those who are sometimes overlooked.

So often the work of our public servants is attacked—like the member for Broadwater does—in the popular media and by those opposite. We hear constant attacks on bureaucrats and 'fat cats'. That is what they all say; however, on this side we value the hard work of public servants. In Logan I know the teachers, the TMR RoadTek crews—they were out there today fixing potholes—the paramedics on the Mount Lindesay Highway. I know how hard they work and how demanding their jobs are.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr POWER:** This might be something of interest to the opposition. An example came to mind several years ago when a family comprised of a mother, grandmother, the 11-year-old daughter and a toddler were swept away in the floodwaters of a raging Norris Creek. A neighbour heard their distant cries as they clung to trees in the foaming water and called triple 000. When the Beenleigh swiftwater rescue team arrived the neighbour pointed them into the darkness. She said to me, 'The guy hooked onto a tree, looked straight ahead and then transformed into a superhero—arms pumping, diving into the unknown—with one thing on his mind: rescuing his fellow Queenslanders.' Without all of their experience, training and personal dedication those four Queenslanders—my constituents—would not have survived. That is why this act maintains merit absolutely. When you need to be rescued in a terrible situation like this you want the absolute best.


As I said, we maintain the primacy of merit, but so often in the past we have overlooked merit by consciously or unconsciously using bias or even discrimination in the hiring of public servants. We often overlooked the best people for positions because senior public servants thought those who needed to be promoted were those who looked, were educated like, or acted just like themselves. This excluded those who often had so much to give in the service of Queenslanders. We have made tremendous changes to overcome this. We all recognise that traditionally women like my grandmother were shut out of serving, especially in more senior roles, but this is no longer the case.

As many would know, our Public Service is almost 70 per cent female, but in the past they were limited to lower positions. Now we have seen a transformation and women are rightfully in stronger leadership positions. For example, the 2022 gender pay dashboard tells us that two-thirds of the AO8 positions are held by female workers and over 60 per cent of senior officer or equivalent positions are held by women. If the leadership of female public servants was ignored in the past, then this dashboard clearly shows that the Palaszczuk government is no longer ignoring real merit and ensuring

that we have the best to be promoted. The majority of working age Queenslanders are male, but this shows just how attractive working for the Queensland government is to women and how much we benefit from recruiting, training and promoting all Queenslanders with fantastic leadership skills for the service of Queenslanders.

The challenge is greater in that there is an even more corrosive history of the exclusion of Indigenous Australians. I hope we all in this place recognise that as an act of reconciliation and inclusion we want to make sure we take advantage of the insight, connection, skills and leadership of Indigenous Australians. Unlike the transformation of the role of women, there is still much more work to be done to see the same success for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. I look forward to departments making plans for inclusion. Not only do Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have so much to offer the Public Service but they also bring their life experience and knowledge to specific services to improve health and educational outcomes for fellow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. While maintaining the primacy of merit, this bill asks chief executives to undertake an annual audit and make a plan to improve equity among Indigenous people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, people with disability and women. This is why, after public hearings and deliberation, the committee joined together to recommend the bill be passed and ensure that merit reflects the great diversity of our Queensland population.

I also endorse the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The bill reflects recommendations in the Coaldrake and Yearbury reports. The bill makes changes to the Auditor-General Act, the Integrity Act and the Ombudsman Act. It strengthens the roles of these statutory officers and makes refinements to their roles. I also note the amendment of the minister. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (3.57 pm): When I hear the Palaszczuk Labor government say they value integrity I am reminded of Ralph Waldo Emerson, who said, 'The louder he talked of his honour, the faster we counted our spoons.'

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Ms SIMPSON:** The more this government says it is honest, the more their cost-of-living hikes and out-of-control crime—

**Mr MANDER:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Logan is speaking directly to the member, not through the chair, and abusing and bullying her. This is a man who is bullying a woman—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Bush): Member for Everton, what is your point of order?

**Mr MANDER:** Exactly that. He is speaking directly to the member and not through the chair.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** There is no point of order.

**Ms SIMPSON:** The more this government says it is honest, the more their cover-ups, cost-of-living hikes, out-of-control crime and poor service delivery hurt Queenslanders. I have also listened to the interactions of members opposite, including the Minister for Education and some who have been loudly trying to shout me down. This government has learned nothing. We have just seen a damning report, the Coaldrake review, which talked about entrenched fear, bullying and intimidation of the public sector in Queensland, yet we see that those who are their political masters, unfortunately, have learned nothing and continue to promulgate this disgraceful culture of bullying and intimidation.

Actions, not words, are what we count to measure this government's honesty and integrity. The last eight years of this government show that they are not doing what they say and that their words do not match their actions. Their inaction on things that matter to Queenslanders comes at a great cost.

There have been countless reviews, many of which have been sparked by some of the brave whistleblowers I have just heard members opposite run down and try to discredit. They are the ones who have spoken out and they are the reason there have been a number of reviews, including the Coaldrake review. There have been a multitude of reviews but not all of the recommendations have been enacted, despite the government saying they would do that. There is no transparency about when the government will do that. I call it a roulette of reviews—good luck, because you never know which one is going to come through. The government say they will adopt them but it is all a bit of a mystery of inertia.

This government has a culture of bullying and shooting the messenger, and this was re-emphasised in the House when matters of the former state archivist were raised and there was an attack launched by a minister of the crown against him. There has been a grindingly slow pace to act

on recommendations from the multiple reviews into damming integrity issues. When this government announce a review it buys time, but they have learned nothing about actually implementing matters of integrity in a timely way.

They are desperate to hold onto power but they do not serve with the openness and honesty that the people of Queensland and our Public Service deserve. Queenslanders are paying the price. Our public servants have been labouring under this culture of entrenched fear and intimidation, and these are the words that came through in some of these reviews. Queenslanders have paid the price for speaking out. Our public servants should be able to bring forward fearless and frank advice without fear or favour—not in fear of the favoured.

These bills include some of the Coaldrake recommendations but not all of his recommendations. They include some recommendations from reviews more than five years old, and other recommendations still linger in the mists of inertia with this government. We do not know what the dashboard of implementation is for those remaining recommendations. We need to see more detail from this so-called task force of government that is tasked with implementing the Coaldrake reforms. Let us see the time frame. Let us see the dashboard. There are no KPIs for delivery or for how success will be measured. We need some transparency. These bills are a bit of a patchwork quilt. The government has cobbled together different aspects. We support some measures and think they are moving in the right direction—

**Mr Stevens:** A bit of a dog's breakfast.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Yes, it is a dog's breakfast in many respects in terms of how they have treated many reviews and many recommendations from many independent officers of this parliament and independent officers who have been brave enough to speak out.

I want to address some of the reviews that have not been released yet, and the Public Records Act review is one of those. It was handed to government in August this year. That came about due to the absolute debacle back in 2017 of the mangocube saga where a minister of the crown used private emails to conduct public business and then deleted those emails when an RTI request was put in to access those private emails. We still have not seen the Public Records Act review. It is not in this bill and we have not seen the recommendations from that.

It came about after the 2017 report by the then state archivist, Mike Summerell—who was just attacked by this government again in the House—raised concerns about this matter. The State Archivist's damning 2017 report was not released publicly until 2022. Do we see the pattern here? The government have reviews and then they hide the reviews. They say they will adopt the recommendations, but they adopt some and then limp into the future and put out a media release saying they are doing it lock, stock and barrel but they do not.

The CCC review of the alleged breaches found they would not charge the transport minister as the private email account and emails he deleted were able to be retrieved. However, the CCC chair called Minister Bailey 'foolish' for his actions and 'lucky' not to face criminal charges because they were able to reactivate and recover the deleted emails which included public records. Anyway, there was no penalty other than a brief removal from the front bench, after which he came back and tried to claim that there was nothing to see here, that nothing was wrong.

The government just do not get it. They just do not change. All they do is shoot the messenger. How can public servants believe they have the leadership to bring about the culture of change that needs to happen when the very leaders who are sitting in political office on the opposite benches are still attacking those brave public servants and statutory office bearers who dare to speak out?

Let me go to the Integrity Commissioner. The Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill seeks to strengthen the independence of this office, but it came at a great personal price for the former integrity commissioner who spoke out about interference in her office. She raised concerns about laptops being taken without her consent and other issues, including attacks upon her and bullying. There have been reports of a black ops team from this government. It is not all done in the front of house; it is done behind the scenes where they undermine and attack.

We heard of a direct attack against the former state archivist in this parliament, but there were also government operatives trying to undermine and ruin the reputation of the brave integrity commissioner when she spoke out. However, we will not hear any admission or apologies from this government. The person in this role needs to be able to act with independence and not have the interference that she suffered when she raised concerns about illegal lobbying in this state.


I want to come to an amendment that I will seek to move if my right to speak is not taken away in the consideration in detail stage because of the way this government has put these two bills together in a cognate debate. I will be moving to enact one of the Coaldrake recommendations that this government has not adopted with regard to standing back against the Treasurer's power to inappropriately influence fees of the Audit Office when that office needs to be independent. We believe the Auditor-General should have the power to set those fees and there should not be influence behind the scenes by a minister who can go to a parliamentary committee with Labor members to do his bidding. We will be moving this measure to strengthen the role of the Audit Office so that this office will be able to do the good and necessary work they do as an independent office.

There are many other things I would like to say but I have not been given the opportunity of the usual speaking time because of the way this legislation has been cognated.

**Mr Fumer** interjected.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Normally I would get 30 minutes to respond, Minister, but that has been taken away by this government's arrogant abuse. Otherwise I would have spoken about the Jackie Trad purchase of property, the way chief of staff Barbagallo received a grant under this government and Labor aligned lobbyists.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (4.08 pm): I might actually talk to the contents of this bill just for something different. Opposition members over there have been lauding public servants and portraying themselves as the protectors and saviours of public servants. Did I miss something? When did we get to Disneyland? In the Public Service that I was in and the public servants that I speak to on a daily basis, there is not one of them who would trust a single word that comes out of opposition members when it comes to protecting—

**Mr Stevens** interjected.

**Mrs McMAHON:** I will take that interjection because the administrative officers at our police stations were not spared under the Newman government. Those admin officers who diligently do the administrative work of police officers were not spared. They lost their jobs under the Newman government which meant police officers had to do more work because we lost our admin officers.

They took police officers off the road because there was not a public servant and AO that they did not want to sack regardless of whether it was the QPS. I will not sit here and listen to those opposite pretend to be the protectors and saviours of the Public Service because we know and, more importantly, the public servants out there know, that they cannot be trusted. Those memories run deep in the public service and they know; they do not forget. The staff at my local police station still refer to that night as 'the night of the long knives' when they did not know if they were going to come in to a job the next day. That is how they remember life under an LNP government.

As a member of the committee that considered both of these bills, I would like to acknowledge the committee members, the able secretariat and, as always, the organisations who made submissions to the two inquiries that we conducted. Firstly examining the integrity bill, it is the implementation of recommendations from the public sector reviews as well as the review of the Integrity Commission by Mr Kevin Yearbury. The amendments to the Auditor-General Act are designed to improve the independence of the Queensland Audit Office. In a state where key services are delivered by the Queensland government and as a party that sees the role of government in ensuring the health, wellbeing and safety of its population a cornerstone of government functions, we understand the need to provide ongoing, continuous improvement of the public sector and how it manages its resources and delivers its services. A good government not only understands the need for oversight but actively encourages it through appropriate funding and staffing. An effective audit and integrity office is an independent one. By making the Auditor-General an officer of the parliament and demarking the Queensland Audit Office from the Public Service Act as proposed, this furthers the stated objective of increasing independence. An auditor-general and Queensland Audit Office that is at arm's length from the Public Service is better placed to review and make recommendations on improving the functioning of the Public Service. A creature of the Public Service is not in the best position to audit the Public Service.

Changes to the Integrity Act follow the strategic review of the Integrity Commission, as I said, by Mr Kevin Yearbury. The bill creates an Office of the Integrity Commissioner and position of deputy commissioner. The deputy commissioner position and the staff of the office will only be able to be



directed by the Integrity Commissioner. This is once again about ensuring the independence of our oversight bodies. Being a member of the committee with oversight of the Integrity Commissioner, we have seen how the workload of the Integrity Commissioner has increased. We do see this as a good thing. Ensuring adequate staffing, resourcing and genuine independence of this very important role within democracy is key to this.


Turning to the Public Sector Bill, this bill sees the first tranche of public sector reforms drawn from the recommendations made in the Bridgman review and Coaldrake review. These recommendations are all about providing public sector employees with a modern, simplified and employee-focused framework. Much like the integrity bill I spoke about earlier, the bill also seeks to further increase independence of other integrity bodies such as the Queensland Ombudsman and the Crime and Corruption Commission. It does so by excluding them from the Public Sector Bill. However, the ability of these agencies to opt in to aspects of the bill allows the employees of these agencies to access the benefits and protections of the public sector employment framework while strengthening the independence of our integrity framework. Legal Aid Queensland is also excluded in order to protect Legal Aid Queensland's public benevolent institution status under the Commonwealth legislation.

This is a lengthy bill. There are a lot of amendments to be made in the way that the Public Service is structured in relation to permanency and other issues. Many aspects are designed to make the Public Service more inclusive and more representative of a modern Queensland and its people.

I would like to spend a bit of time talking about the bill's objective to strengthen equality of employment by placing positive duties on chief executives to ensure policies and programs promote equity, diversity, respect and inclusion. The bill defines diversity target group members as: firstly, Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people; secondly, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds; thirdly, people with a disability; and fourthly, women. There is also a provision to add diversity groups prescribed by regulation.

I note and would like to comment on submissions made calling on this bill to include the LGBTIQ+ community as a fifth diversity target group. I note the department's response that it was not a group identified in the Bridgman review and that there was insufficient evidence of underrepresentation of the LGBTIQ+ people in the public sector. During the inquiry, when questioned on this particular issue, considering it was a lack of evidence cited by the department, little evidence could alternatively be provided as to the actual numbers of LGBTIQ+ members employed in the public sector. There is a reason for this. What the inquiry also heard was many stories and examples of the way that LGBTIQ+ people are impacted as part of their public sector employment, the difficulty they experience in their workplaces and the communities that they work in. No survey is actually likely to give an accurate representation of LGBTIQ+ members in the public sector for the very reason they need to be represented. Despite this, I would like to see more consultation by the public sector with advocacy groups about how this evidence can be derived to understand the representation of this community.

I understand that the additional provision, as prescribed by regulation, does allow for the inclusion of this group and that it was the lack of evidence that was cited. I would certainly encourage the Public Service Commission to be proactive in identifying and undertaking what advocacy and what consultation needs to be done to ensure that these public sector employees who, for various reasons, choose not to self-identify feel included in this public sector. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (4.16 pm): First of all, I would like to apologise to the people of Mermaid Beach for the limited time I have to talk to these two very important bills—just five minutes for each bill, when I should have had 20 minutes to go through all the matters that I wish to canvass here in my free speech. I will address some matters in the condensed time that I have available.

The first thing that we can deduce from the particular cognating of these two important bills is the fact that the government is just fiddling around the edges of the Coaldrake report and certainly the Bridgman review. Four years on and they have not done anything until Professor Coaldrake—not a known LNP supporter, mind you—has come forward and said that there is a bad culture in the Public Service under the current government members ruling the roost in Queensland. We have to answer Professor Coaldrake's assertions somehow for the media and they have come up with this tinkering around the edges in terms of integrity and Public Service behaviour towards the Public Service. I find that, yes, there are matters in there we certainly would like to support—and I will talk to the good matters that the member for Macalister raised in a moment—but the fact of the matter is this is here only for the media purpose—

**Mr McDonald:** Window-dressing.

**Mr STEVENS:** For the purpose of window-dressing—I take the member for Lockyer’s advice on that. I will go straight to the Public Sector Bill in terms of the matters that the member for Macalister raised about the LGBTIQ+ group of people and being under-represented, if you like, in government public sector matters. We talked to the presenter from that particular area—I think she was from the Teachers’ Union, as I recall—about how difficult it was. However, they have no data, and that is a major issue that the Public Service Commissioner needs to address in terms of getting proper data so that decisions can be made. When I asked the submitter how many, she said 20. We have, I think, about 60,000 teachers in Queensland. Unfortunately they need to get more data, perhaps through anonymous surveys—and there were issues with that as well—but certainly that is a matter worth pursuing.

It is supposed to be merit based, as per the New Zealand model. The concerns that were raised through the committee were about recruitment and training to get that particular group above other areas to match them in merit. That is a matter that we will have to address under the Public Service legislation if not now then sometime in the future.

I note there are amendments to be moved in relation to the ECQ and their determination to be excluded as a group from this bill. I note the famous Labor way of excluding it now, but what will happen in the future? I am sure that would be something that Mr Vidgen would be worried about because what we do not see is a review type of amendment. We have to keep the ECQ totally independent and any move to include them—instead of exclude them—in this Public Sector Bill would be a totally retrograde step in my view.

In terms of the integrity bill—and I am looking at my remaining time. That is my five minutes on the Public Sector Bill, thank you very much; I might get an MPI next sitting in the new year to catch up. The integrity bill also introduces an offence of unregistered lobbying. This is in relation to the Integrity Commissioner, who presented to the committee on numerous occasions. I can assure honourable members that the Integrity Commissioner, as we have noted through the public comments, has been a very upset Integrity Commissioner of Queensland. It is not a great track record and I am hoping that when the new Integrity Commissioner finally starts she will get a better deal in terms of being treated with respect and fairness by the government after the terrible experience that the previous integrity commissioner suffered. I say ‘suffered’ because she did. She was quite emotional in terms of her public comments and in terms of her approach. The fact that her offer to come back and talk to the parliament about matters she had raised was rejected by the government is a blight and hints at more covering up. In relation to the Coaldrake report, the Premier jumped up and said, ‘We will do it lock, stock and barrel,’ just like the old famous Fitzgerald inquiry, and yet they have not even pulled the trigger on it. This is just tinkering around the edges. Basically it is a media ‘tart-up’ to try to show that they are doing something about these sorts of issues.

In terms of the integrity issues in particular, the Audit Office was very concerned about the Treasurer controlling their capacity to charge a certain rate for the work they do. Obviously in terms of his important work—and he has been very astute in my view in terms of the work he has done for this parliament—it is not for us, it is not for the opposition; it is for the parliament and the Queensland people to say how this government is spending their money and how they are approaching different matters. He is very concerned that he will be controlled by the Treasurer—if not this Treasurer, perhaps another Treasurer at a future date and another auditor. What we have is sleight of hand, the pea and thimble trick that the Labor Party always gets up to where they say, ‘We’ll send it across to the portfolio committee.’ I take it that will be the Economics and Governance Committee. That is a committee totally controlled by the Labor members with a chairman’s casting vote. It is held in secret and there is no public information. It is like a Star Chamber and you cannot say anything. I am sure the Treasurer would be talking to the chairman of whichever committee it is at that particular time and giving him riding instructions on what he is to do with Audit Office fees.

That is just a nonsense. It is the pea and thimble trick again and it will still be under the control of the Labor government. I do not wash with any of their little tricks. Basically, the auditor will have the same issue he currently faces. Unfortunately, as members of that particular committee, we have to put up with it.


I really feel that whilst they are fiddling around the edges in some semblance of trying to address some of the Coaldrake recommendations, none of this will go anywhere. There is still the fear out there that this government controls the executive bureaucracy and the executive bureaucracy have all the other public servants living in fear of making the wrong decision or joining the wrong union. Those types of things that might actually—

**Mr Saunders** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): Member for Maryborough, if you wish to interject, you will do so from your own seat. That is the only warning I will give you.

**Mr STEVENS:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for your protection from the member for Maryborough. He is a dangerous animal! I get terribly frightened by the member for Maryborough! I do appreciate your protection, Mr Deputy Speaker.

It is absolutely critical to the people of Queensland that the Public Service delivers a fair, open and unbiased view, not a particular spin view at the hands of the government of the day. I am saying not only now but also in 2024 when we take over we want the same independent advice from the Public Service and we will make the political decisions. That is what I have also said in my local government career. Did anyone know I was the mayor of the Gold Coast? I knew I would get that in somewhere. I told the engineer of the day who wanted to add political spin to something, 'You just give me the engineering facts. I will deal with the politics.' That is what we want from our Public Service: no fear, no favour, just great advice so that the government of the day can make proper decisions. The government of the day can spin it how they like, but what they need is the facts in an unbiased manner from the Public Service. According to the Coaldrake report, they do not have the confidence to do that now.

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (4.26 pm): I rise to contribute to the Public Sector Bill 2022 and the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill in this cognate debate. Before I start my contribution, I would like to thank the opposition leader for his generous praise regarding my time as a public servant. I know it is a bit of an Italian bromance and I would like to acknowledge my blood countryman, but that is where the comparison stops when it comes to how we saw the Public Service being treated. The Public Sector Bill 2022 has been drafted by the Palaszczuk government to ensure that the framework for the Public Service is meeting the standards of a contemporary public service and is a fair employer. This bill acknowledges and provides all public sector employees with a modern and simplified legislative framework and further the Queensland government's commitment to being fair, responsive and a leader in public administration.

In the Economics and Governance Committee report No. 37 the chair, the member for Logan, adequately sums up what this bill is about. He said—

The Public Sector Bill 2022 seeks to modernise the laws which govern our public sector workforce including clarifying how equity and diversity considerations may factor into recruitment and selection decision making. This Bill aims to not only maintain the primacy of merit selection, but also to ensure that conscious or unconscious bias in hiring or promotion decisions mean that some equally meritorious workers are not overlooked or not encouraged to apply.

Queensland has made enormous changes to work towards a diverse and representative public service, already almost 70% of public servants and 51% of leadership roles are women, and since 2019, almost 60% of Senior Executive Service appointments are women.

...

This bill continues to ensure that we have a public service based on merit appointments that is reflective of the diversity of our State.

That was a great summary of what this bill is about and I fully support the chair's statement.

The main policy objectives of the Public Sector Bill 2022 are to: modernise the public sector employment laws and rejuvenate the capability and capacity of the public sector workforce to respond to the Bridgman review and the Coaldrake report. After commissioning the Bridgman review in 2018, the Queensland government accepted all of the review's recommendations, in full or in principle, with a two-stage approach for implementation. Stage 1 public sector reforms were implemented through the passage of the Public Service and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2020 to ensure the immediate implementation of recommendations related to maximising the government's commitment to employment security and providing Public Service employees with access to positive performance management. Both these measurements were well supported.

The Public Sector Bill 2022 proposes to implement stage 2 public sector reforms by replacing the Public Service Act 2008 and giving effect to the Bridgman review's primary recommendation to provide all public sector employees with a plain language, modern, simplified and an employee focused legislative framework.

The bill incorporates amendments to implement the recommendations of the independent review of public sector culture and accountability by Professor Peter Coaldrake. With regard to the level of consultation undertaken by the government on this particular bill, the public sector joint advisory committee, comprised of public sector unions and senior central agency departmental officers, was consulted throughout the development of this bill, including in relation to the policy positions arising from the Coaldrake inquiry report.

The Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships also undertook targeted consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders and peak representatives to ensure the bill acknowledges and strengthens the government's relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the public sector by requiring public sector entities to recognise the importance of the right to self-determination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Further, the Economics and Governance Committee called for public submissions and held a public hearing to hear from submitters to the bill. Some submitters raised concerns—the member for Macalister raised this earlier—that neither the Bridgman nor the Coaldrake report introduced a fifth diversity target group for the LGBTIQ+ cohort of the Public Service. The committee acknowledges the discrimination and harassment experienced by members of the LGBTIQ+ community reported by submitters, including in the workplace, and understands that the diversity target groups in this bill were subject to significant consultation and consideration. The committee notes, however, that should evidence emerge of the need for an additional diversity target group, the bill provides that additional groups may be prescribed by regulation.

As a member of the Economics and Governance Committee and a former public servant prior to entering this place, I congratulate the Premier for the focused work in this bill, particularly around maximising employment security. The Bridgman review noted that job security is a crucial feature of the Westminster system of government. Staff who are secure in their roles are better placed to innovate and give full and frank advice to the government, thereby maintaining the integrity of the government.

In my own electorate of Hervey Bay, many public servants will be secure in the knowledge that the Palaszczuk government is driving forward reform and incrementally enhancing the effectiveness of the Public Service without taking the hammer-blow approach of those opposite. In growing regional cities like Hervey Bay, we know what that approach felt like, as those opposite gutted and ripped the heart out of the Public Service locally when they were last in power. Offices were shut, regional services were reduced or stopped, and good, decent hardworking public servants were sacked.


Let me tell you about one of those individuals: Jason. Jason was an AO2 who was at the time the only breadwinner in his family and the sole support for his disabled father. Jason waited in fear in those dark months after the 2012 election for the dead hand of Campbell Newman and those opposite to tap him on the shoulder. Unfortunately, the dreaded box man came to Jason when the bean counters on the other side loaded up their spreadsheets and looked at the dollars on the bottom line and started pressing the delete button on our regional jobs. There was no consideration of the service being taken from my region, nor the massive impact it would have on people's lives or on our community. That is why this Public Sector Bill is so important to public sector employees.

This bill will give certainty and reform, promote ethical public sector culture and develop highly skilled public servants. Unlike the LNP razor gang, most of whom still sit on their front bench, regional Queenslanders know you well. They remember you. They remember the members for Clayfield and Nanango, and they will never forgive them for the devastation wreaked on their regional Public Service. They remember how they discarded decent, committed, good, hardworking members of the Public Service but never apologised to them. Many who were sacked have never recovered from the LNP's treatment, from being cast onto the scrap heap by the opposition, not caring about the families they supported, the community they were leaders of or the commitment to the community they believed in. They tore our regional social fabric to shreds and they did not care less.

It was a little disappointing that the opposition in their dissenting report said nothing, because there was not one—I could not find it. Might it be that the LNP is a bit sensitive talking about the Public Service, given the Leader of the Opposition has already indicated what fate will befall them if the LNP returns to government in this state. 'The Public Service has nothing to fear,' they say. Funny, that! I remember a former LNP premier saying that before he was elected, and look what happened. Tell the future Jasons you will sack to believe you. I do not think they will.

I want to recognise the great work done by Queensland's public servants. The Palaszczuk government respects you and thanks you for your ongoing commitment to the values of the Public Service. You show commitment to make Queensland a better place. You do make a difference, and the Palaszczuk government and I acknowledge your dedicated service. These individuals show extraordinary commitment by working all hours, on weekends and on public holidays to ensure the wheels of government keep turning and they provide the services all Queenslanders need. I congratulate the committee for their work on the bill led by the chair, the member for Logan, and

supported by the deputy chair, the member for Mermaid Beach, and the committee secretariat. While the Palaszczuk government plans and delivers for the future through good, future focused legislation like this bill, the only thing the LNP does is cut, sell and sack—and they will do it again. I support the bills before the House.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (4.35 pm): I rise to make a short contribution in order to give other colleagues an opportunity to speak in this cognate debate. I will focus on the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, and I acknowledge that the Public Sector Bill is also part of the debate.

This bill is cited as part of the government's response to the Coaldrake review into government integrity and the Yearbury review into the functions of the Integrity Commissioner and is the first of two integrity bills the government plans to introduce. By amending the Auditor-General Act 2009, the bill will establish the Queensland Auditor-General as an officer of the parliament. It will also increase independence by appointing staff under the Auditor-General Act 2009 rather than the Public Service Act. The Auditor-General will also be prevented from holding office or being employed by a public sector entity within two years of leaving office.

The bill amends the Integrity Act 2009 to provide that the Integrity Commissioner is not subject to direction in the way in which the Integrity Commissioner performs their functions or the priority to be given to integrity issues. The Integrity Commissioner's staffers will be appointed by the commissioner, but the budget of the Office of the Integrity Commissioner will still be set by the government. The bill introduces an offence for unregistered lobbyists, but the Integrity Commissioner will not have the ability to investigate any lobbying issues identified. This bill amends the Ombudsman Act 2001 to reduce the strategic review period for the Ombudsman's office from seven years to five years. As suggested in the Coaldrake report, this is consistent with the timing of the strategic reviews of other integrity bodies.

The QAO noted that these were important first steps in implementing the Coaldrake review recommendation; however, concerns were raised about the fees charged by the Auditor-General which are currently approved by the Treasurer. The Coaldrake review supports the removal of the power of the Treasurer to set fees. The bill instead gives this power to the relevant parliamentary committee—that is, currently the Economics and Governance Committee. The committee may, however, consider the government's indexation rate and advice received by the Treasurer. In other words, the Treasurer still has a significant influence over the fees set by the QAO, diminishing its independence. The member for Mermaid Beach made the point that, at the end of the day, the vote goes to the government members of the Economics and Governance Committee, with the casting vote held by the chair of that committee.

These legislative changes are supposed to be the first tranche of reforms to come out of the Coaldrake review; however, there is no time line for full implementation. In fact, the parliament is only just now finalising the recommendations of the Bridgman review that was handed down years ago. The implementation of the Coaldrake review recommendations cannot wait for years. The Queensland Audit Office's concerns about the influence of the Treasurer on fees and charges by the QAO cannot be ignored. They fly in the face of the Premier's commitment to implement the recommendations lock, stock and barrel.

To summarise, as I mentioned earlier, Professor Coaldrake recommends removing the power of the Treasurer to approve the fees of the Queensland Audit Office. Instead, this bill gives the power to a parliamentary committee that the Treasurer can advise—that is, currently the Economics and Governance Committee. This bill is the first tranche of the Coaldrake review related reforms. The government has not committed when the full reforms will be implemented lock, stock and barrel. Will it take years to introduce further reforms as it has with the Bridgman review? This legislation is intended to make it look like it is acting on an integrity crisis that has gripped this government. It is a half-hearted effort. For example, where are the cabinet documents that the government promised to release within 30 days? Who does it think it is kidding with the way it introduced this legislation to make it look like the power of the Treasurer to influence the Audit Office through approval of its fees had been removed? This shows that this government has not changed. The government is only interested in maintaining its power.

Integrity issue after integrity issue have been cited by the Leader of the Opposition and others: the mangocube affair with Minister Mark Bailey's use of private email for official business and altering reports to remove comments damaging to ministers; the Jackie Trad saga with the purchase of a property near a Cross River Rail station and the use of public funds to fight the release of a CCC investigation; the Premier's Chief of Staff affair where \$267,500 was granted to a company associated

with David Barbagallo and, when that was revealed, within weeks—in fact, it might have even been days—the Chief of Staff quickly resigned his position with the government; and changing the electoral system to the benefit of Labor. Who remembers that? We spoke about it earlier today—18 minutes notice to change the rules around the electoral system to benefit the government.

We then had Labor aligned lobbyists working out of 1 William Street during election campaigns. Once again, who could believe that this is actually happening? But we are in a Labor-led Queensland and this has to stop. This shows why a full commission of inquiry into the government's integrity crisis is needed. In closing, I thank our secretariat for the hard work that it has done on both of these reports. I will leave the Public Sector Bill for others to make comment on.



**Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (4.42 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise today to speak in support of the bills comprising this cognate debate—the Public Sector Bill 2022 and the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. This government has a demonstrated track record on integrity and we know that it is crucial that Queenslanders have faith in our system of government. We have strengthened our laws when it comes to political donations. The Premier has ruled out big money fundraising. We have widened the definition of 'corrupt conduct', restored the Crime and Corruption Commission's independence and the government is committed to putting integrity at the heart of our government. Transparency and accountability come first. While we have already made substantial reforms across a range of areas, we know there is more to do.

With regard to Professor Peter Coaldrake's report *Let the sunshine in: review of culture and accountability in the Queensland public sector*, we moved quickly to respond to this report and we have committed to implementing all of the sweeping reforms proposed by Professor Coaldrake. The Premier described these reforms as bold, comprehensive and visionary. Once implemented, they will ensure that Queensland has the most transparent and accountable government in the country. Of course we have already commenced on this reform journey and I was pleased to announce only last week that following the recommendation of Professor Coaldrake we have commenced a review of the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010. We know how important it is for Queenslanders to be able to make protected public interest disclosures and to have a robust framework to allow for that to occur. The Hon. Alan Wilson KC has been appointed to conduct this review and it is expected to be completed by the end of April next year.

In relation to the Public Sector Bill, I thank the Economics and Governance Committee for its report considering the bill and acknowledge the stakeholders who provided submissions to the committee. With respect to the public sector review framework, I note the submissions made by the Electoral Commission of Queensland and the Queensland Human Rights Commission about their independence. In its report, the committee acknowledged the comments about the application of the public sector review functions to these bodies but was not able to form a view as to why these reviews should not continue. The committee further observed that it was open to government to enable this important review function occur via an alternative structure. The government has heard the concerns of the ECQ and the Queensland Human Rights Commission and, as foreshadowed by the Minister for Industrial Relations, the government will be moving amendments to take action to address these concerns.

Both of these bodies perform roles that are integral to the functioning of Queensland's parliamentary democracy. Accordingly, to ensure there is no potential for interference with the vital roles of the ECQ and the QHRC, the government will be moving an amendment to exclude these bodies from the application of public sector reviews under the bill. While the ECQ and the QHRC will be removed from the scope of public sector reviews, the government will also be proposing amendments to the Electoral Act 1992 and the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 to provide an alternate review mechanism. This is similar to what is done for the Ombudsman, the Information Commissioner, the Auditor-General and the Integrity Commissioner. The government's amendments will provide for periodic strategic reviews of the ECQ and QHRC under their authorising acts. This will enable the appointment of an appropriately qualified person to review their functions as well as whether they are performing their functions economically, effectively and efficiently. Consistent with other integrity bodies, the time frame for a periodic strategic review will be every five years.

While the ECQ supported the introduction of strategic review processes, it raised concerns about the timing of a strategic review having a potential impact on its ability to effectively deliver an election. To address this issue, the amendments proposed by the government will include a power for a strategic


review of the ECQ to be postponed for up to another two years if this is necessary having regard to a state general election or a local government quadrennial election. These amendments will protect the ECQ and QHRC's independence and further strengthen Queensland's integrity system.

During the committee's consideration of the bill, the Office of the Public Guardian raised an issue about the provisions in the bill dealing with reviews of non-permanent employment for public sector employees and their application to community visitors appointed under the Public Guardian Act. I thank the Public Guardian for raising this matter. Acknowledging the bill's emphasis on permanent employment for public sector employees, I note the government will be moving an amendment during consideration in detail which clarifies that, if an employee's employment is to be converted to a permanent basis under the bill, the employee may be employed permanently despite anything in another act. In the case of the Public Guardian, this amendment will clarify that community visitors appointed under the Public Guardian Act who will become public sector employees under the bill can be appointed on a permanent basis as a result of the Public Sector Act framework despite any requirement in the Public Guardian Act. A further technical amendment which the government intends to move will make a minor change to the bill's civil liability protection provisions to extend this protection to associates of judges or members of other courts of record. The effect of this amendment will be that associates to Land Court members are captured.

Turning to the integrity bill, the first tranche of amendments contained in the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill are based on Professor Coaldrake's report and Mr Kevin Yearbury's report. They aim to better promote the independence and authority of Queensland's Auditor-General, the Ombudsman and the Integrity Commissioner. In relation to the specific amendments falling under my portfolio responsibilities, the bill amends the Ombudsman Act 2001 to reduce the strategic review period for the Ombudsman's Office from seven to five years.

The transitional provisions provide that the reduced time frame between strategic reviews will commence following the next strategic review. Under the current provisions, the next strategic reviewer of the Ombudsman's Office will need to be appointed by 24 January 2025. As highlighted in the Coaldrake report, a five-year strategic review period is consistent with the timing of the strategic reviews of the other integrity bodies and provides the Ombudsman with a more frequent opportunity to raise matters which require reform.

Unrelated to the integrity reforms in this bill and as foreshadowed in the second reading speech, the government intends to move amendments to the Magistrates Act 1991 to retrospectively validate the appointments of, and any relevant exercise of jurisdiction by, three acting magistrates who were invalidly appointed because they were over 70 years of age at the time of their appointment. This will provide certainty in relation to the validity of decisions made by those acting magistrates. The two bills before the House today are a further reminder of this government's commitment to reform and delivering the strongest possible integrity framework for this state. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (4.49 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Public Sector Bill 2022. On 28 June 2022 Professor Coaldrake delivered the landmark report, *Let the sunshine in: review of culture and accountability in the Queensland public sector*, the Coaldrake report, to the government. The report makes 14 direct recommendations and recommends implementation of a suite of other recommendations from former reviews and inquiries, all with the hope of strengthening the integrity and oversight framework in Queensland. Mr Kevin Yearbury's September 2021 report, *Strategic review of the Integrity Commissioner's functions*, the Yearbury report, also recommended a number of changes to the functions of the Integrity Commissioner. It is proposed to implement some of the recommendations from these reports through these two bills.

The objectives of the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 are to effect amendments to the following acts to better promote the independence and authority of the Queensland Auditor-General, the Queensland Ombudsman and the Queensland Integrity Commissioner. The bill also amends the Auditor-General Act 2009, the Ombudsman Act 2001 and the Integrity Act 2009. The bill also amends the Public Sector Act 2022. The proposed amendments which make those changes to legislation that are considered uncontroversial are largely supported by the respective integrity bodies they impact and do not have any or only very minor funding or policy implications for government. To better enhance the independence of the Queensland Auditor-General the bill will amend the Auditor-General Act to establish the Auditor-General as an officer of the parliament and introduce a requirement that the Auditor-General take an oath before performance of their duties. The Deputy Auditor-General will no longer be employed under the Public Service Act, but will be employed as if they were a member of staff of the Audit Office.

In keeping with these acts and also in this instance the Integrity Act 2009, the bill sets out the functions of the parliamentary committee as they relate to the Auditor-General. To further the objective and independence of the office, the bill will also restrict the employment of a person who has held office of Auditor-General upon the termination of that office so that the person may not hold an office in or be employed by a public sector entity within two years after the person stops holding the office. The bill did remove the obligation for the Auditor-General to conduct an audit at the request of the Legislative Assembly, but I understand some amendments are being moved to change that. All these amendments combine to create more independence and autonomy for the Auditor-General.

The bill amends the Integrity Act 2009 to provide that the Integrity Commissioner is not subject to direction in the way in which the Integrity Commissioner performs their functions or the priority to be given to the integrity issues. The bill also creates the Office of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner which is controlled by the Integrity Commissioner. The bill provides that the officers of the Integrity Commissioner are subject only to the direction of the Integrity Commissioner. Consistent with the intent of recommendation 7 of the Yearbury report, the bill amends the Integrity Act to remove the requirement for stated statutory office holders to provide a copy of their declaration of interests to the Integrity Commissioner. Declarations of interests still need to be provided to the relevant minister.

The bill introduces an offence for unregistered lobbying. A new section, 71A of the Integrity Act, provides that a lobbyist as defined in the act that is not a registered lobbyist must not carry out a lobbying activity for a third-party client. This prohibition goes to the heart of the requirement that lobbying be engaged in ethically and not with the promise of reward for success. Similarly, creating an offence for unregistered lobbying will encourage ethical lobbying and will underline the fact that lobbying can and does have a significant impact on the business of government. The public should be able to easily access information about who is lobbying government and this information should be up-to-date and accurate. The bill amends the Ombudsman Act 2001 to reduce the strategic review period for the ombudsman's office from seven years to five years as suggested in the Coaldrake report. This is consistent with the timing of the strategic review of the other integrity bodies.

With reference to the Public Sector Bill, the policy objective of this bill is to implement the public sector legislative reforms arising from the recommendations of an independent review of public sector employment laws by Mr Peter Bridgman titled *A fair and responsive Public Service for all*—the Bridgman report. The government commissioned this review, which was completed back in May 2019, to recommend changes to public sector laws, policies and procedures to ensure the Queensland public sector was fair and responsive, an employer of choice and a leader in public administration. It concluded there were significant issues in public sector employment laws and practices that required resolution to ensure a fair, responsive and inclusive public sector. The review made 99 recommendations for achieving these objectives. The government accepted all recommendations in full or in principle.

This government has been dragged kicking and screaming to admit they got it wrong and still then they hide behind the Public Service to attempt to absolve themselves of responsibility. These legislative reforms will go some way to restoring some sense of accountability, but the damage has been done and Queenslanders will not forget the dark days that have become the hallmark of the third-term Palaszczuk Labor government, a government in crisis, a crisis that was bubbling away long before COVID and it is now clear to Queenslanders that it has reached boiling point. The ongoing failure of this government to deliver the basic services that Queenslanders expect—health, housing, law and order, cost-of-living support—is now being replicated across nearly every portfolio.

To rub salt in the wound, the sheer arrogance of this government to accept responsibility for its failures and its lack of accountability and transparency has not been lost on Queenslanders. To stand up and announce reviews and inquiries does not absolve this government of its responsibility. The smoke and mirrors approach is wearing thin. While this legislative reform is welcome and long overdue, until the cultural integrity issues poisoning this government are fully exposed and ministers held accountable, Queenslanders' lack of faith and trust in this government will not be restored. We all hope and expect that the findings of all these reports and inquiries that have driven these legislative changes will trigger a new era of government accountability. While the LNP will not be opposing these bills, it is too little too late. Thank you.



**Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (4.56 pm): I rise to speak on the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. I once asked one of my students the meaning of integrity after he had made an unwise decision. He said, 'Miss, integrity is doing what is right even when nobody is watching.' I responded, 'Yes, integrity is about doing what is right, moral and ethical, not necessarily what is



popular.' The Queensland Labor Party has a proven track record of delivering services and programs for all Queenslanders, especially those who experience times of vulnerability in our community. I recognise and take this opportunity to acknowledge all of the public servants of my community. The vast majority of public servants work incredibly hard every day to serve the people of Queensland. They are honest, hardworking, they act with integrity and have an unquestionable commitment to service.

Public service can be a challenging and difficult job. I know; I have spent my entire career of 28 years as a servant for the people of Queensland, a career that I am proud of and that has and continues to be incredibly rewarding. There is no more important job than one that requires a service to others. I also acknowledge the 1,470 public servants of my community who lost their jobs under the Newman LNP government, many of whom have shared with me the personal devastation of this experience and many still suffering the psychological consequences of being sacked for no apparent reason other than alleged austerity measures. One such person is Debbie from Mansfield, a consummate professional and former employee of the Queensland Police Service. Her eyes still fill with tears when she speaks of the day her employment was terminated.

Our state Labor government has a proven track record to address the integrity of our democratic political systems and the machinery of government structures and procedures to deliver integrity reform to improve transparency and accountability. This year the Palaszczuk government commissioned two significant integrity reports, Professor Peter Coaldrake released his final report on 28 June 2022, titled *Let the sunshine in*, which made 14 recommendations to strengthen accountability and integrity measures in the Queensland government. As the Premier has clearly stated, our government will accept all of his recommendations, lock, stock and barrel. The recommendations are bold, they are comprehensive, they are visionary and they are exactly what we want for this state. Once implemented, Queensland will have the most transparent and accountable government in Australia.

The bill is the first tranche of legislation responding to Professor Peter Coaldrake's recommendations in his *Let the sunshine in* report and Kevin Yearbury's 2021 *Strategic review of the Integrity Commissioner's functions* report. The main purpose of this bill is to strengthen and enhance the independence of the Queensland Auditor-General, the Queensland Audit Office and the Queensland Integrity Commissioner.

The bill also amends the declaration of interests requirements and strengthens the regulation of lobbyists by introducing an offence for unregistered lobbying under the Integrity Act 2009. As recommended in the Yearbury review and supported by the Coaldrake review, a new offence for unregistered lobbying, clause 51, is also proposed in the bill to encourage ethical lobbying and will underline the fact that lobbying can and does have a significant impact on the business of government. The offence provision of 200 penalty units is commensurate with existing offences under the act.


The Coaldrake report recommended the independence of the Auditor-General be strengthened, extending its scope according to its status as an officer of the parliament. The report also made more specific recommendations about the Auditor-General: the Auditor-General Act 2009 be amended to allow for the Auditor-General's employment of QOA staff under that act rather than under the Public Service Act 2008; the Auditor-General to independently set basic rates for audit fees with the Treasurer's approval; the Auditor-General be given the discretion to undertake performance audits on government owned corporations; and that other outstanding recommendations from the 2013 Finance and Administration Committee inquiry and the 2017 strategic review be implemented. This bill largely implements these recommendations with some exceptions in relation to the 2013 FAC inquiry and the 2017 strategic review recommendations.

In contrast, the LNP has failed to support the review of our state's accountability and integrity procedures and processes. The LNP challenged our lowering of the donation disclosure threshold in the Supreme Court and the Court of Criminal Appeal. The LNP voted against the banning of property developer donations on the recommendation of the CCC and the LNP voted against the legislation that enabled the introduction of real-time disclosure. Those are just a few integrity reforms that the LNP has challenged or voted against. They sacked and stood over the CCC chairman, they sacked the CCC parliamentary committee in the dead of the night and they voted against every integrity measure that we have introduced. There is a solid track record against integrity reform by the LNP. The big question is whether the member for Broadwater will commit to Professor Coaldrake's reforms. I commend this bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Ms McMillan, adjourned.

## CORRECTIVE SERVICES (EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND SECURITY) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (5.02 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Corrective Services Act 2006, the Corrective Services Regulation 2017, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the Youth Justice Act 1992 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Corrective Services (Emerging Technologies and Security) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 [[1989](#)].

*Tabled paper:* Corrective Services (Emerging Technologies and Security) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes [[1990](#)].

*Tabled paper:* Corrective Services (Emerging Technologies and Security) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights [[1991](#)].

I am pleased to introduce the Corrective Services (Emerging Technologies and Security) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. The adult correctional and youth justice systems are fundamental frontline services that keep our community safe while ensuring prisoners, detainees and offenders are humanely detained and rehabilitated. Every day Queensland Corrective Services is responsible for delivering this service to the highest of standards for over 9,000 prisoners in custody and over 19,000 offenders in the community. In addition, on any given day in Queensland, around 285 young people are in custody and approximately 1,300 young people are on community supervision, receiving services from the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. This work has always been some of the most complex and challenging faced by frontline officers in Queensland. At its centre is a dedicated workforce of Corrective Services and Youth Justice officers who are committed to safety and security. I take this opportunity to acknowledge all of those officers who continue this work to the highest standard every day.

Recently, Queensland Corrective Services and Youth Justice services have faced new challenges to the security of the correctional environment. Those challenges include emerging threats from new technologies, the impact of natural disasters, COVID-19, renewed strategies to introduce contraband and evolving behaviour putting custodial facilities at risk. Alongside those challenges are also opportunities to enhance security with modern and innovative practices and technologies.

To this end, the Corrective Services (Emerging Technologies and Security) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 will deliver a suite of important amendments to the Corrective Services Act 2006 and the Youth Justice Act 1992. These amendments aim to ensure the continued safety and security of the custodial environment. Specifically, the amendments aim to: firstly, criminalise the use of drones over Corrective Services facilities and Youth Justice detection centres and entry onto rooftops of Corrective Services facilities; secondly, to provide clear authority to use X-ray body scanners, CCTV, body worn cameras and other emergency technologies in Corrective Services facilities; thirdly, to modernise the emergency response frameworks to better respond to emergencies that threaten Corrective Services facilities or youth detention centres; fourthly, to enhance information-sharing powers to promote prisoner health and wellbeing, and support frontline service delivery and interagency collaboration; and, finally, to update the prisoner classification framework to better align with prison infrastructure.

The bill also includes other minor and technical amendments to clarify sentence calculation issues, to enable the effective operation of the official visitor scheme and to support the delivery of prisoner health services provided by Queensland Health by updating outdated terminology within the Corrective Services Act. These amendments support Corrective Services officers and youth detention centre staff in responding to emerging threats and technologies and ensure the closed correctional environment keeps pace with change in a complex work area.

I would like to address the new offences included in the bill to respond to evolving behaviour that is increasingly putting Corrective Services facilities and youth detention centres at risk. The correctional environment has experienced an increase in evolving behaviours that present a significant risk. It is, therefore, important that a strong deterrent and appropriate penalties are in place to keep those environments safe.

The first offence introduced by the bill aims to tackle the emergence of drones being used around custodial facilities. Drones are becoming more accessible across Australia and the regulation of drones is becoming more and more common. For Corrective Services facilities and youth detention centres the use of drones is a growing and emerging threat to safety and security. While drones are prescribed as a prohibited item under the Corrective Services Act, there is no provision to restrict or prevent a drone being flown in the airspace above a custodial facility.

As at 25 November, Queensland Corrective Services has recorded almost 90 incidents relating to drone incursions over Corrective Services facilities since 2013-14. For youth detention centres the number is smaller at approximately two to three sightings per year. Nonetheless, the use of drones above closed environments presents a number of threats. Drones can be used to drop contraband, survey secure infrastructure, be weaponised or be used to create a nuisance or distraction. For detention centres there is an added risk of images or film being taken that may identify vulnerable children. Due to these significant risks, each sighting of a drone results in the facility going into lockdown while a search for contraband or the drone is conducted.

To combat this threat, a new offence has been created in the Corrective Services Act and the Youth Justice Act. The new offences prohibit the use or attempted use of drones at or above all Corrective Services facilities and youth detention centres, including the land on which the facilities are located, without a reasonable excuse. To limit interference with the use of drones for legitimate purposes, the offence does not apply when the use has been approved by the chief executive, the drone is being used by an officer of a law enforcement agency or emergency service to carry out an official function, or the person is acting on behalf of or under the direction of an officer of a law enforcement agency or emergency service. The penalty for this offence is up to two years imprisonment and is a strong deterrent for those who seek to fly drones over detention centres or correctional services facilities.

The other offence introduced by this bill combats evolving behaviour and targets increasing incidents of prisoners gaining access to rooftops and other restricted areas. Prisoners gaining access to a rooftop and other restricted areas is a consistent issue across corrective services facilities, demonstrating that existing penalties are insufficient at deterring prisoners from engaging in this behaviour. In addition to risking the safety of those involved, this behaviour causes a significant disruption to frontline operations and can have broader implications for the safety and security of corrective services facilities, including the need for centre-wide lockdowns as part of an incident response, and erodes community confidence in the correctional system.

To highlight the importance of the creation of this offence, over the past two years there have been more than 20 incidents of prisoners occupying rooftops at corrective services facilities, with prisoners gaining access to those rooftops. This does not extend to other incidents of prisoners accessing restricted areas. While there are already sanctions applied to these prisoners under the Corrective Services Act, the creation of a specific offence will aim to further deter prisoners from climbing onto rooftops or accessing other restricted places in the future. The penalty of up to two years imprisonment is in line with existing offences already contained in section 124 of the Corrective Services Act.

Next I would like to address the amendments in the bill that capitalise on the use of technology that enhances the safety of the closed correctional environment. The first area where technology presents an opportunity to enhance safety is the use of X-ray body scanners to detect contraband. The presence of contraband in corrective services facilities poses a significant threat to institutional safety, officer safety, public safety and prisoner safety, health and welfare. Despite existing search methods, contraband remains prevalent in these environments, with over 4,000 incidents of contraband discovered in the last year alone. The opportunity to use X-ray body scanners enhances corrective services officer and prisoner safety. X-ray body-scanning technology has the capability to detect non-metallic objects on or inside the body, something search equipment currently in use in the closed correctional environment cannot deliver.

As a result, the bill inserts a new imaging search function into the Corrective Services Act to support a trial of body-scanning technology at, firstly, the Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre and any future rollout of X-ray body-scanning technology at other corrective services facilities in Queensland. The amendment supports the implementation of the Palaszczuk government's response to recommendation 136 of the second report from the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce, *Hear her voice: Report Two—Women and girls' experiences across the criminal justice system*, by establishing

the head of power for non-invasive screening technology to be used. The new search power will operate in addition to other stringent regulatory requirements in relation to the use of this technology under the Radiation Safety Act 1999 and the Radiation Safety Regulation 2021. This includes annual limits under radiation health guidelines and licensing requirements that apply to persons being scanned and scanner operators to ensure their health and radiation levels remain below the recommended dose limit.

In addition to supporting the future use of X-ray body scanners, the bill includes a clear head of power for embedded and emerging use of surveillance technology to maintain safety and monitor threats within the closed correctional environment. The use of CCTV, body worn cameras and other monitoring technology at corrective services facilities throughout Queensland is imperative to ensure the safety of officers and prisoners. Surveillance devices enable Queensland Corrective Services to collect, evaluate and analyse information to identify and manage risk, respond to or investigate emergency incidents, support a breach hearing or review, prosecute an offence and deter prisoners and visitors from attempting to breach security requirements.

Surveillance devices also play a key role in promoting the humane treatment of prisoners within a closed environment as an objective source of evidence that can be reviewed after the fact. While some technology such as CCTV has been used within the correctional environment for some time, the use of devices such as body worn cameras is relatively new. In authorising the use of a surveillance device, the Queensland Corrective Services Commissioner must be satisfied that the use of the device will enhance prescribed matters including the safety of officers, prisoners and visitors and the security of facilities; prevent corruption and the commission of offences; and detect contraband. The commissioner must also have regard to privacy and include requirements for the use, storage and destruction of any recordings made by the device. These amendments include the flexibility to adapt to other technology in the future and will commence on proclamation alongside a regulation to prescribe the specific devices to be authorised.

I would like to now address the amendments to the Corrective Services Act and the Youth Justice Act included in the bill which modernise the emergency declaration framework to better respond to emergency situations that threaten facilities or detention centres. In relation to the amendments to the Corrective Services Act, Queensland Corrective Services has faced multiple emergency situations in recent years that have presented unprecedented threats to the safety and security of corrective services facilities. These situations have included bushfires in 2019-20 which led to two low-security facilities being evacuated for the first time in the known history of Queensland Corrective Services; the COVID-19 public health emergency; and flooding in early 2022, which resulted in a number of centres being isolated due to rising floodwaters.

In all situations, Queensland Corrective Services has risen to the challenge and ensured the health and safety of prisoners, officers and visitors while maintaining frontline operations. However, good emergency management requires good planning. The existing emergency provisions of the Corrective Services Act contained in section 268 were developed to respond to a short-term emergency that occurs at a prison such as a riot or a loss-of-control event. As they are, these provisions do not appropriately anticipate external threats or other longer term types of emergencies such as those experienced in recent years.

Additionally, the current framework does not contemplate emergency situations at facilities that are not prisons, including the Helana Jones Centre and other work camps. It is vital that there are appropriate tools to support an effective response to these situations so that the health and safety of all can be protected. This includes legislation that clearly authorises actions to mitigate or respond to the potential impacts of an emergency situation or restore order afterwards.

The bill provides for amendments to the existing framework including: making permanent the reference to 'corrective services facility' rather than 'prison'; providing for various types of declarations of emergency, including for a natural disaster or serious health threat, with strict maximum time limits to respond to different threats; clarifying the ability of the chief executive to restrict movement to a facility or refuse entry to a facility, quarantine or isolate prisoners, and limit or withhold privileges depending on the emergency situation; and providing that a declaration of emergency must be published.

New safeguards have been built into the bill to ensure provisions are only used where absolutely necessary. The bill provides that the Queensland Corrective Services Commissioner cannot delegate the power to make an emergency declaration. The commissioner will also be required to ensure the declaration is no longer than is reasonably necessary given the emergency.

Prior to making a declaration, the commissioner must take reasonable steps to consult with other agencies as relevant to the type of emergency; for example, the Chief Health Officer where the amendment relates to a public health emergency, the State Disaster Coordinator or the Commissioner of the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services.

The bill also requires all declarations to be published. These safeguards will operate in addition to existing safeguards, including that a declaration must be approved by the relevant minister in charge of the portfolio. The new emergency framework will commence on 1 November 2023 upon the expiry of the temporary COVID-19 measures in chapter 6, part 15A of the Corrective Services Act which is due to occur on 31 October 2023.

Next, I would like to outline the amendments in the bill to provide new emergency response powers under the Youth Justice Act. The Youth Justice Act currently does not provide a legislative framework to respond in the event of an emergency at a youth detention centre or include safeguards that must be considered and addressed as part of an emergency response. Temporary amendments to the Youth Justice Act to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic ceased on 30 April 2022. Permanent measures are now needed to ensure the government can respond to future emergencies promptly, consistent with human rights and the youth justice principles, and with certainty, transparency, and accountability. These amendments will help protect the health and safety of young people, staff and visitors at youth detention centres and others impacted by the emergency.

In summary, the amendments enable: the declaration of a youth detention centre as disaster affected and one or more places as a temporary youth detention centre; the appointment of emergency staff to provide assistance at a youth detention centre if the workforce is impacted by a declared emergency such as an epidemic or other disaster; and the delivery of restorative justice conferences by video or tele link in the event of a declared emergency.

In respect of the enhancing information sharing provisions, corrective services officers work closely with partner agencies to safely manage prisoners and offenders according to their individual risk and need. This requires a level of confidential information sharing, including proactive information sharing where appropriate, to ensure the safety and security of prisoners, corrective services officers, offenders and the broader community.

While the Corrective Services Act already allows for information sharing, the existing provisions can be improved to support the important work conducted by our frontline workers and enhance frontline service delivery and interagency collaboration. The amendments aim to provide corrective services officers with improved legislative guidance on what they are and are not able to disclose in key areas of service delivery to ensure the efficient and effective operation of the correctional system. These amendments have come about for a variety of reasons.

The bill clarifies that information can be shared with a health practitioner for the care, treatment or rehabilitation of a prisoner. This amendment recognises the partnership and shared responsibility that Queensland Corrective Services and Queensland Health have towards the health and wellbeing of prisoners. Queensland Corrective Services previously held responsibility for delivering health services to persons in custody, but since 2008 this responsibility has sat with Queensland Health.

In the custodial setting, Queensland Corrective Services may possess confidential information about a prisoner that is critical to their health care, treatment and rehabilitation that could assist a health practitioner treating the prisoner in providing adequate care. This could include information about a prisoner diverting medication or be about a prisoner's self-harm or violence risk that could be relevant to a health practitioner's treatment decisions. The ability to clearly and proactively share this information is integral to the safety, security and effective management of prisoners and provision of client focused health services for the prisoner.

In addition, the bill includes an amendment to enable confidential information about the condition of a prisoner to be disclosed in general terms. This amendment recognises that there are a number of situations where a prisoner may not be able to directly communicate to persons within their support network such as their family. For example, a prisoner may be in transit to hospital following an incident, a centre may have been locked down to respond to a significant event or the person may be temporarily unable to communicate due to a live incident. This can create anxiety and stress in relation to the prisoner's health and wellbeing. The amendment therefore enables a corrective services officer to provide general information, including whether a prisoner is okay, is being treated or is in transit to hospital.

Further to information sharing to support prisoner health and wellbeing, the bill provides a clear power to proactively share information with the Queensland Police Service as well as other law enforcement agencies. The correctional system manages a multitude of security risks such as gangs, violent extremism, violence, including domestic and family violence, and the risk of escape. Queensland Corrective Services also often has access to information that can be key to preventing crime, including information about who a prisoner is contacting, the circumvention of domestic and family violence orders or other information about associates. Proactively sharing information with law enforcement can inform strategies and prevent the commission of further crimes. The amendment to explicitly provide for this sharing of information recognises the key role that Queensland Corrective Services has within the broader criminal justice system to stop crime and keep the community safe.

To support the increased sharing of sensitive information, including information relating to violent extremism and domestic and family violence, the bill also introduces a new offence for an informed person under the Corrective Services Act to disclose or make a record of sensitive information, other than in select authorised circumstances. The offence captures sensitive information that an informed person obtains or has access to from a law enforcement agency or that has been accessed under an arrangement with a law enforcement agency. It would hold a maximum penalty of up to 100 penalty units or two years in prison.

In addition, amendments are included in the bill to clearly authorise information sharing with interstate or foreign correction agencies to support the ongoing detention, reporting, supervision or management of former Queensland prisoners or offenders in another jurisdiction. This amendment supports existing arrangements in place with other correction agencies and the effective operation of overseas laws to keep the community safe, including the New Zealand Returning Offenders (Management and Information) Act 2015. Under this act, a New Zealand citizen who has been sentenced to more than one year in an overseas prison and who has been released from detention before returning to New Zealand may be subject to supervision by corrections upon their arrival in New Zealand.

I now turn to amendments in the bill to update the prisoner security classification framework. Queensland's prisoner security classification framework has been in place since the introduction of the act in 2006. However, the correctional environment in which it operates has been subject to significant change and reform, including increasing prisoner numbers. Amendments to the prisoner security classification will ensure the framework aligns with the existing physical infrastructure of the custodial environment in Queensland and appropriately responds to risk. This includes the ability to establish risk subcategories within the prisoner security classification framework in regulation, expanded matters the Queensland Corrective Services commissioner can or must consider when determining the prisoner's classification and amendments to the classification review periods such as evidence-based reviews or at a prisoner's request.

Other amendments included in the bill aim to increase community safety, streamline processes to increase efficiencies, remove redundant provisions and update out-of-date technology within the Corrective Services Act. This includes an amendment to enable the commissioner to reappoint a suitably qualified person as an official visitor beyond the current two-term limit. Official visitors play an important role to ensure the accountability of Queensland's correctional system by providing a regular, accessible, independent program of visitation to correctional centres to assist prisoners to manage and resolve their complaints.

Official visitors are trusted and treated with respect by prisoners. They are an independent presence on the ground, visible to prisoners and provide an opportunity for individual advocacy and informal resolution of issues for a prisoner. Official visitors provide complaint reports and review findings to Queensland Corrective Services and are empowered to make non-binding recommendations to the commissioner. The amendment acknowledges the often unrecognised work of official visitors and supports greater flexibility in the ongoing appointment of suitably qualified official visitors, in particular First Nations and legal official visits, to the benefit of prisoners in the broader correctional system.

This bill also includes a new definition of 'unlawfully absent' and an explicit power to arrest a prisoner mistakenly, unlawfully or otherwise incorrectly discharged or released before the prisoner's discharge day or release day and an amendment to clarify that a prisoner who is detained on remand for an offence may not apply for exceptional circumstances parole.

In addition, the bill makes several minor amendments to reflect the current provision of health services to prisoners by Queensland Health. These amendments remove outdated provisions and replace references to doctor, nurse, psychologist with registered health practitioner where appropriate.

The change in terminology is consistent with Queensland Health being responsible for health service delivery to prisoners and best placed to determine what discipline of clinician should provide particular services or advice.

The bill also removes the power for a doctor to direct a prisoner to submit to a medical examination or for the use of force in carrying out a directed examination. These provisions are omitted as there are other legislative mechanisms contained in the Public Health Act 2005 and the Mental Health Act 2016 for registered health practitioners to utilise when treating or examining a prisoner without consent, including necessary safeguards.

In conclusion, the amendments proposed in this bill provide that Queensland's correctional and youth justice systems are responsive and flexible to emerging threats and opportunities, support the ongoing safety and security of the correctional system for prisoners, young people, corrective services officers, detention centre workers, visitors and service providers and ensure community safety. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (5.29 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### Referral to Legal Affairs and Safety Committee

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


## INTEGRITY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### PUBLIC SECTOR BILL

### Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from p. 3677, on motion of Ms Grace—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (5.29 pm): Culture can be described as how we do things around here. This state government in its third term is more interested in how things appear than how they actually are. Culture in Queensland is at the behest of the union movement. The Coaldrake review, called by this government, uncovered some startling findings—findings that Queenslanders cannot believe and findings that only a union entrenched government could deliver to Queensland.

Fear and control is what this government does here in Queensland. Public servants know that and Coaldrake has uncovered it. A government is best when the Public Service gives fearless and frank advice. If you get the best information, you can make the best decisions. The many tiers of union control in this government have been uncovered by Professor Coaldrake. You only need to look through the executive summary and the findings to be amazed at what has been uncovered.

Coaldrake describes an atmosphere of fear—fear of unwanted career impacts and the loss of employment status for unwelcome advice, pressure on some ministerial staffers for responses that minimise problems, discouragement from providing written advice on difficult topics, senior public servants directing employees to sanitise advice and alter recommendations to align with what was presumed to be the minister's position, a director-general taking steps to prevent a report reaching a minister's ears so as to ensure that the minister could continue plausible deniability of the matter. These are the findings in this report.

Queenslanders are amazed that this government has held an inquiry and discovered such findings into executive government. At this point I must say thank you so very much to all of those public servants—to the whistleblowers—who have come forward, particularly the former integrity commissioner and state archivist, and all of the other submitters for their courage to come forward and outline the findings for Coaldrake.

The submission from the ECQ to this bill by Mr Pat Vidgen, the Electoral Commissioner, was all about his independence. Unfortunately we in opposition will be moving an amendment to ensure that independence returns. I hope the government agrees to that amendment so that that happens.

Right from the outset I mentioned culture. At every sitting the government moves a business motion to take control of the democratic process and democracy here in Queensland by minimising the time that we get to speak in debates. Here we are debating an integrity bill in cognate with a public sector bill which immediately cuts in half the time that we can debate these bills and hold this government to account. I said before that this government is more focused on how things appear, not on how they actually are. Here is another piece of evidence for Queenslanders to see the culture, driven by spin, that allows for just a little debate to occur—in fact, half the time—on these very important bills.

When I read through the bills, I was very concerned about the changes that might affect the Queensland Auditor-General. Fearless and frank advice is provided by Mr Brendan Worrall. He appears before our committee on a number of occasions. When I saw the changes that will affect the Auditor-General I was very concerned. It has been the responsibility of Mr Worrall and his team in recent times to uncover deficiencies in government like the maintenance backlog for roads across Queensland, which is on its way to \$6 billion. Also, we have heard a lot about cybersecurity. Again, the Auditor-General's team have discovered deficiencies in that area. More recently, our committee has heard about dam safety and infrastructure concerns in local government.

Fortunately, there are some changes in the bill that affect lobbyists. It is unbelievable that here in Queensland before the last election registered lobbyists were helping this government win government again. You have to question how people could possibly think that would be okay. It is so out of touch with what our community expects.

It is clear that the government is already walking away from implementing the Coaldrake recommendations. It was quoted after the report was released that the government was going to implement the recommendations 'lock, stock and barrel'. This bill implements some recommendations from the Bridgman review, which is almost four years old. Many other recommendations of Coaldrake could have been brought forward and implemented in this bill. This is a convenient time for this government to introduce a bill about integrity because there have been a few problems in that area, as outlined in the media—but it is all about the culture, driven by the spin doctors, to make sure that something is happening but not everything.

The opposition are calling for a royal commission into the integrity issues. There are already so many layers of union control, yet the government brings bills into this House that take away union competition. Some 17,000 teachers and nurses have chosen to be members of the Red Union. That costs this Labor government many millions of dollars. They cannot afford to pay people to make calls to help them get re-elected. They are using that money to get themselves re-elected. Fortunately, Coaldrake has been able to honestly disclose some of the fear and control that this government puts in place.

I mentioned the great work of the Auditor-General. The opposition finds itself in a position where we have to move an amendment in relation to fees charged by the Auditor-General that could be controlled by Treasury. We should not have to do that because that was a recommendation from Coaldrake. This is one of the recommendations this government should have implemented.

I mentioned the poor culture that this government has. They are just words. What poor culture delivers is poor service delivery. It delivers poor integrity by government.

**Mr Power:** Stop having a go at the cops.


**Mr McDONALD:** I take that interjection from the member for Logan. Under this government there are now 265 fewer operational police officers. That is over 500,000 additional operational police hours that could be used on the streets to solve the issues of youth crime and domestic violence. The poor culture, as I said, affects service delivery. Look no further than the \$237 million wasted on Wellcamp, an asset that was to be used for quarantine that this government does not even own. If there is a further outbreak—

**Ms FARMER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I seek your guidance on relevance.



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

**Mr McDONALD:** With its poor culture, a culture that is more interested in how things look than how things are, this Queensland government is tired and Queenslanders will make a change in 2024.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (5.40 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise to speak to the cognate debate this evening. As we know, this bill is the first tranche of legislation in response to Professor Peter Coaldrake's report titled *Let the sunshine in* and Kevin Yearbury's 2021 report titled *Strategic review of the Integrity Commissioner's functions*. We know that the main purpose of this bill is to strengthen and enhance the independence of key Queensland integrity bodies, including: the Queensland Auditor-General, the Queensland Audit Office and the Queensland Integrity Commissioner. The bill also provides more transparency as to who may obtain Integrity Commissioner advice. The bill also amends declaration of interest requirements and strengthens the regulation of lobbyists by introducing an offence for unregistered lobbying under the Integrity Act 2009.

The bill also reduces the strategic time frame for the Ombudsman from seven to five years, bringing strategic review time frames in line with other integrity bodies. These changes are largely considered uncontroversial, as reflected by the general support from the committee. They are largely supported by the bodies they impact, and their funding and policy implications for government are fairly minor. We know that the government continues to work on implementing Professor Coaldrake's and Mr Yearbury's other recommendations, noting that many of these recommendations do not require legislative action.

I think we can all agree that the passage of this bill will enhance the independence of Queensland's integrity bodies, and this is paramount. I reflect on the role that we as parliamentarians have to play in the community more broadly in ensuring that our community has faith in our state's integrity bodies. It goes without saying that it is absolutely paramount our community, Queenslanders, have high regard for our integrity bodies and that they feel they can trust them to carry out the work they have been charged to do.

The original Fitzgerald report recommended that the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee be chaired by a member of the opposition or not a member of the government to provide additional safeguards. This is just part of the original Fitzgerald report, and it clearly identifies the importance of upholding trust and respect in our integrity bodies. To be clear, I am referring to the original Fitzgerald report. That is why it was so disappointing to hear those opposite repeatedly ask, 'What is on the laptop?', while there was a CCC investigation ongoing. We had countless press conferences, we had references to integrity infernos and we had question after question in question time. You would think they would be keen to update the good people of Queensland about what in fact was on the laptop.

**Mr Hart:** Exactly. What was on the laptop?

**Ms PUGH:** The CCC handed down a report. It is only about 20 pages long, for anybody who is interested in reading it. I certainly have. Queenslanders got their answer and the answer was: nothing. I will read directly from the report, member for Burleigh—

In relation to those three matters, the CCC's investigation concluded that:

- There was no evidence of improper disclosure.
- The circumstances in which the laptops were retrieved from the Integrity Commissioner's office were entirely ordinary, and the descriptions of 'raid' and 'seizure' do not reflect the reality of what occurred. Further, the circumstances in which one laptop was 'wiped' are wholly unremarkable.

The conclusion states—

Two laptops were collected on 12 March 2021. The Executive Officer's laptop was collected for a different purpose to the Director's laptop.

The Executive Officer's laptop had been in the Integrity Commissioner's office for four months prior to it being retrieved and reimaged. It had been used during that time by the Integrity Commissioner.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PUGH:** Those opposite do not want to hear it, but I am happy to read directly from the report because Queenslanders deserve to know. It continues—


The Executive Officer's laptop was reimaged so that it could be reallocated to a new staffer.

Oh, a smoking gun! The report goes on—

While the reimaging gave rise to a risk that relevant records may have been lost, the backup processes employed meant that this risk was relatively small. Further, nothing has occurred since to suggest that risk materialised.

In light of the above, the commentary which has suggested that laptops were 'seized' and 'wiped' as a result of a 'raid' on the Integrity Commissioner's offices is, in the CCC's view, a mischaracterisation of what occurred.

That is a direct quote from the CCC's report on Investigation Workshop. What was on the laptop? Nothing. The laptop was taken for a routine repurposing. There was no raid as characterised by the LNP—just a reassignment of a workplace device. Since this time we have heard crickets from those opposite about what was on the laptop because they have been caught out. They should stand up, they should tell the truth and they should apologise, because the facts are simple. There was nothing on the laptop and those opposite know it. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (5.46 pm): I rise to address the cognate debate on the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 and the Public Sector Bill 2022. Integrity, accountability, openness and transparency are the foundations of democratic government. By its own actions and through various reviews, public revelations and damning reports, it is evident that the Palaszczuk state Labor government has abandoned these core democratic principles. The irony has not been lost that, in bringing to the Queensland parliament two separate bills pertaining separately to matters of public sector reform and enhanced statutory independence and authority, the state Labor government has chosen to debate these bills in cognate, thereby limiting the time for full and proper debate and scrutiny. That being said, I wish to firstly address the Public Sector Bill 2022.

Introduced by the Queensland Premier into the parliament on 14 October 2022, the Public Sector Bill will primarily repeal and replace the Public Service Act 2008. In so doing, as outlined by the Premier, this specific legislation seeks to give effect to the primary recommendation of the Bridgman review that all public sector employees are provided with a modern, simplified and employee focused legislative framework. The report of the independent review undertaken by Mr Peter Bridgman titled *A fair and responsive Public Service for all* was delivered to the Queensland Premier on 3 May 2019.

The following question must be asked: why has it taken the Palaszczuk state Labor government more than 3½ years to deliver stage 2 of the Bridgman review, including the review's primary recommendation? The answer is because Queenslanders know that the Palaszczuk state Labor government only acts when it is politically beneficial, not when it is in the best interests of good democratic government and not delivering for Queenslanders. We have seen throughout the terms of the Palaszczuk state Labor government that they only act when it is politically beneficial and not in the best interests of all Queenslanders and democratic government. That has occurred time and time again.

Whilst there are a number of important and overdue reforms for our Public Service within this legislation, once again the state Labor government brings to this parliament legislation that simply does not go far enough and which is yet another missed opportunity for genuine legislative reform. There is nothing within this bill that will fix the systemic cultural issues that have been allowed to deteriorate over the last seven years under the inept leadership of the Palaszczuk state Labor government. The 3½ years that it has taken to deliver stage 2 of the recommended public sector reform—

**Ms Grace:** Yes, stage 2.

**Dr ROWAN:**—shows such an unwillingness to act and to act promptly. That is why it has taken 3½ years. I take the interjection from the member for McConnel. It has taken 3½ years to get to stage 2. It rightly highlights a significant concern that the Palaszczuk state Labor government will take a similarly lethargic approach to implementing all of the important recommendations contained within the review of culture and accountability undertaken by Professor Peter Coaldrake AO.

This leads me to the second of the two cognate pieces of legislation, the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. Again, introduced by the Queensland Premier on 14 October 2022, the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill ultimately seeks to amend legislation to specifically 'better promote the independence and authority of the Queensland Auditor-General, the Queensland Ombudsman and the Queensland Integrity Commissioner'. This specific legislation is to implement only some, not all, of the important recommendations that are contained within the following two reports—firstly, the report by Professor Peter Coaldrake AO titled *Let the sunshine in: review of culture and accountability in the Queensland public sector*; and, secondly, the strategic review of the Integrity Commissioner's functions, which was delivered by Mr Kevin Yearbury. I note that, as stated in the explanatory notes, a second bill will be required to implement the other recommendations.

Just as with the Public Sector Bill, again Labor has failed to fully implement genuine and meaningful reform. As the first test of the Palaszczuk state Labor government's supposed commitment to implementing all of the Coaldrake review recommendations 'lock, stock and barrel', Labor has already failed. Professor Peter Coaldrake recommended the removal of the power of the Treasurer to approve fees of the Queensland Audit Office. The fact that this legislation will give power to a parliamentary committee that can consider the state government's indexation rate, as well as advice received by the Treasurer, is indicative of the significant influence that the Treasurer may still wield over the fees set by the Queensland Audit Office. Not surprisingly, the Queensland Audit Office rightly has its concerns regarding this provision.

Accordingly, if the Labor state government will not deliver this recommendation as Professor Peter Coaldrake intended, then the Liberal National Party will. That is why the state LNP opposition has introduced its own amendment to ensure that the Queensland Audit Office can operate without the fear of any influence, perceived or otherwise, by the Treasurer of the day. I wish to take this opportunity to formally acknowledge the important work that was undertaken by Professor Peter Coaldrake and the substantive findings and recommendations that were made within his final report. In just the third paragraph on the first page of Professor Peter Coaldrake's final report, he stated—

This Review was prompted by a number of issues, some publicly ventilated, which together paint the picture of an integrity system under stress trying to keep check on a culture that, from the top down, is not meeting public expectations.

This paragraph illustrates what is ultimately at the heart of the current Labor state government's failure on integrity, accountability, openness and transparency. It is under the leadership of Premier Palaszczuk and various Labor ministers that the culture of integrity within our state Labor government has deteriorated so significantly. It is well known that the culture of any organisation is determined and guided by its most senior leadership. The breakdown of Queensland's system of integrity and accountability is not because of our public servants but because of the failure of leadership and the abandonment of basic Westminster system principles of accountability and responsibility by this current state Labor government. Since it first came to power almost eight years ago, the Palaszczuk state Labor government has been plagued by scandal, lurching from one integrity and accountability crisis to another.

**Ms Grace:** Which one?

**Dr ROWAN:** I will outline them again for the member for McConnel. Let us talk about the mangocube saga involving the Labor Minister for Transport and Main Roads. We remember that one. We know what was happening in relation to private emails and that was inappropriate. What about the dubious survey launched by the now Deputy Premier all to justify the removal of the Lady Cilento name from the Queensland Children's Hospital? Do we remember that dubious process with the then minister for health?

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Dr ROWAN:** I do not mind the member for McConnel, but it is almost like as part of this debate the Minister for Education has a case of trypanosomiasis. When we think about what is going on in this debate, her contributions are both puerile and facile when it comes to her constant interjections. These are serious matters that the people of Queensland want to talk about in relation to integrity and accountability. The Minister for Education in her portfolio has also failed when it comes to integrity and accountability, and I will get to that in a moment. Under the Palaszczuk state Labor government, our state of Queensland—

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Order! Pause the clock. I ask that everyone ceases interjecting. The level of interjections is getting a bit loud. I cannot hear the member on his feet. If there are any more interjections, I will start issuing warnings.

**Dr ROWAN:** As I was saying, our state has seen questionable and substantial changes to our electoral system—all to benefit the Labor Party at the disadvantage of others, which again raises serious concerns of integrity.

In the area of education, there has been a raft of serious integrity and accountability matters that have warranted significant investigation over the course of the Palaszczuk state Labor government. This includes the appointment of a school principal for the inner city south state secondary college, including the former deputy premier meeting with a potential applicant as 'a favour to a member of

parliament'—a member of parliament to this day that the state Labor government has refused to publicly acknowledge. This saga also saw a senior public servant stood down on pay, with no comprehensive transparency over the investigative process, costing taxpayers over \$630,000 prior to his resignation.

Barely a week goes by when I am not contacted by parents, teachers and staff who share with me their utter disappointment and disgust with the Labor government's failure to act on serious integrity matters related to our education system and the Department of Education, particularly as they relate to proper administration, due process and full and transparent investigations. Under the Minister for Education, we have seen millions of dollars in cost overruns approved without proper authorisations, allegations and substantiated findings of human rights abuses within Queensland schools and the Department of Education, as well as allegations of school asbestos exposure cover-ups and failures to follow safety protocols. The government continues to not be transparent when it comes to some of the most basic questions on teacher workforce issues which continue to be raised by many parents and teachers right across Queensland. There is no clear and consistent transparency on comprehensive plans to address these serious issues across Queensland. These are just a handful of examples of the decline in our state government's system of integrity.

(Time expired)



**Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (5.56 pm): Much as we would have loved to hear more from the member for Moggill, I rise to speak on the cognate debate for the Public Sector Bill and the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The Public Sector Bill represents a significant effort to develop modern public sector employment legislation and implement the recommendations of Mr Peter Bridgman's review of public sector employment laws in *A fair and responsive public service for all*.

At the outset, I want to give a big shout-out to every single public servant who works for this government. I have the greatest respect for them, and I know that every single member of this House has the greatest respect for them. They support us as local members in our communities every single day. As the minister for DESBT and in my previous term as the minister for child safety, youth and women and minister for the prevention of domestic and family violence, I could not be prouder to work with people whose lives are dedicated to doing just what their name says—that is, serving the public. To every single one of them who does that work, we are right behind you and that is what this bill is all about.

As the Premier said in her introductory speech, this is a government that is 'committed to an integrated and responsive public sector with purpose and integrity'. The Premier commissioned a review of the public sector laws by Mr Bridgman—the first in over 30 years—because she realised that it had been a long time and because we are not afraid to examine ourselves and make sure we are right in every single way. In this instance, we will ensure that the noble public servants who joined government for the purpose of serving the public can work in a fair, inclusive and secure environment. That in turn can only serve to benefit the broader community.

The bill also supports the public sector workforce renewal envisaged by Professor Peter Coaldrake's report titled *Let the sunshine in: review of culture and accountability in the Queensland public sector*. As we know, key elements of the bill are around: maximising employment security; positive performance management; management of work performance and personal conduct; equity and inclusion; reframing the relationship with First Nations people by introducing a nation-leading framework supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; and merit, recruitment and selection. This is reflected in the recommendations from the Bridgman review that the new act should 'retain the primacy of the merit principle, restated in terms that acknowledge merit and diversity working together to ensure employment decisions prefer the person best suited to the job'.

On those matters of respect, inclusion, equity and diversity, I again want to give a big shout-out to my department, which has already established the Young DESBT Network and the Diversity and Inclusion Network. These groups are already there in my department working tirelessly to advance a culture of diversity in the department and focus on improving the environment for their colleagues. I want to give a shout-out to Samantha Pennisi, Paige Arbuckle and Brooke Wanstall who are the Young DESBT Network leadership group, and to Skye from the South East Regional Office for alerting me to it and getting me along to their first meeting which was fantastic. I am really looking forward to visiting the Diversity and Inclusion Network next Friday.

While we are talking about public servants, I also want to give a really big shout-out to Deanne McNally, who won this year's Community Recovery Ready Reserve Award and for her amazing efforts working with government and non-government entities, as well as clients and families, to help get them

through the South-East Queensland floods in February this year. There are wonderful testimonies from people who work around Deanne about the respect she has given to First Nations people, giving them comfort and validation, helping people who struggle with the English language—just really being someone we are proud to call our own in the Queensland public sector.

Moving on to the integrity bill, the integrity bill responds to the recommendations in the Coaldrake report which the Premier sought. She commissioned the report; she did not have to be dragged kicking and screaming, as those on the other side are saying. She sought the review. She accepted all the recommendations, which is exactly why we are here today. We know that the key elements of that are to strengthen and enhance the independence of the Queensland Auditor-General, the Auditor-General's Office and the Queensland Integrity Commission, making it more transparent as to who can access the Integrity Commissioner's advice, amending the Integrity Act 2009 to make unregistered lobbying an offence, and reducing the strategic review time frame for the Ombudsman from seven to five years. That is why we are here today.

Honestly, the opposition really should get a load of themselves. Here we are in the week that the federal parliament is going to move a censure motion against former prime minister Scott Morrison for assuming five different portfolios without telling anybody. The review report that was brought down was absolutely scathing of his actions which threatened the very principles of democracy. There is going to be an interesting time in federal parliament this week.

What is the opposite of integrity? Does anyone know what the opposite of integrity is? It must be LNP. Maybe the opposite of integrity is LNP. Here they are and we know that the opposite of integrity is what is in the LNP's DNA. We talk about the Coaldrake review. The Borbidge government set up the Connolly-Ryan inquiry into the then CJC. It was shut down by the Supreme Court for apprehended bias and going outside its term of reference. That was the only time they set one of them up. They sacked the PCMC. There was the treatment of David Solomon when he was integrity commissioner, calling him all sorts of names. We have the personal integrity scandals—Ros Bates, Michael Caltabiano, Bruce Flegg and Mark Brodie. We have the donation laws where they increased the donation caps to \$12,800 so that they could get all these secret donations, and we know there were 28 of them. They did not want to do developer donations; they even went to the High Court on that. They did not want lower disclosure limits. We know they put gag orders on community groups. When the opposition consisted of only seven people, those opposite ensured that the very process that we use for accountability and transparency in the Queensland parliament—estimates hearings—was condensed. They did everything they could to make sure that the opposition was not able to question them. It just shows how hopeless they were in those days because those seven mighty people managed to really scrutinise the then government and catch them out in so many different ways. What else did they do? They did not declare meetings with lobbyists. Civil libertarians and academics talk about how the member for Kawana's laws breached the separation of powers. The list just goes on and on. To hear them carrying on, honestly, they really should listen to themselves.

Out there in the community, you only have to talk about the LNP and people just roll their eyes. You only have to say 'LNP and integrity' and everyone just rolls their eyes. The brand of the LNP is so damaged because of the litany of ways they breach the faith of the community when it comes to integrity. It just goes on and on; it is absolutely endless.

This bill means that it is in legislation. We are going to have a public service that has a positive culture, a culture that public servants can be proud of. We are going to be a government that acts always with integrity. I commend the bills to the House.



**Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (6.05 pm): I, too, rise to address the cognated Public Sector Bill 2022 and Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. Whilst the Speaker reminded me this morning that there is no such thing as a rhetorical question in this House, I think the member for Bulimba put one: 'What is the opposite of integrity?' That is Labor. The last eight years has demonstrated that if you want to know what the opposite of integrity is, it is actually the Labor Party, spelt A-L-P. If you want to know how they traded in an integrity commissioner, that has been well and truly aired in the public. If you want to know how they have associated themselves with lobbyists, we just have to say the word 'Anacta'. It goes on and on.

Let me start with the fact that this is a cognate debate. This is how those opposite want to run from scrutiny and transparency. They cannot accept that people on this side of the House, the crossbenchers—even their own, for that matter—would want to speak for 10 minutes not only on the Public Sector Bill but also on the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. But, no, we cannot have that. We cannot have the members of the LNP opposition spending 10 minutes talking about

integrity; we need to smash them together so they only get half that time. If those opposite had any shred of integrity left—and we have just established that they do not—they would have left these bills as separate bills so that we could have debated each separately and had our allocated time slot for each.

I wish to start with the Public Sector Bill. The public needs to understand this is about implementing only one aspect of the Coaldrake review. This is actually about implementing the Bridgman review, which was undertaken back in May 2019. That is how quickly those opposite move to legislate reform within the Public Service. It has taken them 3½ years to bring this forward. If we look at what it is basically achieving, it is putting into legislation that our Public Service here in Queensland will be fair, that it will be responsive, and that it will be a leader in public administration. As a former public servant, I am staggered that we need to legislate that.

I was doing a little research in preparation for this speech. I worked out, as a public servant for 12 years at the Commonwealth and state level, I had the privilege of serving under eight different ministers, and six of those were Labor. I started in the Commonwealth Department of Defence under the then Labor senator Robert Ray before Ian McLachlan and John Moore from the coalition took over that role. When moving back to Queensland, my first job was in Terry Mackenroth's department of communication and information, local government, planning and sport—DOCILGPS, a great department name and great acronym—before Terry retired. The then premier, Peter Beattie, took over the division that I worked for, the community engagement division, funnily enough running ministerial regional community forums, which I see have made a comeback under the current government, and therefore briefing a range of ministers across all portfolios as they went far and wide around the state.

In 2004 I shifted to the department of child safety and served under Mike Reynolds, Desley Boyle and Margaret Keech. It is fair to say that not every single one of those ministers inspired me. It is fair to say that some were far more focused, had a better agenda and had a better rapport with the Public Service than others. I will leave honourable members to work out which ones were which. I can tell honourable members that at every stage my intent, as I believe is the intent of every genuine public servant, was to provide frank and fearless advice to the government of the day regardless of the colour of their politics.

What really separated a good minister from the others is they had an agenda. I mentioned Terry Mackenroth. I would love to see the calibre of Terry Mackenroth in those opposite. There is no-one on the other side who can come close to him. Ministers I enjoyed working under were fair. Ministers I enjoyed working under were responsive. In fact, the thing that gave me the irri-ts the most was when we were told we needed to prepare an urgent brief for the minister and we had 24 hours to prepare it and then we waited six months for the minister to come back with a response. That was not responsive. That was inefficient.

Even serving under the likes of Terry Mackenroth not once did I fear a minister I worked for or the ministerial staff they employed—not once—because the tone was set at the top, as Peter Coaldrake said. That tone was essential. Perhaps there was one minister I had to work with whom I feared, but it was not for my personal safety. It was because I usually had to reach for a dictionary to understand some of the expletives he used. That minister was Robert Swarten when I was briefing him in preparation for ministerial regional community forums. Not once did I fear and not once was I required to sanitise a document.

At the end of the day that is what this legislation is about. Those opposite have spent eight years creating a culture set by the tone at the top that has created fear and mistrust within the Public Service. As we have heard in the Coaldrake review, that has led to the sanitising of reports to please ministers. That is unacceptable.

I also had the opportunity of then being a minister, albeit for three years. I had the privilege of serving with some fantastic senior public servants, and I want to mention Andrew Chesterman in particular, the former director-general of the then department of environment and heritage protection with whom I served. He is a brilliant man who respected all of his staff and ensured the culture was set from the top. I myself endeavoured to ensure that, even though the public servants did not necessarily like some of what we were implementing as a government, they were treated with respect and their frank and fearless advice was taken on board and responded to in a timely fashion.

Let me tell this story. I have since been approached by someone who described themselves as a green-leaning voting member of the then department of environment and heritage protection. Their words to me were, 'I may have hated your agenda as a minister, but at least you had one.' Those

opposite have created such an environment that there is no agenda; there is fear. There is no fairness, there is no responsiveness and they are not creating leaders in public administration. In fact, they are creating the opposite, which is why they have to come in here to legislate today.

That brings me to the Coaldrake review. The Public Sector Bill addresses only one aspect, and that is strengthening the independence of certain core integrity bodies and that includes the Electoral Commission of Queensland. We have heard others comment on the comments made by the commissioner and how we need to ensure that independence, and I note the amendments that are coming forward.


Then if we switch to the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, we know that this still only briefly touches on the Coaldrake review. That Coaldrake review had to shine the light on the practices that I referred to—shine the light on the fact that the Public Service have lost faith in this government; a Public Service, as the Leader of the Opposition has said, that is leaking because they are fed up and frustrated with a government that has no agenda and that allows their ministerial staff to impose their will and their demands on how they operate. That is not acceptable. Yes, there are elements in this bill which will improve that. It will enshrine the independence of positions like the Auditor-General, the Integrity Commissioner and the Ombudsman, but do we need to wait another 3½ years, as we have for the outcomes of the Bridgman review, before the full recommendations of the Coaldrake review are implemented?

Let's remember why that review was necessary. It was due to the way those opposite in particular treated the role of the Integrity Commissioner. I have never seen anything like it—not in 12 years as a public servant or in more than 13 years as a member of this chamber. That behaviour of those opposite and those they have surrounded themselves with was disgusting and abhorrent. It is no wonder the Public Service are looking for better alternatives.

**Mr Janetzki:** They want leadership.

**Mr POWELL:** I take that interjection from the member for Toowoomba South: they are looking for leadership. It is clear that no-one opposite is capable of delivering that, even with these legislative changes.

I say to the members of the Public Service, to those I have worked with previously, to those I have had the privilege of leading as a minister: if those opposite are not listening, we are. We always will. We will ensure that they have a government that is fair, responsive and allows them to be leaders in public administration and ultimately gives them an agenda that fills their days, allowing them to give frank and fearless advice to the government of the day.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (6.15 pm): I rise to speak in support of both of the bills that are the subject of this cognate debate. I turn firstly to the Public Sector Bill. This bill continues our reforms that have increased the job security of our hardworking Public Service workers. It is modern legislation that implements the recommendations of Peter Bridgman's review of public sector employment laws, *A fair and responsive Public Service for all*. It is a bill that backs the record numbers of Public Service workers: our teachers, health workers, emergency services personnel, just to name a few, right across our local Bundamba community. Indeed, only last week it was announced that new police recruits would be deployed to our local stations including in Goodna.

This bill supports our hardworking teachers, who are right now hard at work as term 4 comes to a close. It supports the new education staff we will need to support our community from next year when we open our brand new Ripley Central State School and Woogaroo Creek State School and the staff that will be needed for two more schools in the areas of Bellbird Park and Redbank Plains-Collingwood Park that are to open in 2024.

This bill supports the frontline health workers who worked so hard to keep our community safe during the pandemic. That includes the team at the public health centre at Goodna and at the Ipswich Hospital where we need more frontline health staff for our additional 200 beds in the acute mental health facility. It will include the staff who will be providing more world-class health care closer to home at the South Ripley satellite hospital, which is well under construction. It is going to support our energy workers at our proudly publicly owned generation stations like Swanbank and it will support the workers at our Transport and Main Roads state-of-the-art customer service centre which recently opened in Bundamba.

When we say we are delivering good jobs and better services to enhance our great Queensland lifestyle, it includes backing and growing our frontline Public Service workers. I would like to take this opportunity to place on record my thanks to every single public servant who lives in the Bundamba

community, who works in the Bundamba community or who provides services to our Bundamba community because we back our Public Service, which is in stark contrast to the LNP, who sack them. They sacked 14,000 public servants—something they have never apologised for. I suspect the reason that there has been no apology is that the LNP will do it again. The LNP have recently said that they will bring forward a debt reduction plan and a service delivery strategy, but there are no details. During a contribution on this bill, the LNP leader said that he had a message for the Queensland Public Service, 'We look forward to working with you.'

Those words will send an ominous shiver down the spine of every one of our hardworking public servants, because this is the same LNP that prior to being elected to government in 2012 said to our Public Service that they had 'nothing to fear' and then sacked 14,000 workers right before Christmas. The Bridgman review made 99 recommendations but sacking ain't one. Remember when the LNP called the then chief health officer and now Governor a 'punch-drunk bureaucrat'? This is the same LNP that ignored the advice of our public health experts by calling for the premature opening of our borders 64 times during the pandemic.

**Mrs McMahon** interjected.

**Mr McCALLUM:** I take the interjection from the member for Macalister: it is 64 times. That action would have resulted in more sickness and fatalities and would have overwhelmed our public health system. This is an opposition with no vision and no plan for our Public Service other than to sack workers and cut services.

I now turn to the second bill which is part of this cognate debate, the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The reforms contained in this bill will make Queensland's the most transparent and accountable government in the country. It will set a new benchmark for the rest of Australia to follow. The bill is the first tranche of legislation to implement the recommendations of Professor Peter Coaldrake's *Let the sunshine in* report and Kevin Yearbury's strategic review of the Integrity Commissioner's functions. The bill strengthens and enhances the independence of the Auditor-General, the Queensland Audit Office and the Integrity Commissioner. It provides for more transparency as to who may obtain the Integrity Commissioner's advice and it strengthens the regulation of lobbyists by introducing an offence for unregistered lobbying.

It is worth reflecting on the LNP's record when it comes to lobbying, because the LNP have jaw-dropping form when it comes to dodgy lobbying links. Ex-Liberal leader and Newman minister for housing and public works Bruce Flegg resigned as minister over undeclared contacts with his lobbyist son. There were plenty of integrity scandals around the LNP lobbyist outfit Entree Vous.

During the debate on these bills, LNP speakers have dutifully lined up to deliver their lines about a particular former integrity commissioner, but there is one former integrity commissioner they have not mentioned: David Solomon. When they were last in government in 2013, the LNP repeatedly rejected his calls as integrity commissioner to make lobbyists publicly accountable. It appears that not only did they ignore his advice for more accountability and transparency; they abused him. Campbell Newman's chief of staff was accused of calling the then integrity commissioner to undertake what was described by the integrity commissioner himself as an 'ill-informed abusive rant'. In my opinion, the same description would be entirely accurate of many of the LNP contributions to this debate.

What are the details of the LNP's plan for integrity, accountability and transparency in Queensland? The best that we have so far is that one of their members has been given a job title. They appointed a shadow minister for integrity in government on 16 November 2020—two years ago. What have we heard since then when it comes to policy or detail? Nothing. It has been crickets.

In government—let us make sure that never happens again—what would this minister do? Presumably the LNP would wind back the measures in this bill to lessen the independence of the Integrity Commissioner and give it more direct ministerial oversight in direct contravention of the recommendations of the Yearbury review of the Integrity Commissioner that the amendments in this bill are implementing. What acts would that particular minister be responsible for administering? The Integrity Act—would that be it? Would the job simply be to keep an eye on the Integrity Commissioner, who applies the single act that the minister might have to worry about? It is hard to know, because the LNP cannot or will not reveal the details of their plan to increase integrity, accountability and transparency, despite having two years to do so.

The real LNP integrity clanger is the fake laptop scandal—the long campaign attacking the government that claimed that the integrity commissioner's office was raided, that a laptop was seized and that there was improper disclosure of information. The LNP's so-called integrity inferno turned out



to be more of an integrity no-go, with the Crime and Corruption Commission finding that, without any doubt, there was no raid and no laptop seized. What occurred was in fact wholly unremarkable and entirely ordinary, according to the CCC. I think that is the best that can be said of the LNP on this matter.

*(Time expired)*



**Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (6.25 pm): I rise to make my contribution to this cognate debate, but I will restrict my comments primarily to the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and leave my colleague the member for South Brisbane to comment on the Public Sector Bill. I begin by making the observation that the fact that these bills are being debated cognately is, in and of itself, a pretty blatant example of the government's efforts to limit scrutiny and to simply cut back on the amount of time we have to engage in this debate. They have effectively cut in half the amount of time for debate on the rolling integrity scandals that surround this government which ultimately led to the Coaldrake review.

For years now, Queensland media organisations have been reporting on the dodgy, suspicious links between this government and lobbyists. Campaigner lobbyists like Evan Moorhead and his firm Anacta got this Labor government elected, and he has been making profit hand over fist because of the friendly connections that he and other lobbyists have with Labor politicians. It is reported that Anacta made more than \$100,000 for a stint of work for the Premier's mate, now Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, and the Queensland government paid nearly \$80,000 to Anacta and Moorhead via government owned corporations. All this is happening while Anacta is funnelling hundreds of thousands of dollars of donations back to the Labor Party in a truly mind-blowing cycle of lawful corruption.

As with so much of this legalised corruption in the form of corporate donations to the major parties, we see only the tip of the iceberg. The Coaldrake report says that the substantial rise in recorded lobbying activity is only part of the picture, and it is likely that around three-quarters of the lobbying in Queensland is unregulated. This bill creates a new offence for unregistered lobbying. Frankly, it is laughable that such an offence did not exist already, but we support that addition. This defence is almost useless if it does not cover all instances of lobbying. Under this bill, lobbyists can continue to meet with and lobby politicians in Queensland for their own benefit, as a representative or on behalf of an industry association or to a non-minister without disclosing any details of their meetings or following any of the rules around lobbying.

The definition of lobbying in this state is so narrow that I doubt most Queenslanders would believe it. I can scarcely believe it. It is so narrow that the Premier can meet with a developer like Lang Walker and lobbyist Graham Richardson to discuss Walker's plans for Queensland—plans that include building 3,600 apartments on internationally protected wetlands at Toondah Harbour. Mind you, that is not lobbying under the act as it stands. The definition is so narrow that the government can use public money to pay a lobbying firm like Anacta to work for government owned corporations. They can use Queenslanders' money to pay a lobbying firm to talk to the government for the government, and it is still not covered under our lobbying laws. It is absurd.

It is genuinely bizarre that this bill does nothing to expand the definition of lobbying, even to capture incidental lobbying by professional firms as was recommended by Professor Coaldrake. Backbench politicians are not covered by our lobbying laws. In-house lobbyists are not covered by our lobbying laws. Lobbyists who are lobbying for industry associations like the Queensland Resources Council or the Australian Banking Association are not covered by our lobbying laws, and this bill does nothing to change that.

We should acknowledge though that it is a pretty good time to be a former Labor staffer looking for a lobbying job and we should take an opportunity to congratulate a few people on their appointments. First there is Denise Spinks, the Premier's former deputy chief of staff who has just celebrated her anniversary in a new gig as a lobbyist with Anacta and in particular the important work in setting up its new office in Canberra. Then there is Mark Reed, the former chief of staff to Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles, and Lidija Ivanovski, who was WA Labor Premier Mark McGowan's strategy adviser, who should both also be congratulated on their jobs at Anacta. Maybe that is what Labor means when it says it is delivering more jobs.

It really is extraordinary that under these laws a government member or their staff can walk straight out of parliament and into a lobbying job. A minister will have to take a little break for a couple of years, or they could alternatively just take one of the many jobs that they are still allowed to have under these laws—for example, in a company whose project they might have approved or an industry association that they helped out or as a lobbyist in a firm that lobbied them a few years before they

retired. It is no wonder that in this landscape the government is still approving new coal and gas projects or that former premier Anna Bligh enjoys her comfortable position as the head of the Australian Banking Association.

An integrity bill that was concerned with anything other than dampening the critiques of this government would do so much more than this bill proposes. It would expand the definition of lobbying to include in-house lobbyists and third-party lobbyists. It would apply lobbying regulations to all politicians and senior staff. It would stop politicians and senior staff from walking into a cushy lobbying job for at least five years after they leave parliament and it would legislate a ban on cash-for-access meetings. Not only do these bills fail to implement all of the recommendations from the Coaldrake review—and in fact I would argue that they are mostly playing catch-up with a backlog of previously ignored recommendations from past inquiries and reviews—but let us remember also that the Coaldrake review itself was hamstrung by narrow terms of reference and a short time frame. Those terms of reference were of course set by a government that is ironically too afraid to actually let the sunshine in.

Professor Coaldrake had just four months to conduct this review behind closed doors, but the public can smell the rot. Slightly strengthening lobbying regulation and codifying the relationship between ministers and public servants are steps in the right direction, but they are bandaid responses to systemic corruption and corporate influence in our politics and political interference in our Public Service because the fact remains that most Queenslanders will never meet the Premier, but developers, corporations and their lobbyist representatives get private lunches with zero transparency, and that is exactly what is wrong with this system and this government. That is why coal and gas corporations, developers and the gambling lobby get special deals from this government while housing and schools and health care remain underfunded.

Corruption and corporate influence mean delay and denial on climate change. They mean long hospital waitlists, higher rents and lower wages for public servants. This bill should have properly cracked down on lobbying and banned cash-for-access meetings and corporate donations, but it has done none of those things. We support the changes in the bill to establish the Auditor-General as an officer of the parliament to create the Office of the Integrity Commissioner and ensure that the Integrity Commissioner is not subject to external direction in how it performs its functions or prioritises integrity issues. These are good steps towards increased independence of those bodies on the one hand, yet on the other hand the bill removes the existing obligation for the Auditor-General to conduct a financial audit of a public entity at the request of the parliament.

The government argues that this change, as well as the removal of the requirement for a committee, parliament or minister to request an audit, is to help the Auditor-General prioritise its work based on things like budget and public urgency without being bogged down in requests from MPs or from the parliament. However, in the committee hearing it was revealed that there has only been one request in the last 10 years from the Legislative Assembly. That may have something to do with the government holding a majority in this place, but the principle remains that parliament should be able to request an audit.

The backdrop for this bill is that there is a culture of secrecy and political interference in the Queensland Public Service. For a moment when the government introduced these reforms it seemed that it might be starting to acknowledge and address this, but on the whole its refusal to allow a full commission of inquiry in the way it has run these inquiries and the government more generally indicates that it will still go to great lengths to cut short scrutiny and silence critique. Guillotining debates, spurious points of order, filibustering and government chairs running interference at estimates or the overreliance on commercial-in-confidence provisions to hide crucial information on things like government spending, contracts and other deals from the public are all examples.

Numerous reports including Yearbury and the Coaldrake review have pointed out the ways this government poisons and stifles our democracy. I have seen firsthand how public servants are prevented from doing their job by an overbearing politically motivated government. I have watched government chairs prohibit them from answering basic questions in committee hearings for fear that the process might result in some actual accountability or, heaven forbid, embarrassment of the government where it is failing. Yes, I will support this bill because we absolutely need greater independence for the Auditor-General and the Integrity Commissioner, but this is just cracking open the door an inch. It should be flung wide open so that we can properly deal with the culture of secrecy, the interference in the Public Service and the corporate influence that pervades every corner of politics in this state.



**Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (6.35 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Public Sector Bill. It is certainly one of the most important things we do as elected representatives ensuring that our system is fair and transparent. I am proud to be part of a government that always acts in the interests of Queenslanders and puts their needs first, that is committed to transparency and accountability and that is also committed to strengthening our integrity and oversight. We are lucky to live in Queensland and this is a government that is focused on delivering good jobs and great services so that we can enjoy our great Queensland lifestyle. An important part of this is that Queenslanders deserve and expect that the services that we provide, which are paid for by the state and by Queenslanders, are transparent and accountable and that our oversight framework supports a culture of accountability amongst public servants and public officials alike.

This government will always do what is best and what is right for Queenslanders. We are committed to taking Queenslanders along with us, not attacking them. We are committed to integrity in government because it is the right thing to do, unlike those opposite who disappointingly try to politicise integrity for cheap political points with no regard for truth, as highlighted earlier this year by the LNP fake news story that it cooked up which was the 'what's on your laptop conspiracy'. In relation to this false claim by the LNP and its constant use of words like 'raid' and 'seizure', the CCC has found without any doubt that there was no so-called raid, no laptop seized and nothing out of the ordinary wiped.

**Mr Harper:** And no apology.

**Mr MARTIN:** And no apology; I take that interjection. In fact, the CCC found that the circumstances in which the laptops were retrieved were entirely ordinary and the descriptions of 'raid' and 'seizure' did not reflect the reality of what occurred. Further, the circumstances in which a laptop was wiped were found to be wholly unremarkable and it also found that commentary that the LNP engaged in which suggested that laptops were seized and wiped as a result of a raid on the Integrity Commissioner's office had been a mischaracterisation of what occurred. To me this shows that the LNP does not care about integrity and it does not care about the truth. In fact, the CCC went further and found that a failure to correct the confusion and misinformation around these events may continue to erode public confidence, which is certainly very disappointing.

When it comes to integrity, the LNP does not mind destroying public confidence if it thinks that it can get some political benefit. This false narrative around the laptop and cooking up a conspiracy that was its raid on the Integrity Commission is very concerning, but what is also worryingly familiar is this idea that you can just believe anything you want and rely on alternative facts. While the CCC has warned against the spread of misinformation, the LNP has dismissed this as what it described as a different categorisation, doubling down on its conspiracy theory. This action alone to me shows a lack of integrity and also shows that the LNP has been more and more captured by the hard right, or alt-right perhaps.

There seems to be less and less room for moderate voices within the LNP and it certainly is a sorry state of affairs pandering to anti-vaxxers and science deniers. It is worth noting that ordinary Australians can see through this alternative facts rubbish. I am proud to be a Queenslanders and proud to be an Australian. I support our egalitarian style of democracy. This is not America; this is the Queensland parliament and I am concerned that the LNP is adopting the sorts of alternative facts approaches—these post-truth approaches—that are more commonly seen at Trump rallies than in the Queensland parliament. One cannot make things up and just shrug their shoulders when someone points out it is not true. Frankly, I think Queenslanders see through it too.

This bill supports integrity by introducing a range of reforms which come from the recommendations from Professor Peter Coaldrake's review of the culture and accountability in the Queensland public sector. As Professor Coaldrake notes in his report, when the Premier established the review she stated—

It is always good to look at things with fresh eyes. The 21st century has brought rapid changes, not least in terms of technology. We need to address that. People deserve a Public Service that is fit for purpose, geared to their needs and focused on them.

I wholeheartedly agree with that. This bill introduces a number of important improvements. Firstly, it seeks to strengthen and enhance the independence of the Auditor-General, the Audit Office and the Queensland Integrity Commissioner; secondly, it brings transparency to those who may obtain advice from the Integrity Commissioner; and, thirdly, it amends the declaration of interests requirements and strengthens the regulation of lobbyists by introducing an offence for unregulated lobbying under the Integrity Act.

In relation to the Auditor-General, the Coaldrake report recommended strengthening the independence of the Auditor-General and their office by extending its scope and that it be classified as an officer of parliament in the same way that the Queensland Ombudsman and Information Commissioner are also officers of parliament. The report also made more specific recommendations about the Auditor-General: that the Auditor-General become an independent officer of parliament; that the Auditor and their staff be employed under their own act instead of the Public Service Act; that the Auditor be allowed to set fees; and be given discretion to undertake performance audits on government owned corporations. To address any concerns about lack of independence, the Auditor-General cannot be employed within any public sector entity for two years after the end of their term which is consistent with requirements of private sector auditors who cannot work for former clients for a two-year period. I also note the minister's amendment addressing the committee chair's concerns that the Auditor not have the power to ignore an audit request by this parliament.

In relation to the Integrity Commissioner, this bill creates the Office of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner under their control and also the role of deputy. In response to concerns expressed in the Yearbury review that too many people can directly seek Integrity Commissioner advice, the bill also refines the operation and requirements in relation to the declaration of who can request official advice. Senior officers, ministerial staff members and assistant ministerial staff members will no longer be able to directly access Integrity Commissioner advice. Alternative pathways already exist for these classes of people to access integrity advice and they are intended to be used in the first instance to manage the flow and quantity of persons able to directly access the Integrity Commissioner. For public sector employees, this change is intended to redirect senior officers to seek advice from departments' ethical standards or integrity units in the first instance with advice from the Integrity Commissioner sought where required. These amendments find a balance between controlling the unintended growth of the number of designated persons who can seek advice.

The bill also makes a new offence for unregistered lobbying. This helps strengthen what are already some of the strongest laws in Australia. We do not just accept these changes, we embrace them and I am proud to be part of a government whose aim is always to do better. These changes ensure even greater openness and transparency. The changes mean that anyone working for a lobbying firm will need to be registered as a lobbyist. It covers lobbyists, consultants, advisers, strategic communications, and marketing advisers but excludes administration staff. Lobbyists are only to make contact through the chief of staff and their office and all meetings will have to be requested in writing. The Integrity Commissioner will maintain the public Register of Lobbyists but departments will also continue to maintain a register of lobbyists contacts. Ministerial diaries will continue to maintain a record of meetings. When it comes to the publishing of ministerial diaries, we have the strongest transparency laws in the country—something I am very proud of.

Moving on to the Public Sector Bill, the bill supports an integrated and responsive public sector—in particular, ensuring fairness, inclusion and security of public sector employment so that public servants can get on with the job of delivering the important frontline services for our community. There are four key aspects to the bill: firstly, it acknowledges the unique role public sector entities and employees have in supporting the government to reframe its relationship with First Nations people. The distinct cultural rights of First Nations people will be promoted in this bill through the inclusion of responsibilities to recognise and honour Aboriginal peoples and people of Torres Strait Islander descent as First Nations people of Queensland.

Secondly, the bill creates a positive duty for public sector entities to promote equity, diversity and a culture of respect and inclusion and includes a requirement for executives to take real steps to promote equity, diversity and respect with an annual audit and a plan that must be made public and also programs and policies that promote a culture of respect and inclusion. Importantly, the bill retains the primacy of merit while reconciling this with the role that recruitment and selection play in supporting equity and diversity in public sector employment and it does this by recognising that recruitment and selection in the public sector is based on selecting the person that is best suited for the position. It includes a holistic consideration.

Thirdly, the bill ensures that public sector employees have a consistent and fair employment framework, including rights and obligations. By expanding the existing Public Service employment framework to a broader public sector, we are ensuring greater consistency. I commend the bills to the House.



**Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (6.46 pm): The fact that we are debating two such important bills in cognate, the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Public Sector Bill, is pretty incredible in the context of integrity. This government does not want either of these bills to be

submitted to proper scrutiny—that is obvious here in this chamber—and so are seeking to rush through debate in cognate. We know this government does not care about consultation. They do not care about scrutiny. They are really not interested in letting the sunshine in. A cognate debate is just another example of this, along with things like guillotining debate, hiding information behind commercial-in-confidence, rushed committee reviews and shielding the operations of the Olympics Committee from right to information. The integrity bill barely touches the scourge of lobbying in this state and it fails to close the revolving door between parliament and lobbying firms. It is shameful—but that is Queensland Labor.

My colleague the member for Maiwar has covered the integrity bill in some detail, so I will turn to the Public Sector Bill. This bill makes some minor improvements to strengthen our public sector and support workers, but it does not go far enough and it includes some pretty bewildering omissions of the most basic reforms that are being called for by Queenslanders and submitters to the bill. The Greens will be supporting the Public Sector Bill, but we will be moving amendments to support teachers and nurses who are fighting the casualisation of jobs in our schools and hospitals to create a clearer pathway for workers to get secure permanent employment. I would like to table these amendments now.

*Tabled paper:* Public Sector Bill 2022, amendments to be moved by Dr Amy MacMahon MP, explanatory notes and statement of compatibility with human rights to Dr Amy MacMahon's amendments incorporated [1992].

Right now thousands of teachers and healthcare workers do not even know where or if they will have a job after Christmas. The Labor government is stringing along workers in schools and hospitals with casual work and temporary contracts. The Queensland Teachers' Union and the Nurses and Midwives' Union have been fighting for job security for our incredibly hardworking teachers and nurses and their submissions flagged the need for measures to help workers get the secure permanent positions that they deserve.

Our amendments will mean that any public sector worker who has been in a casual or temporary position for more than one year will be offered permanency if the role is to be ongoing. This will provide much needed job security for our nurses and teachers and will mean a more stable and effective public sector. Right now the Labor government's practice of keeping staff on temporary or casual contracts is causing public schools and hospital workers to leave the profession early or leave entirely. This year we have seen the teaching and nursing shortage worsen and our hospitals and schools are feeling the crunch and teachers and nurses are crying out for support. We desperately need to improve job security and working conditions in the public sector or patient and student outcomes will continue to worsen.

In August the Nurses and Midwives' Union warned that nurses would be leaving Queensland to go interstate if Queensland did not match initiatives that are being taken by other states to bolster healthcare worker numbers and improve their working conditions. Why would they not leave Queensland? When teachers and nurses are strung along with temporary and casual contracts, they struggle to get things like home loans or car loans. They cannot settle down and build a community. They cannot build lasting professional relationships with colleagues. They cannot live with the security and peace of mind that our school and hospital workers deserve.

Ensuring our public sector workers have permanent work is about protecting the interests of workers everywhere. A well-funded, efficient and compassionate public sector provides long-term opportunities and signals to the private sector that they need to do the same or risk losing talent. The Human Rights Commission says that the gender pay gap is linked to the lack of permanency in professions with a high representation of women such as health care and teaching. The Bridgman report recommends that, by default, ongoing work should be filled by permanent employees.

When schools and hospitals do not have a stable and permanent workforce their effectiveness suffers. It is hard to administer and organise large workplaces such as hospitals, schools and other public sector institutions without knowing who will be on the books in six months time or when talent is continuously leaving the Queensland public sector for greener pastures. Queensland depends on nurses, teachers and other public sector workers and we should not undervalue them but this government does. By ignoring workers and ignoring unions, the government is ignoring the needs of Queenslanders.

I want to flag one of the key things this government could do to support public sector workers—that is, to pay them fairly. In July I asked the Minister for Industrial Relations what the government would do if inflation continued to rise. At that point the minister told me that, in terms of inflation, seven per cent is the absolute high end. Inflation hit 7.9 per cent in the September quarter. I repeat: 7.9 per cent. Wages for teachers, nurses, midwives and other public servants is effectively going backwards.

This week the Electrical Trades Union have been picketing the minister's office, demanding that they come to the negotiating table for a fair wage increase. They are saying, 'The Queensland government is ripping off its own workers. Start bargaining now.'

The Greens will also be moving to amend another glaring failure of this bill, which is the government's failure to include LGBTIQ+ people in its diversity target groups. A lack of diversity and inclusivity in the public sector is inherently detrimental to the ability of public entities to perform their obligations to the public. The public sector cannot represent and serve the needs of the community if it is not reflective of the diversity within the community, yet this government seems to say that there is no evidence that LGBTIQ+ people face discrimination or barriers within the public sector. Workers, unions and the Greens disagree. In their submission the Queensland Teachers' Union included the following—

The QTU maintains that the disadvantage experienced by members of the LGBTIQ+ community warrants their inclusion as a fifth diversity target group. We note the assertion made at the consultation meetings that there is "no evidence base to suggest that other groups require a targeted response", but reject it.

The QTU also references workforce data and academic research highlighting the disadvantages LGBTIQ+ people face in the workforce and their barriers to employment and career progression. In their submission, the QTU includes this account of discrimination faced by LGBTIQ+ people in the public sector—

I had applied for a job as a principal and won the position. As soon as my sexuality was divulged, the college took that position away from me. There were community discussions held without me being present, and I was compared to being a paedophile.


The QTU appropriately highlights that teachers are uniquely privileged and trusted with the mentoring of young people. It is important to the development of all young people that the identities and experiences of their mentors correlate to their own. That is true not only for young LGBTIQ+ people but also for children and young people who are disabled, First Nations or from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

The Australian Services Union, the Nurses and Midwives' Union and the Queensland Council of Unions all agree that this bill inappropriately excludes LGBTIQ+ people from its measures to improve diversity and inclusion in the public sector. The reality is that Queensland is composed of a myriad of First Nations and migrant peoples with different abilities, genders, languages and experiences. It is essential that our public sector is representative of the people it serves for it to operate effectively and efficiently and with compassion and fairness.

The bill also talks about reframing the state's relationship with First Nations people and includes some laudable measures including recognising and honouring Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people as the first peoples of Queensland, recognising the right to self-determination, engaging in truth telling, promoting cultural safety, ensuring First Nations people are represented in leadership and ensuring public entities work in partnership with First Nations people. These are great measures, but this bill uses the term 'responsibility' incredibly generously because, immediately following the provisions containing these so-called responsibilities, the bill states that none of the responsibilities need to be adhered to nor is there any legal consequence or course of action if they are not adhered to.

As everyone in this chamber would know, it is the strength of First Nations people and their resistance to colonisation and violence, their resilience of culture and their ability to stand up against subjugation and assimilation that are the big reasons we have seen progress for First Nations rights and conditions in recent decades. However, as everyone here would know, the impact of colonisation, violence and racism continues. If you are a First Nations person in Queensland then you are likely to face worse health and economic outcomes, you are more likely to face discrimination, you are more likely to live in poverty and you are more likely to go to prison. We hear from communities on the ground that these are the things that they want action on: implementing the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, stopping land clearing and theft in places such as Deebing Creek and stamping out racism in the Queensland police force.

*(Time expired)*

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (6.55 pm): I rise to speak on the Public Sector Bill 2022 and the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. I acknowledge the Premier and Minister Grace. I also acknowledge the members of the Economics and Governance Committee and the committee chair, the member for Logan, as well as the committee secretary and Hansard, for their work in the examination of the bills. I will focus mostly on the Public Sector Bill during this debate.

When it comes to the public sector, we must never forget the legacy of Campbell Newman, who was the one responsible for sacking 14,000 public servants. Public sector workers deserve to feel safe and secure in their jobs. They deserve to have peace of mind. What public sector workers did not deserve is the way in which Campbell Newman savagely cut their jobs, including the jobs of 4,400 health staff, 1,800 of whom were nurses and midwives.

I fully support the Public Sector Bill, which is based on an independent review of public sector employment laws by Mr Peter Bridgman entitled *A fair and responsive public sector for all*. The review made 99 recommendations to ensure a fair, responsive and inclusive public sector. The Queensland government accepted all recommendations in full or in principle and, on 6 July 2020, endorsed a two-stage approach to implementing the recommendations.

Stage 1 public sector reforms were implemented through the passage of the Public Service and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2020 to ensure the immediate implementation of recommendations related to maximising the government's commitment to employment security and providing Public Service employees with access to positive performance management. The Public Sector Bill 2022 proposes to implement stage 2 public sector reforms by replacing the Public Service Act 2008 and giving effect to the Bridgman review's primary recommendation to provide all public sector employees with a modern, simplified and employee focused legislative framework. To ensure that public sector employment arrangements are cohesive, the bill amends other acts that regulate the employment of particular public sector employees including the Ambulance Service Act 1991 and the Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990.

The bill will give effect to the remaining legislative Bridgman review recommendations—in particular, to establish an employee focused legislative framework that can further the Queensland government's commitment to being fair, responsive and a leader in public administration. The bill also responds to recommendations of the Coaldrake report, advice of the joint advisory committee and government stakeholders, together with approaches taken in other jurisdictions including the New Zealand public service legislation. The object of the bill is to modernise public sector employment laws and to rejuvenate the capability and capacity of the public sector workforce in response to the Bridgman review and the Coaldrake report.


The bill proposes to achieve this by outlining the entities and employees to which it applies; supporting the government's commitment to reframing its relationship with Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples; creating a nation-leading framework requiring chief executives of public sector entities to take steps to promote an oversight of equity, diversity, respect and inclusion; reforming recruitment and selection processes, including clarifying how equity and diversity considerations may factor into recruitment and selection decisions; establishing public sector employment conditions and arrangements including employment security with universal application to all public sector employees within the scope of the bill; simplifying or amalgamating existing concepts and arrangements in the current act including rulings and guidelines, work performance and interchange arrangements, commission reviews and administrative inquiries; and creating a Public Sector Governance Council as the central oversight body for whole-of-sector governance and the Public Sector Commission as the central human resources agency.

Our government's commitment to treaty in this state means that we can now work towards reframing the relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in this state to promote cultural safety and capability in the public sector. The bill seeks to strengthen the government's relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the public sector by requiring public sector entities to recognise the importance of the right to self-determination to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This bill speaks volumes for equity, diversity, respect and inclusion. The bill seeks to strengthen existing equality of employment opportunity requirements and places positive duties on chief executives of public sector entities, the Police Service and other prescribed entities to ensure programs, policies and practices promote equity, diversity, respect and inclusion.

In relation to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex and queer community, this bill responds to the discrimination or harassment experienced by the LGBTIQ+ community in their employment. The visibility of the LGBTIQ+ cohort is enhanced under this bill by requiring entities to promote a workplace culture of respect and inclusion, including for people of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities or intersex variations, and enabling equity and diversity plans to address matters for LGBTIQ+ people including to promote their respect and inclusion. This bill puts a framework in place to protect the rights of the LGBTIQ+ community to ensure they, too, receive respect and inclusion in the workplace.

The Public Sector Bill and the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill are good, solid reforms that will deliver strong measures to encourage transparency and increase accountability in the public sector. I commend both bills to the House.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (7.02 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the cognate debate of the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Public Sector Bill 2022. The Public Sector Bill 2022 proposes to implement stage 2 public sector reforms by replacing the Public Service Act 2008 and giving effect to the Bridgman review's primary recommendation to provide all public sector employees with a modern, simplified and employee focused framework. It should be noted that the Bridgman review was handed down in May 2019. Reform moves slowly with this Palaszczuk government.

The bill also seeks to strengthen the government's relationship with Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people in the Public Service by requiring public sector entities to recognise the importance of the right to self-determination to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The bill will give effect to the remaining legislative Bridgman review recommendations and also responds to some of the recommendations from the Coaldrake report.

In response to the Coaldrake report, the bill proposes: strengthening the independence of integrity bodies which do not employ public servants by not including the Queensland Ombudsman and the Crime and Corruption Commission in the scope of the bill; establishing the Public Sector Commission's role as the key oversight and central human resources agency; and implementing Professor Coaldrake's recommendation to appoint two external community members to the new Public Sector Governance Council to ensure the PSGC has access to commercial and community insights.

The bill provides for the exclusion of certain entities or other persons from being public sector entities or employees. The bill proposes to strengthen the independence of core integrity bodies that do not employ Public Service employees by not including the Queensland Ombudsman and the CCC in the scope of the bill and establishing alternative mechanisms to enable public sector employment arrangements to be applied to their staff. Other exclusions apply to entities due to their special nature or functions or the statutory context in which they are established or operate, for example Legal Aid Queensland.

The Together Queensland, Industrial Union of Employees submitted that it supports the provisions seeking to provide greater independence to the core integrity agencies; however, it did not fully support the arrangement proposed for integrity agencies and their staff. The Together union recommended that the public sector conditions in the bill be applied to staff of the excluded entities. In response, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet stated that the Ombudsman and the CCC are unique in that they do not employ public servants; instead, their staff are employed under their own legislation.

The bill also seeks to establish the role of the public sector in supporting the government's statement of commitment. Chief executives are responsible for ensuring their public sector entities fulfil this role by: recognising and honouring Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first peoples of Queensland; engaging in truth-telling; recognising the importance to first peoples of the right to self-determination; and promoting cultural safety and cultural capability at all levels of the public sector.

The Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Service supported the bill's stated objectives for reframing the government's relationship with Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people. Chief executives must undertake an annual audit and make a plan for improving equity and diversity in relation to employment matters in their entity, including for the diversity target group members defined as some of the following: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders; people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds; people with disability; women; and a group prescribed by regulation for this definition.

In response to the discrimination or harassment experienced by the LGBTIQ+ community in their employment, visibility of the LGBTIQ+ cohort is enhanced under the bill by: requiring entities to promote a workplace culture of respect and inclusion including for people of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and intersex variations; and enabling equity and diversity plans to address matters for LGBTIQ+ people, including to promote their respect and inclusion. Whilst some submitters also proposed the inclusion of the LGBTIQ+ community as an equity and diversity target group, it was submitted during consultation that there is presently insufficient evidence of under-representation in public sector employment to warrant a new employment target.



There are many other recommendations from the Coaldrake review that are yet to be implemented. The objectives of the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 are to amend current legislation to promote the independence and authority of the Queensland Auditor-General, the Queensland Ombudsman and the Queensland Integrity Commissioner. The bill provides that the Queensland Audit Office is not a public sector entity for the proposed Public Sector Act 2022, making the Auditor-General an officer of the parliament and employing staff under the Auditor-General Act 2009. The bill implements some of the recommendations from two reports: *Let the sunshine in: review of culture and accountability in the Queensland public sector*, delivered by Peter Coaldrake; and *Strategic review of the Integrity Commissioner's functions*, delivered by Mr Kevin Yearbury.

To enhance the independence of the Auditor-General, the bill proposes making the Auditor-General an officer of the parliament and introducing a requirement that the Auditor-General take an oath. Queensland Audit Office staffing arrangements will also change. The Deputy Auditor-General will be employed as a member of staff of the Queensland Audit Office and not under the Public Service Act. Before acting as the Auditor-General, the Deputy Auditor-General must make an oath or affirmation and the Auditor-General may appoint a person to act as the Deputy Auditor-General when there is a vacancy or absence.

The bill removes the requirement for the Treasurer's approval of basic rates of fees of the Auditor-General and provides that the Auditor-General may increase the basic rates of fees once each financial year with the approval of the parliamentary committee. The bill amends the Auditor-General's obligation to conduct audits at the request of the Legislative Assembly so that the Auditor-General may conduct an audit but is not required to do so. It also removes the obligation on the Auditor-General to have received a request by the Legislative Assembly or a parliamentary committee and enables the Auditor-General to conduct specified audits without first requiring approval or direction. The Auditor-General supported the provisions for Queensland Audit Office staff to be employed under the Auditor-General Act rather than the Public Service Act 2008 because it will provide greater autonomy for managing staff arrangements for the office.

The Australian Professional Government Relations Association raised concerns that the current drafting of the bill does not appear to distinguish between inadvertent unregistered lobbying due to the potential for administrative or technical errors and the deliberate, systemic attempts of some unregistered lobbyists who seek to operate outside the lobbying regulatory framework. To address this concern, APGRA proposed a warning system whereby a person who is alleged to have engaged in unregistered lobbying is notified of a potential breach by the Integrity Commissioner and given an opportunity to explain their circumstances. This is in response to this government's close relationship with Anacta, which has a number of past Labor Party contacts—so close that we heard at estimates that GOCs engage Anacta to lobby the government.

The list of integrity failures of this government is way too long for me to list in the time I have left. The Linc Energy cover-up recently exposed shows that this practice is deeply ingrained. There is a lack of details regarding the Wellcamp debacle which cost this state in excess of \$200 million. Openness, transparency and integrity are attributes that this Palaszczuk government simply does not understand. This bill should not be part of a cognate debate and is another example of the lack of accountability from this government.



**Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (7.12 pm): I am pleased to contribute to the cognate debate on the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 and the Public Sector Bill 2022. The Integrity and Other Legislation Bill 2022 sets out the first tranche of legislation in response to two important reviews—the Coaldrake and Yearbury reviews. I welcome the strengthening and enhancing of the independence of the Queensland Auditor-General, the Queensland Audit Office and the Queensland Integrity Commissioner.

The Queensland Audit Office has a vision for better public services for Queenslanders with a purpose to provide valued, independent assurance and insights. I believe that the Audit Office, through its reporting, does provide us as members of parliament with a deeper understanding of issues facing public sector performance and financial reporting and in holding entities to account. The Coaldrake report made some specific recommendations about the Auditor-General and the Queensland Audit Office which are being reflected in this bill.

The bill also makes changes to the Integrity Act 2009 to enhance the independence and functions of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner, and again these changes have been welcomed. What those opposite did not welcome, of course, was the CCC's report of 4 July 2022 into some very serious allegations made by the LNP in relation to the former integrity commissioner's office. They ran a very

public, a very long and a very misleading campaign, aided by elements of the media—some of whom may no longer be in the employ of said media—with claims of a raid on the former integrity commissioner's office, the seizure of a laptop and the improper disclosure of information. Those opposite did not welcome that the CCC found no evidence of improper disclosure, they did not welcome that the proven circumstances in which the laptop was retrieved from the then integrity commissioner's office were entirely ordinary and they certainly did not welcome the finding that there was no evidence to suggest that those circumstances led to any improper access of confidential information from the office of the then integrity commissioner.

There was no raid, no laptop seized and no information disclosed or removed. 'What was on the laptop?', they kept screaming, without any evidence of the claims they were making. It was dishonest, it was irresponsible and I believe it reflects the fact that they will say and do anything, even if it is not true, and continue to do this even today. It speaks to their lack of integrity, lack of honesty and even their lack of capacity to recognise when they made a mistake and apologise to those they accused of misdeeds.

I would like to turn now to the Public Sector Bill 2022. A modern, agile and impartial Public Service is absolutely critical to ensuring a strong, growing and resilient Queensland. The bill before us sets out to provide substantial and far-reaching reforms, including the development of a new act for the public sector in Queensland. The Public Sector Bill 2022 discharges the primary recommendation of the Bridgman review for a new public sector act with broad application to the public sector. This will include the core Public Service as well as statutory bodies and other entities not currently captured by the Public Service Act 2008. This will ensure consistent application of public sector employment arrangements, including conversion mechanisms to apply. The bill has also been informed by further and important reviews—the Yearbury report and Professor Coaldrake's independent review of Queensland's public sector integrity framework.

We also recognise that COVID-19, a global pandemic, has provided one of the biggest stress tests to the Queensland Public Service, possibly in its lifetime. We saw the need for agility and flexibility to respond, including public servants taking on new roles to support the pandemic response. We saw the need for increased mobility of the public sector workforce to react quickly and effectively to the threat we faced as a state.

The bill also strengthens our government's ongoing commitment to maximising employment security by clearly specifying that employment is on a permanent basis unless an act enables an alternative basis of employment. I am particularly pleased to see these provisions because I know that public sector security is something those opposite know nothing about. Some 14,000 public servants were sacked during their mercifully short reign, but damage was done.

I know this at a personal level because I was one of those public servants who was sacked by the Newman government, as was my husband, a TAFE lecturer. Those opposite make all attempts to skim over their reign of terror, but I believe they still do not seem to understand or appreciate the impact on the public servants and their job security. I want to reflect on the reforms in the bill around employment security which, as the Bridgman review noted, is a crucial feature of the Westminster system of government. We recognise that public servants who are secure in their role are better placed to be more innovative and able to provide full and frank advice to the government of the day.

In 2012 I was employed, through a merit-based approach, in a role in TransLink. It was a role I really enjoyed and which I believed I was doing very well. In 2013, at a whole of TransLink meeting—so almost 400 employees—the CEO at the time advised that, following a meeting with the then LNP minister for transport, he was advised that TransLink would need to shed one in four staff; that is, a quarter of the workforce was to be dismissed.

What ensued was appalling—months of limited information, not knowing who would lose their jobs, people trying to argue their value to the organisation to anyone who would listen and ultimately what can only be described as a form of Hunger Games; public servants believing and arguing they deserved to be there more than their colleagues. How much frank and fearless advice was provided during this time? Who would have been brave enough to speak up with the sword of Damocles looming over them? I was interested in the comments of the Leader of Opposition in his contribution that politics played no part in their decision-making, citing the current mayor of Ipswich and the member for Hervey Bay.

I was formally advised that my role had been cut and I was being dismissed. What I was also advised privately by senior public servants was that I was on a specific list of public servants who were targeted for dismissal for their known political affiliations. The irony is that another appointment at the

time—the then director-general of the Department of Transport and Main Roads—also clearly had political affiliations. Whilst he too was dismissed, though in disgrace—the member for Mudgeeraba would remember that—it speaks to the dangerous political manipulation of the Public Service.

I am also pleased that the bill strengthens the stability of government and Public Service performance by appointing chief executives on fixed term five-year contracts unaligned to the electoral cycle.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mrs MULLEN:** I clearly hit a raw nerve there! The bill provides that the term of a chief executive's appointment is five years unless the person has requested a shorter period. Five-year fixed-term contracts are consistent with Westminster government principles, ensuring permanent leadership that is consequently better placed to give full and frank advice to government. This was an important recommendation by the Coaldrake review. I am pleased to see that our government supported the recommendation and it is confirmed in the bill today. The bill also recognises that chief executives play an important role in ensuring effective public sector governance and creates a range of duties and functions directed towards this.

**Mr Watts:** An upper house is Westminster too, to keep the government accountable. Are you bringing that back?

**Mrs MULLEN:** I would like to specifically refer to measures of inclusiveness and respect, member for Toowoomba North. It has been heartening to see the Albanese government treat the Kate Jenkins's *Respect@work* report with actual respect, as opposed to the previous Morrison LNP government, which frankly showed nothing but disdain for the findings and recommendations of this important work.

Only yesterday we saw the passage of the Anti-Discrimination and Human Rights Legislation Amendment (Respect at Work) Bill through the federal parliament. As the Prime Minister made very clear, sexual harassment is not inevitable; it is preventable. This historic Respect@Work legislation significantly progresses gender equality by ensuring women are able to earn a living in safe, sexual-harassment-free workplaces. Only last month, the Queensland parliament passed an amendment to the Industrial Relations Act 2016 to strengthen protections against workplace sexual harassment and sex or gender-based harassment. The bill today introduces respect and inclusion obligations to ensure all Queensland employees feel safe and respected in their workplace.

Chief executives will be required to take positive steps to actively foster a culture of belonging and that employees feel safe in the workplace, particularly those from diverse backgrounds. I am also pleased that we seek to reframe the relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as part of these reforms. This will include, importantly, improved cultural capability resourcing. As part of a requirement to make a 'reframing the relationship plan' through their workforce planning, this plan must identify the cultural capability of the entity when providing advice to the government and delivering services to the community. These are important measures and, given this morning's debate about a voice to parliament, absolutely crucial.

My very first job was working for the Goss government. As a young 21-year-old political staff member, I received some sage advice from an older colleague. He said, 'Remember, you will need the public servants more than they will ever need you. Always treat them well.' It is advice that I continue to follow to this day. Our public servants work hard. They are proud of the work they undertake and they deserve to be treated with respect, to be supported and to have conditions of employment that provide them with certainty and security. I commend the bills to the House.



**Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (7.21 pm): I rise to speak to the cognate debate on the Public Sector Bill 2022 and the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. I might start by briefly observing, as others have, the fact that these two bills are being debated in cognate to avoid the proper scrutiny of parliament. That tells Queenslanders everything they need to know about how this Palaszczuk Labor government views the subject of integrity.

This Labor state government closed the book on integrity a long time ago, so much so that it has not implemented in full the recommendations made by the Bridgman or the Coaldrake reviews. The Premier promised she would implement all of them, but how many cabinet documents have been released within 30 days since then? The answer is none. This Labor state government has not implemented the changes yet because it knows that if and when it does implement such changes the flimsy foundation, built on deceit, dodgy deals, ministerial incompetence and failures of leadership, will all come tumbling down.

I want to briefly echo the words spoken by the Leader of the Opposition: we must empower our public servants. Queenslanders rely on public servants to deliver the services they need—important services. These employees need to feel supported by ministers and ministerial staff, not intimidated. The government should listen to public servants. They are the ones on the ground hearing from Queenslanders and dealing with Queenslanders every single day. The government would run far more effectively if their employees were not so scared of them.

Instead of focusing on how the state government, and by extension public servants, can better serve the more than five million people who call Queensland home, all we hear from those opposite is a refrain blaming an LNP government, which at the next election will have exited office nearly 10 years before. Those opposite like to focus on the past because they have no plan for the future. Those opposite like to focus on the past because they need to distract from their failures to deliver for everyday Queenslanders. They like to focus on the past because this third-term Palaszczuk state government is tired, bereft of ideas and led by a Premier who has checked out. As Albo says, 'Governments don't get better in their fourth term'—and isn't that the truth!

To state the obvious, the Public Sector Bill does not do much to address the current cultural issues running rampant through the Queensland Public Service because this bill is only acting on a primary recommendation made in the Bridgman review from four years ago—four years ago! The LNP supported stage 1 of these reforms, but a lot more damage and destruction and political interference has happened since then. Perhaps if all of Mr Bridgman's recommendations were enacted when they were made four years ago there would have been positive change for employees within Queensland's Public Service. Instead, like always, the state government took the slow option, dragging it out, hoping the problem would go away. It is a familiar playbook.

It has taken a full-blown and very public integrity crisis for this tired, third-term Palaszczuk Labor government to act. It is no different to the cynical manner in which the state government are using the integrity amendment bill to look like they are serious about making changes and restoring integrity, but it is just that: this entire charade is so the state government look like they are doing the right thing by Queenslanders when they really could not care less. Queenslanders know, though, that this government cares more about how they look than how things really are.

Queensland's public sector is made up of hundreds of thousands of hardworking employees who just want to do their job and do it well. I would have thought those opposite would agree with that contention. Unfortunately, as has been said a lot lately, the fish rots from the head. The Public Service is being hampered by interference from the top down, described in the Coaldrake review as 'an atmosphere of fear'. Ministers are more interested in their political survival than the survival of everyday Queenslanders.

We know from the Coaldrake review and firsthand accounts of whistleblowers that many employees across departments are warned to sanitise their advice and recommendations to align with the position which suits political outcomes set by Labor ministers. It is a classic case of government ministers creating an environment to ensure they can claim ignorance. Rather than seek advice that allows them to better deliver services that Queenslanders deserve, ministers seek advice that suits their own selfish political objectives.

There are so many integrity failings that have afflicted this Labor state government since 2015 that some are easy to forget. Who can forget the mangocube saga, where a foolish minister who should have been sacked—but who still sits on ministerial leather because of a premier who is incapable of enforcing the most basic standards of behaviour—was condemned by the CCC?

**Mr Power:** You weren't even here.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** What about Labor lobbyists working out of William Street during the election campaign and then handsomely benefiting from the Labor government they helped elect? I hear those opposite say, 'You weren't even here,' excusing the behaviour of a minister who is incompetent, a minister who was described by the chair of the CCC as 'foolish'!

Those opposite ignore the problems that afflict Queenslanders every day because they want to play politics with these issues rather than address the substance of the issue. If I were a backbencher on the Labor side, I would be holding my ministers to account for their failings—ministers like the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, who is foolish and incompetent and whose failings affect Queenslanders every single day.

What about the Jackie Trad debacle? What about the state government cynically changing the electoral system—the entire bedrock of the Westminster system—to benefit themselves with 18 minutes notice? What about the bullying and victimisation of the former integrity commissioner or

the former state archivist, whose only offence was to speak out against this government's failings which hurt every single Queenslander every single day? It is a laundry list of failures and abuses of power, but why should Queenslanders even be surprised when that kind of behaviour is in Labor's DNA?

I have spoken many times in this parliament about the need for a more effective right-to-information process. If this government wants to talk about integrity and transparency then it can start with fixing the mess that exists in the Office of the Information Commissioner. It is stated as clear as day in the Coaldrake review that 'one of the more frequent concerns raised during consultations has been that of perceived overreach of ministerial staff'. Professor Coaldrake goes on to say, 'One senior executive captured the concerns by describing "attempts to suppress public records and subvert RTI processes".' There is the problem in black and white.

To give just one example, I submitted an RTI request in April 2021—19 months ago—and it is still not finalised. My request was for critical information relating to the running of the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service and serious allegations from whistleblowers of bullying from the top down. It has hit roadblock after roadblock.

The public servants came to me because they were not being supported by their employer, who was the problem. After waiting 19 months for a result on my RTI, it is clear that the government's current process of delay tactics is now being used to hide crucial information from the public. Keeping these matters secret is preventing real change in our health system. We know from the Coaldrake review that records are being deliberately suppressed in an attempt to dodge RTI requests and that the Information Commissioner's role is influenced by the culture of government—a poor culture of government. The only reason I can think of for the information not being released in the case I have articulated is that the documents are damning and highlight a culture of bullying and intimidation that is embarrassing for the government from the top down. The delays to my RTI request reek of a cover-up by Queensland Health and the government. Government ministers and their staff must stop interfering in the right to information process by trying to prevent their dirty laundry being aired. Transparency drives accountability, which is something this government would clearly benefit from.

This particular RTI request of mine is just one example of what is happening across government departments right across Queensland and how it is impacting public services. The Office of the Information Commissioner would be far more effective in helping members of the public and agencies in creating positive change if the Premier and ministers would just back off and let them do the jobs they are empowered to do.

While I am on the issue of cover-ups by government ministers, let's talk about data or the lack thereof. The issue that is most obvious and of most concern to the public is in health. Data representing the performance of each Queensland hospital and health service is released months after the fact, which does nothing to inform Queenslanders or improve patient outcomes. Perhaps the Minister for Health needs a reminder that data is not just numbers on a page. Each number represents a patient—a Queenslander in need of help, a Queenslander left waiting in the back of an ambulance at their local emergency department, a Queenslander languishing on a waitlist for cataract surgery or, even worse, patients deteriorating on a waitlist for a waitlist who still have not even seen a doctor. Data matters because Queenslanders' lives matter. If this government was genuinely committed to openness, transparency and accountability, they would publish data in real-time just as the LNP has committed to. Such an approach will drive change and better outcomes for Queenslanders. Let's be clear that that accountability should apply to ministers as well.

Health is not the only department with dramas, and although I only have a limited time left I will say that it is as if every single minister has ordered their department to make accessing information and data as difficult as possible. Queensland government websites are incredibly difficult to navigate, and this government has demonstrated through its actions that it is not genuinely committed to openness and transparency.

Debate, on motion of Mr Mickelberg, adjourned.

## ADJOURNMENT

### Buderim Electorate



**Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (7.32 pm): On a different note, tonight I rise to celebrate some achievements of Buderim residents. At the recent Sunshine Coast Business Awards I am proud to say the Buderim electorate was well represented with many nominees, finalists and a good handful of winners. Local boutique marketing and public relations firm Organised Creative took out the Small

Professional Services category. Netball superstars the Sunshine Coast Lightning won the Large Festivals and Events Award. Their games at the University of the Sunshine Coast are always a sellout and I enjoy them immensely, as do my children. The newly rebranded and upgraded Amaze World took out the Large Experiences group. Well done to owners Robyn and Adam. We visited recently and it was great to experience their new product offering.

I was very pleased to see Stymie win the award for social impact. Rachel Downie, recently Queensland Australian of the Year, does incredible work with schools to empower young people to ask for help if they see or are experiencing harm. It is incredibly moving and incredibly powerful work that Rachel and her team do, and they should be commended for doing so. Travis Schultz and Partners was named 2022 Business of the Year. Travis Schultz and Partners is a great law firm; however, perhaps more importantly I also want to mention the deep engagement Travis has in our community through sponsoring sporting teams, the Sunshine Coast Legal Service and community groups right across the Sunshine Coast.

The Buderim electorate is fortunate to have many great businesses. In fact, retailers in Buderim have recently banded together to organise a Christmas in Buderim day of shopping this Saturday with the involvement of community groups and entertainers. I hear that Santa will be making an appearance too, and I will not be Santa. Although I was asked, I have another commitment. Someone unkindly said that I have his build. The main street of Buderim was once widely known as a destination for shopping sprees, but since the opening of large shopping centres around the Sunshine Coast there has been a decline in out-of-town visitors with cash to spend in Buderim. I applaud local retailers for organizing the event this weekend to boost sales ahead of Christmas. The shops in Buderim deserve to be put back on the map, and I hope that events like this create more foot traffic throughout the year and not just on special occasions.

Lastly, tonight I want to give a special shout-out to everyone who donated to my Guide to Giving in Buderim Christmas campaign. It makes me very proud every year to see how generous the community is, especially during such an expensive time of year and in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis. I took two carloads of donations to IFYS Foster Care last week for kids in care who may not otherwise receive gifts this Christmas. Toys, games, sports equipment and gifts cards were all donated by residents and a large amount from the local day care Milford Lodge. I would like to make special mention of a couple of anonymous donors who contributed numerous gifts, especially the gift cards to support some of the older kids in care who often are overlooked.

We are also collecting dog and cat food and toys for the Sunshine Coast Animal Refuge—so if people would like to donate they are still able to—as well as funds for DV Safe Phone, a worthy charity that repurposes mobile phones for victims of domestic and family violence, which I note many members in the parliament have collection boxes for.

### Daisy Hill



**Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (7.35 pm): Flying Cloud, Bees Knees, Bronze Wing—in the community I represent we are spoiled for choice when it comes to idyllic locations to get amongst nature and enjoy our great lifestyle—a lifestyle our government works hard to protect. Those three memorable names are added to the list of already iconic local mountain bike trails like Jumping Ant and Possum Box. Just recently we have worked to deliver even more mountain bike trail upgrades that are once again getting rave reviews.


Whenever I ask locals what is their favourite spot in our community to get out, for many it is hard to choose. Some say Underwood Park, some say the Eastern Escarpment, some say Springwood Conservation Park, but right now everybody is talking about the new trails at Daisy Hill. Our local bushland is home to the Daisy Hill Koala Centre, which was delivered by Labor and twice upgraded by Labor. It is an iconic attraction in our community and is enjoyed by thousands each and every week. This government is working hard to enhance its amenity and conserve its natural assets. We are delivering on our commitment to work alongside locals and user groups to ensure we deliver a combination of recreation and conservation at Daisy Hill that is an exemplar and to benefit those who are fortunate to live close by.

The vision and direction of the Daisy Hill Action Plan was crafted by local stakeholders following extensive planning that considered conservation, recreation, tourism opportunities and amenity in the local community. Our sincere thanks go to a dedicated group of locals who formed the design and delivery. I want to acknowledge the Daisy Hill Trail Care Group, the RATS Cycling Club, the Daisy Hill Natural Area Volunteer group, the residents of Elements retirement village, local walking and riding

groups, Councillor Mindy Russell and local residents like Lindsay Byrne and many more. I want to quote Lonnie Toia, the president of RATS Cycling Club, who said about the project, 'This group all shared a common passion to enjoy the forest.' The new trails, he went on to say were 'so much fun, it is hard to complete a new trail without a huge grin from ear to ear'. I would like to thank the group for their time, their commitment to our community and delivering on the Daisy Hill Action Plan.

We also look forward to opening the next new trail. Jim's Trail will be ready in the very near future. It will see new amenities delivered, new horse floats and parking and, importantly, new accessibility features so every Queenslander can enjoy Daisy Hill. It all adds up to an incredible outcome for our local community.

### **Armitage, Mr S**

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (7.38 pm): Sam 'Carrot' Armitage's love of footy began as a five-year-old playing for the Deception Bay Raiders. It was the camaraderie and mateship that had him hooked from the very beginning. Even as a junior, Carrot was big on on-field talk and solid in defence. After a short stint at the Redcliffe Dolphins, Carrot became a Stanley River Wolf in 2002.

Everyone loved—and still loves—playing alongside Carrot. In 2005 as an under-14 he won his first ever grand final at Stanley River. Nobody seems to remember whom the game was against. That could be because of too many head knocks. In those days Stanley River did not have a seniors side. Kids like Carrot had to leave the club and play elsewhere, so under-18s was played at the Kilcoy Yowies.

During that off-season, Carrot was involved in a serious car accident, fracturing his eye socket, cheekbone, jaw and discs in his back and neck, as well as sustaining a bleed on the brain. He remained in a coma for two weeks, with doctors advising him he could no longer play footy. For five devastating years, Carrot tried to watch on from the sidelines. Then he made the decision—against doctors' orders—to return to the game he loved with a year back at the Kilcoy Yowies before two years in the front row at the Caboolture Snakes.


It was during the 2016 season that an idea was born. Sick of riding from Woodford to Caboolture for training twice a week, Carrot enlisted former Wolves juniors Tim, Connor and Cannon and the Wolves committee and, armed with a list of 50 players, got the league to grant permission for the club to re-enter a senior team. Carrot then had to find a coach. He approached club legend Vic at the Woodford pub. No word of a lie, Carrot said Vic laughed at him and told him to 'go ... himself'. It took many conversations and many, many beers to talk Vic into the coaching role, and the rest is history.

The Wolves 2B team lost only one regular season game that year, won the minor premiership and home semi, then defeated Palmwoods 16-8 in the grand final, and Carrot was the players' player for the season. In 2019, he led the Wolves back into the A-grade. It turned out to be another fairytale season. The team took out the minor premiership and went on to win the grand final 28-16 over Caboolture. It was the first A-grade final the club had won since 1992.

Through COVID and floods and changes to senior teams since, Carrot has shone. He has been a player, a coach, a volunteer, a committee member, a mentor, an inspiration and a mate, and he will always be Stanley River's favourite ginger. He is the first to lend a hand or offer advice, going above and beyond to even take a club member to her formal. He is the crazy 1 am video call requesting a Stanley River Uber; he is the guy who can do the splits and not spill a drop of beer. His larger-than-life personality is infectious and you cannot help but love him. He is the heart, soul and face of the Wolfpack and the club are better for his involvement.

For all of these reasons and more, last week the Stanley River Wolves inducted Sam 'Carrot' Armitage as a life member. Special thanks go to the club president, Mary-Anne Hallam, for this speech, which originally was 15 minutes long. I have managed to condense it into three.

### **Bundamba Electorate, Flood Recovery**

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (7.41 pm): It is nearly nine months since an extreme weather event resulted in devastating flooding to parts of my local Bundamba community. Our recovery is ongoing. We are buying back the first properties under our \$741 million Resilient Homes Fund. As a government, we have recently committed more than \$2.2 million to help our local sports clubs, community groups and not-for-profits as they continue to build back better. At the Goodna Bowls Club, that means repairing greens and replacing irrigation systems that were inundated.

It is a similar story just around the corner at the Goodna Netball Association, where new equipment and upgraded facilities will support this determined community club. I recall being there with many other community members and volunteers dragging some of the damage and flood affected possessions from the Goodna Netball Association buildings. It is great to see the assistance going to a very deserving community club. The Ipswich Knights Soccer Club in Bundamba will benefit from improved playing surfaces and supporting infrastructure, and further upgrades will be carried out at the Ipswich and District Rifle Club in South Ripley.

Importantly, we are also supporting flood victims with new training and job opportunities. Backed by our signature Skilling Queenslanders for Work community recovery round, the team from Challenge Employment and Training will continue the development of its Eco Hub concept at Riverview, with trainees gaining a Certificate I in Conservation and Ecosystem Management or a Certificate I in Construction. This will provide participants with 20 weeks of hands-on experience and new long-term job opportunities, all backed by a program that has already helped more than 3,300 locals into work and training.

In more good news for our local flood recovery, our brand new refurbished Club Parkview will open at Woogaroo Street in Goodna in just a few weeks. Formerly the Goodna Services Club, the venue was inundated earlier this year. A huge effort by the president, Russell, and the entire team will see the rebranded club reopen with two restaurants, a cafe, tap house, gaming and more. It was great to catch up with Russell last week. This marks an incredibly important milestone for our local community. Venues like these are meeting places where we celebrate our successes and share our stories. They support our local schools and sports clubs, along with our proud veteran community.

### **Everton Electorate, Social Housing Tenant**



**Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (7.44 pm): My message is to the Minister for Housing, Leeanne Enoch, the person who is ultimately responsible for those who have the privilege of living in taxpayer subsidised social housing. Sizer Street in Everton Park is a street that is normally peaceful and full of law-abiding residents. It is one that has many residents who have lived there for decades. Their lives have been put in disarray over the last 12 months because of the unruly behaviour of a family who lives in social housing in Sizer Street.

I have been inundated with complaints from people who simply want to be able to live their lives peacefully. I have been told things like this from my constituents: that they treat their neighbours and their entire community as well as the police with total contempt, that they are lawless and cause constant fear and anxiety to the law-abiding Everton Park people. My constituents say that enough is enough. There are violent fights every night. The family uses foul language. There is banging of furniture and smashing noises, and there is screaming. They break the trees on the footpaths to use the branches as weapons. My constituents have had cause to contact the Everton Park police on approximately six occasions over the last eight months. Their complaints are to do with noise, abusive language and threats of violence to other occupants.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Bush): Member, before you proceed, given those comments, are you able to confirm that there are no ongoing matters that might be subjected to sub judice?

**Mr MANDER:** Absolutely. Another comment from a constituent is that they do not feel their house, belongings and children are safe in Everton Park because of this. They said that Everton Park used to feel like a safe place to bring up their children but it no longer does. I have written to and made countless calls to the minister and the department of housing, as have my constituents. My constituents have had enough. They want to be able to live peacefully. I feel sorry for the department because they are the victims of the policies of a government that does not want to act on people who do not respect their neighbours when they are in social housing.

The latest information from the department—and it is just a week or two old—says that they have recently substantiated several concerns regarding the behaviour of these tenants and that appropriate action has taken place but due to privacy they were unable to tell me what those specific actions were. I can tell the House that nothing has happened because as late as this morning the police had to go to this household again because of their unruly behaviour.

My constituents are not asking for too much. All they are asking is that they can live in peace and that these people who do not appreciate or respect their privacy are moved on immediately. Minister Enoch, do something now.



### YMCA Springfield Lakes Community Centre



**Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (7.47 pm): The YMCA Springfield Lakes Community Centre has been an integral part of our local community. Last week, we gathered to celebrate 10 years of this incredible centre. In all communities, but especially in growth areas like Greater Springfield, most will focus on the hard infrastructure—the roads, the schools and the physical buildings and structures that we can visually see. Do not get me wrong: these things are all vitally important, but it is the unseen that means the most to me—the services that mean a child may get fed this morning because there is a breakfast club at the school; a person about to be made homeless has somewhere they can come and be connected with a housing service to help them find a roof over their head tonight; a woman who deep down knows there is something not quite right in her relationship and by having a safe space and someone that she can share those doubts with may find herself making a plan for a better life that she deserves.

It may be the young person who is struggling with their mental health and not sure if what they are feeling is normal, or it may be a young mum in those early foggy months of parenting who can barely make it out of the door but perhaps meeting other mothers at playgroup may just help her get through, or it may be a community seeking a place to practise their religion knowing they will be warmly welcomed. I talk about the unseen, but I have seen all of this at the YMCA Springfield Lakes Community Centre.

During the 2022 hailstorm event, I saw once again the importance of the community centre. Yes, you can set up a recovery centre in a school hall, but do you know the right services to bring in that people need right now? Can they organise the insurers? Do they have the connections to the amazing and kind-hearted businesses in our region who offered food, water, money and equipment? You have to know your community to know what they need, and the YMCA knew our community because they are part of our community.

When I was elected in 2017, I worked closely with the Y to jointly establish Greater Springfield Regional Connect, an amazing group that comes together to better understand what services are in our community, where the gaps are and how we can work more cohesively for the benefit of our beautiful community. It is something I am incredibly proud of, and we are making inroads on a range of important issues, but I would not have been able to establish this without the YMCA Springfield Lakes Community Centre and particularly Bec Andlemac.

I truly think of the YMCA Springfield Lakes Community Centre as a gift to our community. On this, their 10th anniversary, I wanted to offer a gift to the centre in return. The amazing Jennifer Kent of Manamana Dreaming is a local First Nations artist. Her work is truly incredible. Importantly, every piece tells a unique and meaningful story. I was so pleased to be able to present a specially commissioned artwork called *Making Dampier* to the centre at a special anniversary dinner. Not only has Jenny Kent provided the painting but also she provided a YouTube video you can follow to see all of the elements of the painting, which is just amazing. I hope that it will find pride of place by the centre to be enjoyed by the community in recognition of the incredible and ongoing impact the Y has had in our community.

### Chatsworth Electorate, Crime Prevention



**Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (7.50 pm): I rise this evening to thank both community members and local police representatives who attended a recent crime prevention forum that I hosted at the Gumdale Progress Association Hall. Representatives from across the Chatsworth electorate contributed to the conversation with the common theme of keeping our local communities safe. Residents shared both their experiences and concerns as to local break and enters, car thefts and juvenile crime. A big thankyou to Senior Sergeant Glenn Vidler and Senior Constable Brendon Winslow for their comprehensive overview of crime statistics in the area and valuable tips on how to protect your property. With the holiday season fast approaching, the forum was a timely reminder to lock up securely and report any incidents or suspicious activity to Policelink immediately. One very important tip was to get to know your neighbours and keep an eye out for each other. It is so important we all work together to keep our local community safe.


On that note, I wish to pay tribute to an outstanding community member in the Chatsworth electorate, Col DeVantier. A scholar and a gentleman, Col was held in high regard by those he served, both as a former headmaster and through his dedication to the community. Sadly, after retiring in 2021 and as Carina 1 Neighbourhood Watch Area Coordinator for 30 years, Col passed away on 1 September after a fall. He was aged 97 years. When Camp Hill 1 Neighbourhood Watch was launched centre stage at Carindale Shopping Centre, Col was asked to be the area coordinator. While other Neighbourhood Watch groups formed and sadly disbanded, Carina 1 Neighbourhood Watch stood the

test of time under Col's guidance, distributing 6,000 newsletters a year to over 1,100 households. Even COVID did not slow Col's dedication and enthusiasm to ensure his local community remained informed and safe via his column, Col's Corner. This column will remain a front-page feature in his memory.

It was suspected that he always intended to send a letter to the late Queen for her 100th birthday in exchange for one of his own. Unfortunately, neither letter will now be exchanged. On behalf of the Chatsworth electorate, my sincere condolences to Denys, Russell, Wendy and their families. Col will be greatly missed by all who knew him. It is citizens such as Col who are the backbone of our local communities. I know from the large turnout at the recent crime prevention forum that his good work will continue within the Chatsworth community with neighbours watching out for each other.

I have always said that one of the first responsibilities of any state government is the safety of its citizens. However, one of the best things you can do to assist with home security is to simply get to know the neighbour on either side of where you live wherever possible. I am very proud and honoured to serve the Chatsworth community, and I want to take this moment to also thank the men and women who don the blue uniform of the Queensland Police Service and thank them for what they do each and every day.

### Waterford Community

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (7.53 pm): I want to take this opportunity to reflect on 2022 and all that it has brought for the Waterford community. It is no secret that it has not been the easiest year, starting off with devastating floods and, like the rest of the world, experiencing rising cost-of-living pressures. Through these adversities, the Waterford community has pulled together and endured. As the year draws to a close, it seems fitting to reflect on some of 2022's brightest Waterford moments and, in particular, its brightest people.

Firstly, I want to give a shout-out to Cath Bartolo. Cath has been the CEO of YFS for over 20 years—a phenomenal achievement—but she did announce that she will be stepping down in February of next year. YFS provides vital support in Logan and surrounding areas for people facing homelessness and domestic and family violence. Cath has been an absolute inspiration and force for good, and she will be dearly missed. Cath, thank you for everything you do.

Speaking of local legends, I want to give a shout-out to Louie Naumovski from the Logan House Fire Support Network. Louie provided enormous support for the community during this year's floods, and I hear he will be spending Christmas Day helping the Logan Emergency Service's Santa Run to deliver presents at local hospitals because he is simply that good.


It has been a very successful year for Waterford's residents, too. Alysia Lefau-Fakaosilea, a graduate of Canterbury College, won gold at the 2022 Commonwealth Games with the Rugby 7s. Congratulations, Alysia, you have done us all proud.

Speaking of schools, Andrew Peach finished up as the former executive principal of Marsden State High School. Andrew has accomplished so much during his time at Marsden and it did not go unnoticed. In 2020, he was awarded Principal of the Year at the Australian Education Awards. I have no doubt he will thrive in his new role as general manager for School Participation at the NRL. On behalf of the entire Waterford and Logan community, I want to wish Andrew Peach all the best.

The most deserving praise is, of course, for the graduating class of 2022. Students graduating this year have been through so much the past few years. It is a testament to their strength and character that they have managed to do so well despite a global pandemic, devastating floods and all the usual ups and downs of being a teenager. I especially want to congratulate Dean Kilpatrick from Mabel Park State High School who was awarded 2022 Dux and is widely admired for his perseverance, commitment to the school community and is a role model for younger students. To Dean and all the class of 2022, you should be so proud. I cannot wait to see what you do next.

To the Waterford community, thank you for everything you have done. I am so lucky to represent the best community in Queensland and I cannot wait to keep working with you in 2023.

### Redlands, Infrastructure

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (7.56 pm): Infrastructure is greatly appreciated by Redlanders, so I was pleased recently to visit Wellington Point State High School to see the progress of the school's shelter upgrade, or the hall upgrade, and the Brennan Centre. The shelter upgrade probably will cost around about a million dollars. It is an important project that has been on my radar and wish list for some time, so I am glad to see it happen. The upgrade includes a new foyer opening


area, wall-to-wall soundproofing, improvements to flooring, air cooling system in the roof, basketball court and goals, a revamped staff area, a gym and more. The Brennan Centre is a flexi-space that allows a modified approach to education. The classrooms provide opportunities for successful learning experiences to improve student attainment and outcomes. The centre is aptly named after the school's founding principal Bevan Brennan. I want to commend the principal, Ross McNicholl, the staff and P&C for their hard work and innovative approach that has helped to get the best value out of these two recent developments for the students and families of Wellington Point High School.

To change gears, though, from a good outcome to something far less successful is the government's Redland Hospital upgrade debacle. The health minister's visit last week to Redland Hospital was a PR exercise that did not work. It only underscored the failure of the government to provide the desperately needed ICU and new beds by 2022. Several times I have spoken in this House about the government's litany of failures at Redland Hospital, including the worst ambulance ramping peaking at 73 per cent and no new beds provided in almost eight years now. The health minister failed to deliver between 2020 and 2022, in effect, abandoning Redlanders in our greatest hour of need during the COVID pandemic. The minister must be replaced and someone more competent found or I fear further delays and even budget blowouts to the hospital expansion, now delayed into 2023 and 2024. It is time for the health minister to go, to restore integrity and confidence at Redland Hospital.

Another area in which the government has failed Redlanders is in terms of transport and roads. The government has failed to invest in duplicating main state roads with one exception, duplicating the Cleveland rail line, so that the Cross River Rail would truly be beneficial, and the Eastern Busway which probably now needs to become the Metro delivered by the LNP Brisbane City Council and Redland City Council together because Redlanders cannot keep waiting for this government.

In a recent article in the *Redland City Bulletin*, it talked about sleepwalking into the future in terms of the need for the bus and the rail network and that the roads would barely scrape through with a pass mark. Much more needs to be done.

### **Brian Prince Awards; Bundaberg Christian College**

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (7.59 pm): Tonight I am very glad to talk about the Brian Prince Awards, which recognise our professional and volunteer emergency first responders in the Bundaberg community. They were hosted by the Bundaberg Central Rotary Club of which I am a very proud member. The night was organised by Rotarian Brant Duff and championed by Rotarian and friend of Brian Prince, Rod Medew. As I said, the awards celebrate the achievements of emergency first responders who demonstrate the same qualities of service and dedication to our community, just as Brian did during his years of selfless service. It was wonderful, as always, to have members of Brian's family there in attendance. I wish to take the opportunity tonight to put all of the winners' names into *Hansard* and, of course, any interjections of 'Hear, hear!' for our first responders are most welcome.

The award winner from the Queensland Ambulance Service was advanced care paramedic Daniel Hollis. From the Queensland Police Service there was Senior Constable Brittany Duncan. From Queensland Fire and Rescue Service there was senior firefighter Col Morrow and from the Bundaberg Hospital emergency department—and this was one of the best ones—the award went to the entire shift coordinator's team who do a fantastic job day in, day out.

**Mr Tantari:** Champions!

**Mr SMITH:** They are absolute champions; I take that interjection. I got to see them in action firsthand last year when I was there in the ED for a six-hour shift. This is the first time that the entire team has been given the Brian Prince Award. That is a wonderful recognition.

There were also our volunteer award winners. From the Rural Fire Service there was fire warden Janine Scott. From Volunteer Marine Rescue there was Graham Morley and the Queensland Ambulance Service volunteer award winner was Greg McLaughlin. The Brian Prince Award for Volunteer of the Year for 2022 from the SES, the State Emergency Service, was Wayne Cameron. Can we get a big 'Hear, hear!' for all of our first responders?

**Government members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr SMITH:** I take all those interjections from this side of the House.

It was also wonderful to have the ABC on board. As we know, when there is a disaster the ABC take over broadcasting. It was wonderful to have Scott Lamond from the ABC there to give the award to Craig Holden from Queensland Surf Life Saving. It was absolutely wonderful to have Scott Lamond there. I mentioned his name in parliament, which means he owes me a cold beverage of some sort. On the night we also celebrated 50 years of service for VMR Bundaberg.

Very quickly in my remaining time I say it was wonderful to recently visit Bundaberg Christian College. Their young students put on an exhibition of their project-based learning on the challenges that face refugees. It was wonderful to tour the exhibition. They had plays and coded interactive video games so you could learn about the experience of refugees. I did say to my tour guides, Connor, Sienna and Liam, that I would mention their names in parliament because they did such a wonderful job teaching all of the junior college how important diversity is in our community.

The House adjourned at 8.02 pm.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Andrew, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Head, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly, King A, King S, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, MacMahon, Madden, Mander, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke, Palaszcuk, Pease, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting