



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, 21 February 2023

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TUESDAY, 21 FEBRUARY 2023



The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

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

ASSENT TO BILLS



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

The Honourable C.W. Pitt MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Speaker

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

Date of Assent: 12 December 2022

A Bill for An Act to amend the Auditor-General Act 2009, the Integrity Act 2009, the Magistrates Act 1991, the Ombudsman Act 2001, the Public Sector Act 2022 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes

A bill for an Act to provide for the administration of the public sector, the employment arrangements for public sector employees, a fair and responsive public sector and particular matters relating to individuals other than public sector employees, and to amend this Act, the Ambulance Service Act 1991, the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991, the Corrective Services Act 2006, the Crime and Corruption Act 2001, the Electoral Act 1992, the Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990, the Legal Aid Queensland Act 1997, the Ombudsman Act 2001, the Supreme Court Library Act 1968, the TAFE Queensland Act 2013 and the Acts mentioned in schedule 3 for particular purposes, and to repeal the Public Service Act 2008

A Bill for An Act to amend the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001, the Animal Care and Protection Regulation 2012, the Disability Services Act 2006, the Racing Integrity Act 2016, the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1936 and the Veterinary Surgeons Regulation 2016 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

12 December 2022

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 12 December 2022, from Her Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 12 December 2022 [\[146\]](#).

PRIVILEGE

Comments by Member for Burdekin, Withdrawal and Apology




Mr LAST (Burdekin—LNP) (9.31 am): On 25 October 2022 during the time allocated for matters of public interest I made a statement asserting that the police minister had broken a promise. As that promise is not yet due to be fulfilled, I unreservedly apologise for the statement and withdraw it.


Mr Ryan: Apology accepted.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Acknowledgement of Country


 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to place on record my thanks for the acknowledgment of country ceremony this morning on the Speaker's Green. I thank Tribal Experiences for coming to parliament and for their cultural display here today. I am sure you will all agree it was a very informative and articulate demonstration of culture. I also thank our special guests from the Murrigunyah Family & Cultural Healing Centre, Gunya Meta, who came to support the ceremony. I thank the First Nations liaison officer Marjorie Elworthy for her work in organising today's ceremony and also those members who attended. The number of MPs and people from the wider community who attend seems to increase each year. It is a great practice and a great tradition, and I hope it is something that will continue into the future.

International Mother Language Day

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I draw to the attention of the House that today is United Nations International Mother Language Day. The day originated as a commemoration of fatalities during protests in Bangladesh on 21 February 1952. Protesters were rallying to have the Bangla language recognised as their mother language. The Bangladesh community and Mother Languages Conservation Movement International observes this day with pride. International Mother Language Day was adopted by UNESCO in 1999. International Mother Language Day also signifies the importance of all mother languages across the globe, including the preservation of Indigenous languages. The 24th edition of International Mother Language Day will focus on the theme Multilingual education—a necessity to transform education. I commend International Mother Language Day to the House.

PRIVILEGE


Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 15 December 2022 I tabled two rulings regarding matters of privilege, including a ruling relating to a complaint by the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services and Leader of the House alleging that the Leader of the Opposition deliberately misled the House on 25 October 2022 and a ruling relating to a complaint by the member for Mudgeeraba alleging that the member for Thuringowa deliberately misled the House on 27 October 2022. On 15 February 2023 I tabled a further two rulings regarding matters of privilege, including a ruling relating to a complaint by the member for Nanango alleging that the member for Keppel and Assistant Minister for Education deliberately misled the House on 9 November 2022 and also a ruling relating to a complaint by the member for Capalaba alleging that the member for South Brisbane committed multiple contempts of the House on 28 October 2022.

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

SPEAKER'S RULINGS

Same Question Rule

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have considered the application of the same question rule to the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2022 and the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill 2022. In summary, the same question rule is enlivened by clauses 4 and 6 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill contrary to standing order 87. I seek leave to incorporate my full ruling circulated in my name.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—APPLICATION OF SAME QUESTION RULE TO POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES (JACK'S LAW) AMENDMENT BILL

I have considered the application of the same question rule to the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2021 and the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill 2022.


On 25 February 2021 the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services introduced the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The bill was passed with amendment on 22 April 2021. On 30 November 2022 the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services introduced the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill.

Standing Order 87 provides the general rule of Westminster parliamentary practice that, once the House has resolved a matter in the affirmative or negative, the same question shall not again be proposed in the same session. Similarly, Standing Order 150 provides for the application of the same question rule in relation to amendments, new clauses or schedules of a bill. As previous Speakers have noted, the matters do not have to be identical but merely the same in substance as the previous matter. In other words, it is a question of substance, not form (Speaker Reynolds, Record of Proceedings, 9 September 2008, p. 2559).

Clauses 4 and 6 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill propose amendments to provisions that are substantially the same as amendments previously considered and agreed to by the House in the same session of parliament. This is contrary to Standing Order 87.

Accordingly, I rule that the same question rule is enlivened by clauses 4 and 6 of the bill contrary to Standing Order 87. A motion to suspend Standing Order 87 would be required for these clauses to be considered.

Same Question Rule

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have also considered the application of the same question rule as it relates to the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2022. In summary, the same question rule is enlivened by clauses 26 and 50 of the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) contrary to standing order 87. I seek leave to incorporate my full ruling circulated in my name.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—APPLICATION OF SAME QUESTION RULE TO POLICE SERVICE ADMINISTRATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2)

I have considered the application of the same question rule to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2021, the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2022 and the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2022.

On 15 September 2021 the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services introduced the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The bill was passed without amendment on 30 November 2021. On 16 November 2021 the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services introduced the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The bill was passed without amendment on 12 May 2022. On 27 October 2022 the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services introduced the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2).


Standing Order 87 provides the general rule of Westminster parliamentary practice that, once the House has resolved a matter in the affirmative or negative, the same question shall not again be proposed in the same session. Similarly, Standing Order 150 provides for the application of the same question rule in relation to amendments, new clauses or schedules of a bill. As previous Speakers have noted, the matters do not have to be identical but merely the same in substance as the previous matter. In other words, it is a question of substance, not form (Speaker Reynolds, Record of Proceedings, 9 September 2008, p. 2559).

Clauses 26 and 50 of the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) propose amendments to provisions that are substantially the same as amendments previously considered and agreed to by the House in the same session of parliament. This is contrary to Standing Order 87.

Accordingly, I rule that the same question rule is enlivened by clauses 26 and 50 of the bill contrary to Standing Order 87. A motion to suspend Standing Order 87 would be required for these clauses to be considered.


SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

School Group Tours

 **Mr SPEAKER:** I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from John Paul College, Daisy Hill in the electorate of Springwood.

APPOINTMENTS

Ministry

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.36 am): I lay upon the table of the House the *Extraordinary Queensland Government Gazette* of 12 December 2022 which outlines recent changes to the ministry.

Tabled paper: Extraordinary Queensland Government Gazette No. 88, dated 12 December 2022, regarding changes to Cabinet and administrative arrangements [\[147\]](#).

PETITIONS

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

Driver Reviver Sites

Mr Lister, from 2,596 petitioners, requesting the House to reconsider the closure of driver reviver sites in Queensland, especially the Gladfield site [\[148, 149\]](#).

Borumba Pumped Hydro Project, Woolooga Substation

Mr Perrett, from 2,604 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the transmission infrastructure required for Powerlink's Borumba Pumped Hydro Project to the Woolooga substation is built on existing state-owned land corridors and to minimise the impact on private landowners and the environment [\[150, 151\]](#).

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

Faith-Based Schools

Mr Bennett, from 17,039 petitioners, requesting the House to reject Recommendation 39 of the Queensland Human Rights Commission's report on the Anti-Discrimination Act and allow all religious schools in Queensland to continue employing staff who share the beliefs of the school [\[152\]](#).

Wellcamp, Future Use

Mr Boothman, from 1,464 petitioners, requesting the House to allow Wellcamp to be used for homeless families and people without suitable housing [\[153\]](#).

Rental Properties, Mould

Dr MacMahon, from 2,818 petitioners, requesting the House to develop and enforce standards for treating mould in rental properties [\[154\]](#).

Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service Board

Mr Bennett, from 887 petitioners, requesting the House to dismiss the Board and Chief Executive of the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service [\[155\]](#).

Tara Hospital, Redevelopment

Ms Leahy, from 647 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure proper community consultation in relation to the Tara Hospital redevelopment [\[156\]](#).

Yeppoon Road, Dairy Inn Road/Artillery Road Intersection Upgrade

Mr Andrew, from 497 petitioners, requesting the House to discard the current design for the Yeppoon Road intersection upgrade with Dairy Inn and Artillery Roads and either construct an over/underpass or a roundabout at this intersection [\[157\]](#).

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

Solar Panels and Storage Batteries

518 petitioners, requesting the House to amend legislation to mandate that solar panels and storage batteries be put on all freestanding houses [\[158\]](#).

Preferential Voting

799 petitioners, requesting the House to hold a referendum to amend the preferential voting system to one whereby all preference numbers are given a value equal [\[159\]](#).

Preferential Voting

269 petitioners, requesting the House to follow the request of e-Petition 3779-22 and hold a referendum to amend the preferential voting system with modified preference weightings [\[160\]](#).

Perrin Park, Development

640 petitioners, requesting the House to stop the proposed development of Perrin Park and undertake a proper consultation process [\[161\]](#).

Nuclear Power

2,141 petitioners, requesting the House to remove all state legislative barriers to the use of nuclear power and facilities in Queensland [\[162\]](#).

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—

5 December 2022—

- [2061](#) Transport and Resources Committee: Report No. 26, 57th Parliament—Examination of Auditor-General Report 5: 2021-22—Managing Queensland's transition to renewable energy
- [2062](#) State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 33, 57th Parliament—Examination of Auditor-General Report No. 9: 2021-22—Regulating dam safety
- [2063](#) Transport and Resources Committee: Report No. 27, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 31 August 2022 and 12 October 2022

6 December 2022—

- [2064](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 39, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 31 August 2022 and 8 November 2022
- [2065](#) Health and Environment Committee: Report No. 28, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 17 August 2022 and 12 October 2022
- [2066](#) President of the Industrial Court of Queensland (in respect to the Industrial Court of Queensland, Queensland Industrial Relations Commission and the Queensland Industrial Registry)—Annual Report 2021-22

8 December 2022—

- [2067](#) Queensland Family & Child Commission—Annual Report 2021-22: Deaths of children and young people Queensland
- [2068](#) Public Interest Monitor—Annual Report 2021-22
- [2069](#) The Public Advocate—Adult Safeguarding in Queensland: Volume 2—Reform recommendations, November 2022
- [2070](#) Child Death Review Board—Annual Report 2021-22
- [2071](#) 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 (3743-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 3,115 petitioners, requesting the House to amend the Body Corporate and Community Management Act regulation modules and fix term limits of service contracts and letting authorities to a maximum of five years
- [2072](#) 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 (3771-22) sponsored by the member for Mirani, Mr Andrew, from 2,145 petitioners, requesting the House to close the Crime and Corruption Commission and establish an Independent Corruption Commission
- [2073](#) 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 (3778-22) sponsored by the member for Maiwar, Mr Berkman, from 1,146 petitioners, requesting the House to remove queerphobic legislation from the Anti-Discrimination Act
- [2074](#) Response from the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services (Hon. Ryan), to an ePetition (3823-22) sponsored by the member for Whitsunday, Ms Camm, from 128 petitioners, requesting the House to find a more suitable site in Cannonvale for the proposed fire station
- [2075](#) Response from the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs (Hon. Scanlon), to an ePetition (3822-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 1,101 petitioners, requesting the House to cease the review of the Great Sandy Marine Park Zoning Plan and implement a range of measures to protect the local catch seafood industry and commercial seafood industry suppliers
- [2076](#) Response from the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing (Hon. Grace), to an ePetition (3807-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 3,264 petitioners, requesting the House to direct Education Queensland to cease disciplinary action against those employees who did not comply with the directive to be vaccinated which could result in their being docked up to 18 weeks' pay
- [2077](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3781-22) sponsored by the member for Moggill, Dr Rowan, from 1,598 petitioners, requesting the House to provide contracted Brisbane City Council bus services to the suburbs of Karana Downs, Mount Crosby, Lake Manchester, Kholo, Anstead and surrounding areas
- [2078](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3785-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 717 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure that seat belt infringement notices are sent with evidentiary quality A4 images which can be downloaded in JPG or similar commonly used format
- [2079](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3799-22) sponsored by the member for Moggill, Dr Rowan, from 332 petitioners, requesting the House to consult with the community and in collaboration with the Brisbane City Council deliver upgraded and DDA-compliant pedestrian infrastructure along Moggill Road and Mount Crosby Roads
- [2080](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3816-22) sponsored by the member for Condamine, Mr Weir, from 161 petitioners, requesting the House to reduce the speed limit from 80 to 70 kms/hour along the 2.4 kilometre stretch of Preston Boundary Road from the intersection of the New England Highway to past the Highgate Road intersection

9 December 2022—

- [2081](#) Auditor-General Report 8: 2022-23—Energy 2022
- [2082](#) State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 34, 57th Parliament—Water Legislation Amendment Bill 2022

13 December 2022—

[2083](#) Commission of Inquiry into Forensic DNA Testing in Queensland: Final Report by Mr Walter Sofronoff KC, 13 December 2022

14 December 2022—

[2084](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on trade and investment mission to Papua New Guinea by the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment (Hon. Dick), 13 to 15 November 2022

15 December 2022—

[2085](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt—Alleged contempt of Parliament by the Leader of the Opposition, Mr David Crisafulli MP

[2086](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt—Alleged contempt of Parliament by the member for Thuringowa, Mr Aaron Harper MP

16 December 2022—

[2087](#) Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 24, 57th Parliament—Housing Legislation Amendment Bill 2022

[2088](#) Queensland State Archives—Annual Report 2021-2022

[2089](#) Transport and Resources Committee: Report No. 28, 57th Parliament—Examination of Auditor-General Report 18: 2021-22—Enhancing government procurement

[2090](#) District Court of Queensland—Annual Report 2021-2022

[2091](#) Magistrates Court of Queensland—Annual Report 2021-2022

[2092](#) Supreme Court of Queensland—Annual Report 2021-22

[2093](#) Coroners Court of Queensland—Annual Report 2021-22

[2094](#) Childrens Court of Queensland—Annual Report 2021-22

[2095](#) Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Hon. Furner), to an ePetition (3824-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 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

[2096](#) 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 (3814-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 530 petitioners, requesting the House to reject Recommendation 39 of the Queensland Human Rights Commission's Building Belonging report

[2097](#) 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 (3827-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 1,048 petitioners, requesting the House to issue an apology to the eight Logan City Councillors wrongfully dismissed and start negotiations on compensation

[2098](#) Electoral Commissioner of Queensland: Election report—2022 Callide State by-election

[2099](#) Public Trustee of Queensland—Progress Overview: Recommendations from Public Advocate's report on Public Trustee's Fees and Charges

[2100](#) Right to Information Act 2009 and Information Privacy Act 2009—Annual Report 2021-22

[2101](#) 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 (3805-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 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

[2102](#) 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 (3828-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 1,142 petitioners, requesting the House to have local councils in Queensland cease the practice of charging landowners a cost for water on top of water infrastructure charges

3 January 2023—

[1](#) 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 (3815-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 247 petitioners, requesting the House to amend section 151(3) of the Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997

[2](#) Office of the Independent Implementation Supervisor: Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce reforms—Progress Report (December 2022)

[3](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. D'Ath), to an ePetition (3818-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 1,842 petitioners, requesting the House to enable kidney dialysis services to be accessed at the Mareeba public hospital

[4](#) Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) and the National Boards—Annual Report 2021-22

- [5](#) Response from the Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (Hon. Linard), to an ePetition (3806-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 2,610 petitioners, requesting the House to enact laws that ensure violent juvenile offenders appear before a court to determine guilt and appropriate punishment
- [6](#) Response from the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing (Hon. Grace), to an ePetition (3836-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 1,301 petitioners, requesting the House to request the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority to include Punjabi language as one of the languages that students can learn at school
- [7](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3809-22) sponsored by the member for Theodore, 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
- [8](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3813-22) sponsored by the member for Glass House, Mr Powell, from 901 petitioners, requesting the House to signalise the intersection of the D'Aguilar Highway and Mount Mee Road
- [9](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (3838-22) presented by the member for Glass House, Mr Powell, and an ePetition (3819-22) sponsored by the member for Glass House, Mr Powell, from 278 and 616 petitioners respectively, 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 Road
- [10](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3829-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 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
- [11](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3830-22) sponsored by the member for Lockyer, Mr McDonald, from 1,246 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the planned overpass on the Warrego Highway at Glenore Grove is built
- [12](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (3839-22) presented by the member for Scenic Rim, Mr Krause, and an ePetition (3833-22) sponsored by the member for Scenic Rim, Mr Krause, from 70 and 409 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to urgently upgrade the causeway on Warrill View Peak Crossing Road on the entrance to Harrisville to improve flood immunity and allow access to Harrisville during inclement weather
- 4 January 2023—
- [13](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on official visit to London, United Kingdom by the Minister for Resources (Hon. Stewart), 25 November to 4 December 2022
- 5 January 2023—
- [14](#) State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 31, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 31 August and 12 October 2022(Refer subordinate legislation No. 121), government response
- 9 January 2023—
- [15](#) Water Act 2000: Water Plan (Fitzroy Basin) Amendment Plan 2022, No. 119, explanatory notes: Erratum
- [16](#) State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 31, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 31 August and 12 October 2022 (Refer subordinate legislation No. 119), government response
- 11 January 2023—
- [17](#) Administrator National Health Funding Pool—Annual Report 2021-22
- [18](#) National Health Practitioner Ombudsman—Annual Report 2021-22
- 12 January 2023—
- [19](#) State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 28, 57th Parliament—Inquiry into the Independent Assessor and councillor conduct complaints system, government response
- 20 January 2023—
- [20](#) Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 23, 57th Parliament—Towards a healthier, safer, more just and compassionate Queensland: decriminalising the offences affecting those most vulnerable, interim government response
- 25 January 2023—
- [21](#) National Electricity (South Australia) (Consumer Data Right) Amendment Act 2022 (SA) which received Royal Assent on 27 October 2022
- 27 January 2023—
- [22](#) Education, Employment and Training Committee: Report No. 30, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 13 October and 10 November 2022
- 31 January 2023—
- [23](#) How to let more sunshine in—Strategic Review of the Office of the Information Commissioner, 2022, Final Report

- [24](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 38, 57th Parliament—Examination of the Working with Children (Indigenous Communities) Amendment Bill 2021, interim government response

1 February 2023—

- [25](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 40, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 1 September 2022 and 8 November 2022

3 February 2023—

- [26](#) Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 25, 57th Parliament—Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022

- [27](#) Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 26, 57th Parliament—Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2022

- [28](#) Statutes Amendment (National Energy Laws) (Regulatory Sandboxing) Act 2022 which received Royal Assent on 24 November 2022

8 February 2023—

- [29](#) State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 35, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled on 12 October 2022

10 February 2023—

- [30](#) Education, Employment and Training Committee: Report No. 31, 57th Parliament—Corrective Services (Emerging Technologies and Security) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022

13 February 2023—

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

14 February 2023—

- [32](#) National Energy Retail Law (Queensland) Act 2014: National Energy Retail Amendment (Delaying implementation of the AER Billing guideline) Rule 2022, No. 2

15 February 2023—

- [33](#) State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 36, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 12 October and 25 October 2022

- [34](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt—Alleged contempt of Parliament by the member for Keppel and Assistant Minister for Education, Ms Brittany Lauga MP

- [35](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt—Alleged contempt of Parliament by the member for South Brisbane, Dr Amy MacMahon MP

- [36](#) Education and Care Services National Law: Education and Care Services National Amendment Regulations 2022

- [37](#) Education and Care Services National Law: Education and Care Services National Amendment Regulations 2022, human rights certificate

16 February 2023—

- [38](#) Auditor-General of Queensland—Auditor-General Auditing Standards, February 2023

- [39](#) Transport and Resources Committee: Report No. 29, 57th Parliament—Inquiry into Coal Mining Industry Safety

17 February 2023—

- [40](#) Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 27, 57th Parliament—Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill 2022

- [41](#) Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 28, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 17 August 2022 and 29 November 2022

- [42](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 40, 57th Parliament—Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022

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- [43](#) Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 29, 57th Parliament—Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation (Rent Freeze) Amendment Bill 2022

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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Duties Act 2001, Payroll Tax Act 1971:

- [44](#) Revenue Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 168

- [45](#) Revenue Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 168, explanatory notes

- [46](#) Revenue Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 168, human rights certificate

Payroll Tax Act 1971:

- [47](#) Payroll Tax (Transitional) Regulation 2022, No. 169
- [48](#) Payroll Tax (Transitional) Regulation 2022, No. 169, explanatory notes
- [49](#) Payroll Tax (Transitional) Regulation 2022, No. 169, human rights certificate

Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011, Public Health Act 2005, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999:

- [50](#) Health and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 170
- [51](#) Health and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 170, explanatory notes
- [52](#) Health and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 170, human rights certificate

Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999:

- [53](#) Plumbing and Drainage and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 171
- [54](#) Plumbing and Drainage and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 171, explanatory notes
- [55](#) Plumbing and Drainage and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 171, human rights certificate

Casino Control Act 1982, Wagering Act 1998:

- [56](#) Gaming Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2022, No. 172
- [57](#) Gaming Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2022, No. 172, explanatory notes
- [58](#) Gaming Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2022, No. 172, human rights certificate

Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009:

- [59](#) Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 173
- [60](#) Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 173, explanatory notes
- [61](#) Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 173, human rights certificate

Fisheries Act 1994:

- [62](#) Fisheries (Commercial Fisheries) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 174
- [63](#) Fisheries (Commercial Fisheries) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 174, explanatory notes
- [64](#) Fisheries (Commercial Fisheries) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 174, human rights certificate

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994:

- [65](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Grants Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 175
- [66](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Grants Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 175, explanatory notes
- [67](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Grants Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 175, human rights certificate

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994:

- [68](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Resilient Homes Assistance Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 176
- [69](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Resilient Homes Assistance Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 176, explanatory notes
- [70](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Resilient Homes Assistance Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 176, human rights certificate

Water Act 2000:

- [71](#) Water Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 177
- [72](#) Water Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 177, explanatory notes
- [73](#) Water Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 177, human rights certificate

Forestry Act 1959, Nature Conservation Act 1992:

- [74](#) Forestry (State Forests) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2022, No. 178
- [75](#) Forestry (State Forests) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2022, No. 178, explanatory notes
- [76](#) Forestry (State Forests) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2022, No. 178, human rights certificate

Nature Conservation Act 1992:

- [77](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) (Communications and Water Supply Uses) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 179
- [78](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) (Communications and Water Supply Uses) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 179, explanatory notes
- [79](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) (Communications and Water Supply Uses) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 179, human rights certificate

Nature Conservation Act 1992:

- [80](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) (Dularcha and Springbrook National Parks) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 180
- [81](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) (Dularcha and Springbrook National Parks) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 180, explanatory notes
- [82](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) (Dularcha and Springbrook National Parks) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 180, human rights certificate

Superannuation (State Public Sector) Act 1990:

- [83](#) Superannuation (State Public Sector) Amendment Notice (No. 2) 2022, No. 181
- [84](#) Superannuation (State Public Sector) Amendment Notice (No. 2) 2022, No. 181, explanatory notes
- [85](#) Superannuation (State Public Sector) Amendment Notice (No. 2) 2022, No. 181, human rights certificate

Planning Act 2016:

- [86](#) Planning (Rooming Accommodation) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 182
- [87](#) Planning (Rooming Accommodation) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 182, explanatory notes
- [88](#) Planning (Rooming Accommodation) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 182, human rights certificate

Superannuation (State Public Sector) Act 1990:

- [89](#) Superannuation (State Public Sector) Regulation 2022, No. 183
- [90](#) Superannuation (State Public Sector) Regulation 2022, No. 183, explanatory notes
- [91](#) Superannuation (State Public Sector) Regulation 2022, No. 183, human rights certificate

Information Privacy Act 2009, Right to Information Act 2009:

- [92](#) Right to Information and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 184
- [93](#) Right to Information and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 184, explanatory notes
- [94](#) Right to Information and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 184, human rights certificate

Inspector of Detention Services Act 2022:

- [95](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 185
- [96](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 185, explanatory notes
- [97](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 185, human rights certificate

Public Trustee (Advisory and Monitoring Board) Amendment Act 2022:

- [98](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 186
- [99](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 186, explanatory notes

Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991:

- [100](#) Supreme Court (Admission) Amendment Rule 2022, No. 187
- [101](#) Supreme Court (Admission) Amendment Rule 2022, No. 187, explanatory notes
- [102](#) Supreme Court (Admission) Amendment Rule 2022, No. 187, human rights certificate

Public Trustee Act 1978:

- [103](#) Public Trustee (Interest Rate) Amendment Regulation (No. 4) 2022, No. 188
- [104](#) Public Trustee (Interest Rate) Amendment Regulation (No. 4) 2022, No. 188, explanatory notes
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Major Sports Facilities Act 2001:

- [106](#) Major Sports Facilities (Major Concerts at Brisbane Stadium (Lang Park)) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 189
- [107](#) Major Sports Facilities (Major Concerts at Brisbane Stadium (Lang Park)) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 189, explanatory notes
- [108](#) Major Sports Facilities (Major Concerts at Brisbane Stadium (Lang Park)) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 189, human rights certificate

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994:

- [109](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 190
- [110](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 190, explanatory notes
- [111](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 190, human rights certificate

Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999, Petroleum Act 1923, Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004:

- [112](#) Petroleum and Gas (Safety) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 191
- [113](#) Petroleum and Gas (Safety) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 191, explanatory notes
- [114](#) Petroleum and Gas (Safety) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 191, human rights certificate

Forestry Act 1959, Nature Conservation Act 1992:

- [115](#) Forestry (State Forests) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 4) 2022, No. 192
- [116](#) Forestry (State Forests) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 4) 2022, No. 192, explanatory notes
- [117](#) Forestry (State Forests) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 4) 2022, No. 192, human rights certificate

Water Act 2000:

- [118](#) Water Plan (Barron) (Postponement of Expiry) Notice 2022, No. 193
- [119](#) Water Plan (Barron) (Postponement of Expiry) Notice 2022, No. 193, explanatory notes
- [120](#) Water Plan (Barron) (Postponement of Expiry) Notice 2022, No. 193, human rights certificate

Fisheries Act 1994:

- [121](#) Fisheries Legislation Amendment Declaration 2022, No. 194
- [122](#) Fisheries Legislation Amendment Declaration 2022, No. 194, explanatory notes
- [123](#) Fisheries Legislation Amendment Declaration 2022, No. 194, human rights certificate

Planning Act 2016:

- [124](#) Planning Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 195
- [125](#) Planning Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 195, explanatory notes
- [126](#) Planning Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 195, human rights certificate

Work Health and Safety Act 2011:

- [127](#) Work Health and Safety (Codes of Practice) (Stevedoring and Other Matters) Amendment Notice 2022, No. 196
- [128](#) Work Health and Safety (Codes of Practice) (Stevedoring and Other Matters) Amendment Notice 2022, No. 196, explanatory notes
- [129](#) Work Health and Safety (Codes of Practice) (Stevedoring and Other Matters) Amendment Notice 2022, No. 196, human rights certificate

Public Trustee Act 1978:

- [130](#) Public Trustee (Interest Rate) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 1
- [131](#) Public Trustee (Interest Rate) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 1, explanatory notes
- [132](#) Public Trustee (Interest Rate) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 1, human rights certificate

Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011, Transplantation and Anatomy Act 1979:

- [133](#) Health Legislation Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 2
- [134](#) Health Legislation Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 2, explanatory notes
- [135](#) Health Legislation Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 2, human rights certificate

Biosecurity Act 2014:

- [136](#) Biosecurity (Varroa Mite and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 3
- [137](#) Biosecurity (Varroa Mite and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 3, explanatory notes
- [138](#) Biosecurity (Varroa Mite and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 3, human rights certificate

Transport Infrastructure Act 1994, Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994, Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995, Transport Planning and Coordination Act 1994:

- [139](#) Transport Legislation Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 4
- [140](#) Transport Legislation Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 4, explanatory notes
- [141](#) Transport Legislation Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 4, human rights certificate

Public Records Act 2002:

- [142](#) Public Records (Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service Responses to Domestic and Family Violence) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 5
- [143](#) Public Records (Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service Responses to Domestic and Family Violence) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 5, explanatory notes
- [144](#) Public Records (Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service Responses to Domestic and Family Violence) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 5, human rights certificate

MEMBER'S PAPER

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

Member for Ninderry (Mr Purdie)—

[145](#) Nonconforming petition relating to the proposed Updated Memorial Drive Streetscape Concept Plan


MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! I ask you to resume your seat, Premier. This is not the start we would like to get off to this year, members. The same standing orders apply as per the previous year. I trust you can understand that.

Youth Crime

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.39 am): With the introduction of the Strengthening Community Safety Bill by the police minister today, there will be a stronger response and more consequences for youths who are serious repeat offenders, and there will be even more investment in tackling the complex causes of youth crime. We are introducing tough new laws and increasing our investment in youth justice after careful consideration by our government. These new initiatives are based in evidence and they follow feedback from the community, police and other important stakeholders. We have listened, and the bill we introduce today has one central aim: to ensure Queenslanders and their communities are safer.

Our new investment of \$332 million will help boost police resources, tackle the complex causes of youth crime and support community safety. This new investment is in addition to significant investment by our government in the youth justice system since 2015—including in early intervention which has lowered rates of reoffending—bringing our total investment to \$1.1 billion. In the last year, we have had a seven per cent decline in young people with a proven offence and a three per cent reduction in the number of offences overall, but there is always more to do.

The Strengthening Community Safety Bill focuses on three important key areas: targeting serious repeat offenders; tackling the complex causes of youth crime; and of course supporting community safety. The vast majority of young people who come into contact with the youth justice system do not offend again following diversionary and rehabilitation programs, but to specifically target the 17 per cent of young offenders who are committing 50 per cent of crimes, more measures will be put in place. These measures are outlined in detail in the bill, and they include strengthening conditional release orders, a new declaration of serious repeat offenders and expanding the number of offences with a presumption against bail. This is beyond politics, and we are adopting a bipartisan approach in proposing to make a breach of bail condition an offence for young offenders, just as it is for adult offenders. However, it is important to note—

Mr Nicholls: Did Stirling get the memo?

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Clayfield, correct titles will be used in this chamber. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: However, it is important to note that this is different to the amendment brought in by the previous Newman government, which was found to be flawed and breached the rule against double punishment. We will also increase youth detention capacity with two new therapeutic centres and we will work with non-government organisations. These measures build on new proposed laws, including: increasing the maximum penalty for unlawful use of a motor vehicle from seven years to 10 years imprisonment; a more severe penalty of 14 years for certain circumstances, including if the offence is committed at night; and amending the Youth Justice Act to require courts to take into account previous bail history, criminal activity and track record when sentencing. Just as importantly, we will increase penalties for criminals who have boasted about their crimes on social media.


While we will target serious offenders, we will continue to fight the complex causes of youth crime and will invest \$100 million in additional funds into programs proven to make a real and substantial difference. This includes: the continuation of intensive case management in Townsville and Cairns and an expansion of the current program across Brisbane, Logan, Toowoomba, Moreton, Gold Coast, Rockhampton and Ipswich; and the expansion of youth co-responder teams into Toowoomba, Hervey Bay, Mount Isa, Ipswich and South Brisbane. Other measures include a further investment of \$4 million in on-country programs and more investment in grassroots early intervention programs.

These measures allow a greater response to tackling youth crime and its complex causes to help break the cycle of offending for the future. Our government is determined that all Queenslanders and all communities are safer, and safety must always come first. We will expand joint flying squads with a \$17 million investment for expert youth justice workers to partner with police to target high-risk youth offending. We will help older Queenslanders secure their homes, with a \$15 million program to help senior citizens install security improvements. These funds will be rolled out in a targeted way in the areas of greatest need which will be prioritised based on the advice of police. Our \$10 million vehicle immobilisers trial will be rolled out this year in Cairns, Townsville and Mount Isa. We will also commit \$9 million to enhance assistance for victims of crime, including \$3 million to boost counselling capacity and support non-government organisations.

We continue to boost the capacity for the Queensland Police Service to tackle youth crime and keep the community safe, including over \$66 million for proactive policing, including a \$25 million injection for high-visibility police patrols and additional funding for social media monitoring and engagement. There are now more police in Queensland than ever before, with more than 12,000 officers. Our police are well trained and well equipped. We continue to provide them with the latest technology available.

We have listened to the community, and this action is all about putting our community first. We will use the full force of the law to target the small cohort of serious repeat offenders who currently pose a threat to community safety. When these young people reoffend time and time again, we need the police to catch them and we need the courts to do their job. They have the resources, they have the laws, they have the tools and, importantly, they have this government's full support to keep our community safer.


Police Service, Deaths

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.45 am): Since this House last sat, we have dealt with one of the most unimaginable and unthinkable incidents in Queensland's history. The shooting on a Western Downs property last December which led to the horrific murders of constables Rachel McCrow and Matthew Arnold and neighbour Alan Dare was described by police last week as 'a religiously motivated terrorist attack'. The impact of this incident sent shock waves not only through Queensland but across the country. Our thoughts continue to be with the affected families, our courageous police community, including the other officers present at the incident, and the local communities of Tara and Chinchilla who felt this very deeply. The display of the police officers on that fateful day going in there will never be forgotten, and Queensland owes them a great debt. We will hold a condolence motion to honour their sacrifice later this week which members of this House can participate in.

While a major investigation into this matter continues on behalf of the State Coroner, it has highlighted the ongoing importance of effective firearms management in community safety. Our gun laws in Queensland are among the strongest in the world, but the incident has made it clear that there is still work to be done. While jurisdictions currently share information about firearms, we know there are significant improvements we can make to make our communities safer.

After the incident, I advocated for a national firearms register. I took this to the National Cabinet earlier this month, and there was support from everybody. Police ministers will report back to National Cabinet in the middle of this year on how best to achieve this. It will be a complex and long-term undertaking due to significant challenges navigating laws, licensing regimes, datasets and IT systems of each jurisdiction, but we know that it will be worth it. I am confident that all jurisdictions will work through these challenges collaboratively. As the Prime Minister has said, this cooperation is critical, and I can assure the community that Queensland will be playing its part. Queenslanders and those brave souls who lost their lives deserve nothing less.

Western Downs, Bushfires


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.47 am): For more than a week now, residents of the Western Downs have been under threat from large, destructive bushfires. Last Saturday I visited the Miles command centre to meet and be briefed by the brave firefighters on the front line and to thank them for their tireless, hard work. Up to 200 men and women, 160 from across Queensland, have fought to contain the blazes near Miles and Tara. Some I met had come from as far away as Mackay, Rockhampton, Yeppoon and Gladstone, working 12-hour shifts in dangerous, difficult conditions, battling high temperatures and strong winds.

Many of them were volunteers. These men and women are fighting to save properties and people's livelihoods, putting their own lives on the line. I am sure the House joins me in thanking them for their magnificent efforts.

This morning I can report that as of late yesterday 160 firefighters remain strengthening containment lines and water-bombing aircraft are on standby. Sadly, 19 homes, one business and five other structures have been destroyed, along with tens of thousands of hectares. Thankfully, no lives have been lost. I am advised that the danger rating will remain at high through the week.

Our government stands ready to help those impacted, with financial support available through the Queensland and federal governments' Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. There is assistance of up to \$180 per person and \$900 for a family of five suffering hardship. The grants are a safety net for those directly impacted and cannot afford to meet immediate unexpected costs of essential items like food, medication and clothing. This will give victims help and some peace of mind in these difficult and stressful times.

Youth Crime


 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure) (9.49 am): The Palaszczuk government's priority is to put community safety first. It drives everything we do. We are a government that is committed to giving our young people the very best chances in life through a good education, jobs, health care and the right support. Some children have not had strong role models to follow and even their parents let them down. It is a sad fact that some of them will make bad decisions and, when they do, the courts have to choose between detaining them and sentencing them in a way which keeps them out of detention while also dealing with the complex causes of their behaviour.

We need to continue to invest in the proven services which reduce reoffending and turn these children's lives around. While one crime is too many, we know that many young offenders can learn their lesson and get back on the right path. That is why, since 2015, we have invested \$800 million in early intervention which has lowered rates of reoffending. In the last year, we have had a seven per cent decline in young people with a proven offence and a three per cent reduction in the number of offences overall. However, if young people do not take the chance they have been given and become violent, hardened reoffenders, then putting community safety first means they need to be detained.

Let's talk about what is working and what more we need to do. We have invested in the frontline with more police, more patrols and stronger laws. Our presumption against bail laws are the toughest in the country. More serious repeat offenders are being held in custody and for longer. We have already increased capacity in youth detention centres by 33 per cent, from 230 beds in 2015 to 306 beds now, an increase of 76 beds. The tough new laws and increased investment announced yesterday follows careful consideration by the Palaszczuk government and are based on evidence and feedback from the community, police and other stakeholders.

We are doing more to assist Queenslanders with crime prevention and support victims, including funding vehicle immobilisers, security systems to improve home security for elderly Queenslanders and funding to provide better support and counselling for victims of crime, as well as an additional \$100 million to expand programs proven to make a difference at breaking the cycle, programs like the successful youth co-responder where teams of police and youth justice workers provide a rapid response to young people at risk of offending and young people on bail. Already successfully operating in many parts of Queensland, we are expanding this service into Toowoomba, Hervey Bay, Mount Isa, Ipswich and South Brisbane, and we will build two new youth detention centres. We will give the police and the courts the tools they tell us they need to keep people safe. They will have the resources, they will have the laws and, most importantly, they have this government's full support to keep our community safe.

Economy

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.52 am): The youth justice reforms announced by the Premier this morning are significant and important and are reforms that our government will properly resource. We can make a significant and substantial financial commitment to implement these reforms because of the strength of our state's economy and the strength of our state's budget.

Against growing inflationary headwinds, Queensland's economy remains strong. Data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows that the Queensland economy grew 4.4 per cent in the 2021-22 financial year, well above national economic growth of 3.7 per cent. This momentum carried through to the September quarter with our domestic economy growing by 0.7 per cent. Despite inflationary pressures and rising interest rates, household consumption rose 0.6 per cent in the September quarter to be 5.1 per cent higher over the year. Supply-side constraints and poor weather conditions, however, constrained residential construction activity in the quarter. However, there is a record amount of work in the pipeline with \$12.7 billion of residential construction underway, being 40,129 houses, a record for Queensland.

As supply constraints ease, dwelling investment should rebound. Business investment grew strongly in the September quarter, rising by 5.1 per cent, with its recovery expected to continue into 2023. This strength in domestic conditions has seen more and more new jobs continue to be created across the state.

The latest ABS data showed that trend employment in Queensland rose by 84,700 jobs over the year to January. That means there are now 224,000 more Queenslanders in work than there were before the pandemic, an increase of 8.7 per cent. This is the strongest percentage growth of any state or territory since the start of the pandemic.

Queensland has recorded a larger increase in the number of new jobs created than either New South Wales or Victoria. Importantly, the overwhelming majority of those new jobs—85 per cent of those new jobs—being 191,800 jobs, have been full-time jobs. This means 480,700 jobs have been created in Queensland since the election of the Palaszczuk Labor government. That is over 1,150 new jobs each week, every week, for eight years. At just 3.7 per cent, our unemployment rate remains low, but rising interest rates are likely to carry unemployment higher.

The value of many Queensland's key exports, however, has also reached an historic level. Many exporters, including coalminers, are benefiting from record prices. In the 12 months to December 2022, Queensland's overseas merchandise exports were valued at a record \$137 billion. That is an increase of more than 70 per cent from the previous year.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, I would like to hear the statement. You might be aware I have a particular interest in this portfolio.

Mr DICK: Let me reiterate that exports are at a record level and coal is leading the way. With the international borders having reopened, we have seen service exports rebound by 45 per cent over the year to the September quarter 2022. That means more international tourists visiting the unique world-class destinations that only Queensland can offer.

Queensland's economy is in a strong position and it will need to be because the cost pressures that Queensland households face now, especially those caused by interest rates, are set to grow even further. Many of these cost-of-living pressures are beyond the state's control, but with our strong budget position and our strong economy, the Palaszczuk Labor government will be there to support Queenslanders during the difficult days ahead.

Youth Crime



Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (9.57 am): We all want the same thing—community safety—and we are all on the same page when it comes to that. Our government's approach is about targeting serious—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left, the minister has barely started his ministerial statement. You will cease your interjections.

Mr RYAN: Our approach is about targeting serious repeat youth offenders, tackling the complex causes of youth crime and investing in community safety initiatives. For the first time this century, Queensland will have a breach of bail offence that applies to young offenders as a result of laws that we are introducing today. Today I will introduce legislation to the parliament that will make a breach of an offender's bail conditions a crime.

It is time for a reality check. A previous administration had a law that made it an offence to be found guilty of committing an offence while on bail. It was not a breach of bail law. Breaching bail conditions was not an offence under that law. It was a fake and it did not work.

The laws we are introducing today are much stronger. Breaching bail conditions will be an offence for youth offenders in Queensland, and our laws will stand up to the scrutiny of the courts, unlike those of the previous administration.

Ms Simpson interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Maroochydore, you will cease your interjections.

Mr RYAN: Our government has also listened to the community and we are increasing penalties for serious offences and serious offenders. Further to that, we are rolling out engine immobilisers in a subsidised trial in Cairns, Townsville and Mount Isa. The government will provide financial support to vehicle owners in the trial areas to have a device fitted to their car which has the ability to prevent the vehicle being stolen in the first place. We will also boost police resourcing so that extreme high-visibility police patrols become a permanent feature of community safety in this state. In addition, the operational capability of the police State Flying Squad will be enhanced and expanded with a specific focus on dealing with youth crime hotspots wherever and whenever they arise.

These are just some of the measures we are introducing, but all of them have a single focus and that is the safety of Queenslanders.

Youth Crime



Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.00 am): The Palaszczuk government has a plan to keep the community safe and tackle the complex causes of crime and serious repeat offenders because the community does deserve to feel safe and there must be consequences for young people who offend. Most importantly, we must reduce offending through prevention and early intervention because intervening early is proven to help reduce the long-term cost of crime, both to victims and to offenders who otherwise get caught in a cycle of reoffending. As part of the significant package the Premier has announced today, we are investing in community-based initiatives that support young people to access alternative pathways out of offending. We have to keep these young people off the streets; we have to help them feel safe at home.

There are programs like the Midnight Basketball initiative in Cairns, which gives young people the opportunity to spend their Friday nights in a healthy, safe and fun environment playing basketball with high-profile players. We are providing over \$4.2 million to establish a Street University in Townsville. Street University initiatives have helped young people find better pathways, and so far across these Street Universities they have seen a 50 per cent reduction in drug use amongst young people, a phenomenal outcome that is only going to get better now we are expanding it to Townsville.

We are supporting existing community justice group initiatives like the Thursday Island group which runs the Zenadth Kes Boxing Club. The boxing club has resulted in a decrease in crime committed by young people whilst also promoting a healthy lifestyle and, importantly, educating young men on domestic and family violence prevention. We are expanding on-country programs by providing a further \$4 million to provide culture-based rehabilitation for young First Nations people including supervision by on-country elders.

I am also very pleased today to announce a \$5 million investment to establish community-led, place-based justice reinvestment initiatives that will address the underlying causes of youth crime and reduce First Nations over-representation in our system. Justice reinvestment is an emerging field which seeks to redirect funds away from detention and towards support and intervention of young people and their families at risk of falling into the youth justice system. Our investment will complement the announcement made by the Albanese government last year of \$81 million for First Nations initiatives.

We know that whilst on remand young offenders do not have access to the programs they need and the resources that help them in their rehabilitation journey. That is why our \$14.8 million fast-track sentencing pilot will identify the causes of delays in finalising Childrens Court matters, ensuring faster finalisation of matters which means young people spend less time on remand and more time serving their sentences with the programs that will help them. The youth justice fast-track sentencing pilot will be independently evaluated at the conclusion of the program. These initiatives will provide the community with the safety they expect and deserve whilst also reducing offending through prevention and early intervention.

Youth Crime



Hon. LM LINARD (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.03 am): Community safety has always been and remains a top priority of our government. Queenslanders have the right to feel safe in their homes and their communities. However, we know from listening to community that some Queenslanders do not currently feel safe. They do not feel safe because of the actions of a small cohort of serious repeat youth offenders. Our government has a track record in taking action in response to youth crime.

Since 2017 we have invested heavily in early and intensive intervention programs to reduce offending. We have also invested in new and expanded detention centres and additional staffing. Two years ago we strengthened our youth bail laws and, as a result, more young people deemed by the courts to be a risk to community safety are being held in custody and being held for longer. We are making progress. However, I acknowledge this is of little comfort to residents personally affected by youth crime.

Last Wednesday I joined the police minister in Toowoomba to listen to the community about the issues with youth crime currently being experienced. Once again, our government is listening and acting. As the Premier has announced, we will take new, tougher action to further protect community safety and tackle the complex causes of youth crime. Our government will introduce new laws to further target the serious repeat youth offenders who put community safety at risk.

While we target these serious, high-risk offenders, we will continue to fight the complex causes of youth crime through early intervention, investing \$100 million in new funds for urgent action to help break the destructive cycle of youth crime. This includes diversionary and intervention programs designed to prevent and reduce youth offending, including our on-country programs, multiagency collaborative panels, overseeing intensive case management of serious repeat offenders, and co-responder teams made up of police and youth justice workers patrolling the streets when and where needed.

We have also expanded alternative education and vocational training for those in and at risk of entering the youth justice system and added more teachers to our youth detention centres because we recognise the key role education plays in producing better life outcomes. This overall investment is critical because evidence shows clear connections between youth offending and childhood trauma, family violence, drug and alcohol abuse, untreated mental health issues and inconsistent schooling.

Youth crime is a highly complex problem, but the Palaszczuk government is absolutely committed to working collaboratively with police, stakeholders and the community to achieve a balance between helping young people turn their lives around and holding serious youth repeat offenders to account for their actions. First and foremost though, our focus is and always will be community safety.

State Schools



Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (10.07 am): Right across Queensland, thousands of young Queenslanders have returned to school to receive a world-class education in air-conditioned world-class facilities. The Palaszczuk government is committed to giving our youngest Queenslanders—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms GRACE: It never fails to surprise me how welcoming they are of air conditioning in schools. The Palaszczuk government is committed to giving our youngest Queenslanders the best start in life so they can go on to be engaged young adults who make a positive contribution to their communities. That means supporting our students, teachers and school staff every single day, which is at the heart of our new Equity and Excellence strategy, a vision for a high-performing, contemporary education system that is unashamedly focused on learning outcomes and ensures no child is left behind. Part of this is reviewing our student disciplinary absences, especially as students with disability and First Nations students are over-represented in those figures. Since I have directed the department to focus on this, I am pleased to advise the House that preliminary statistics indicate SDAs are now trending at some of the lowest levels since 2018.


We know life can throw a curveball at students. That is why our \$100 million wellbeing package means they can get the support they need from GPs, psychologists and other wellbeing professionals in schools. I am also proud of our \$80 million investment to support a two-year transition to a

game-changing new resourcing model for students with disability because we know early intervention is crucial. The new model will see resources flow to almost 80,000 students. That is an extra 40,000 students compared to the previous model.

We have other extensive support available, including: our education justice initiative with 11 court liaison officers supporting students back into education or training; our 52 flexi-spaces keeping at-risk students engaged in their own school; and our \$11 million Regional Youth Engagement Service, which supported more than 2,500 early school leavers back into education, training or employment last year alone.

We know that the early years play a huge role in shaping your future. That is why the Palaszczuk government is investing \$1 billion in kindy for all—to make kindy free or cheaper for 40,000 Queensland families. It offers cost-of-living relief. A mother I met at C&K Kingston, in the electorate of the Treasurer, was delighted with her savings of \$200 a fortnight. Investing in education and in our young people is what good Labor governments do. It is what the Palaszczuk government does every single day.

Youth Crime


 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (10.10 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to keeping the community safe and tackling the causes of crime, including youth crime. Our youth justice reforms show that we are committed to strengthening the response to serious offending by young people. Evidence shows that many young people who are at risk of entering or who are in the youth justice system have an underlying disability, mental illness or history of drug and alcohol use. To keep our community safe, it is important that we identify and target any underlying health issues that may influence a young person to offend.

For young people at risk of being engaged with or in the youth justice system, Queensland Health provides support across the state via our forensic child and youth mental health services. These services work with young people who are in the community with no Youth Justice contact through to those who have been charged, are appearing at court, are in detention or are on supervised orders in the community. These services include: court liaison services, which provide specialist mental health and forensic assessments, screening and advice regarding young people before the court or in custody at a youth detention centre; comprehensive mental health, alcohol and other drug assessment and treatment at Brisbane, West Moreton and Cleveland youth detention centres; specialised assessments, treatment and intervention planning support to community child and youth mental health services and youth justice services, as well as mental health support for young people remanded in watch houses.

The Palaszczuk government's record \$1.645 billion investment in mental health, alcohol and other drug services across Queensland will further target some of these complex causes of offending, helping young people and keeping communities safe. Under Better Care Together, we will invest almost \$260 million in child, adolescent and young people mental health initiatives such as expanding community-based treatment services like the Assertive Mobile Youth Outreach Services for young people unable to access traditional office-based services; establishing new early psychosis services and acute crisis response teams as well as enhancing existing services; providing specialist clinical and liaison in-reach services to new and existing headspace centres across Queensland, in partnership with the Commonwealth government; investing \$16.4 million to expand our existing forensic mental health services and youth services; and investing \$1.76 million in Project Solus, an initiative to identify and manage young people with mental health issues at risk of grievance fuelled violence. We will also deliver a new 10-bed alcohol and drug residential rehabilitation facility for young people in Cairns in the second half of 2024.

We do not apologise for taking strong action to keep our communities safe. This is why we have strong laws and take action to hold offenders to account and provide the health services they need to address the causes of their offending.

Dugald River Mine, Deaths

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (10.13 am): Every Queenslanders deserves to come home safe from work. It is with a heavy heart that I rise today to speak of the devastating incident that occurred at MMG's Dugald River zinc mine last week. I am sure I speak for every member in this House when I extend my sincere condolences to the families, friends and colleagues of Mr Dylan Langridge and Mr Trevor Davis. This tragic loss has deeply impacted not only our resources community but also all of Queensland. I am advised that all mining operations at Dugald


River remain suspended and that officers from the Queensland Mines Inspectorate have been onsite since Wednesday of last week. I expect a thorough investigation into the nature and cause of this incident.

I am sad to say that this is not the first time I have had to stand in this House to offer condolences for a tragic loss of life in our mining sector. The frustration I feel is compounded with sadness, knowing that everyone must do better to protect our resource sector workers. I urge every mining company to carefully consider the recommendations of the Transport and Resources Committee's recent report into coalmining safety. I expect all mine operators, whether coal or otherwise, to genuinely reflect on those findings and recommendations and to act. There must be continual commitment to ensure no worker is put in harm's way.

We will continue to work closely with the resources industry and workers' representatives to ensure we are doing everything we can to improve the safety of our workers. The loss of life in any workplace at any time is not acceptable. Families should be able to expect that when their loved ones go to work they will safely return. Once again, I extend my sincere condolences to all those who knew and loved Mr Dylan Langridge and Mr Trevor Davis.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION


Comments by Member for Southern Downs, Apology

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (10.15 am): On 28 October last year, I made some comments concerning the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission and the Hon. Justice Peter Davis during consideration in detail of the Industrial Relations and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. I understand that it is inappropriate for a member of parliament to adversely reflect on the judiciary, and I would like to take this opportunity to unreservedly apologise for any of my comments which may have amounted to a reflection. As a member of parliament I respect the role of the courts and I understand the importance of an independent judiciary. Again, I apologise if any of my comments were taken to reflect on the independence of judiciary or in some way impacted on public confidence in the judiciary.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

Youth Crime

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.16 am): My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier apologise to victims of crime for changes to the Youth Justice Act from 2015?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will take that question in two parts. Of course we apologise to victims of crime. That is why we are taking the courses of action that I have announced today. They are comprehensive; they demonstrate that we are listening to the community. They also target serious repeat offenders. We have listened to the community. I say to the Leader of the Opposition: the challenge now is whether the opposition will support these measures. They are very comprehensive. Now is the time for us to put politics aside. Let me say very clearly that what the opposition introduced did not work. What the police minister introduces today in terms of breach of bail will work, because it currently applies to adult offenders. The challenge is there.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I announced today, we are giving police the additional resources they need. High-visibility patrols will be rolled out across the state. We are also giving police extra resources for intelligence gathering, especially when it comes to social media, to get on top of those issues and to be involved with the community. There will also be a targeted flying squad working with Youth Justice to go to hotspots across Queensland.

I have heard very clearly what the public has had to say. My government has heard very clearly. Today we respond with, I believe, the largest injection into youth justice that this state has ever seen—over \$1 billion. We have a duty to get these young people into work. As I said, 83 per cent of those who come into contact with the youth justice system do not go on to reoffend. For 83 per cent the system is working. We are now targeting those serious repeat offenders—

(Time expired)

Youth Crime

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Premier. I refer to the Premier's breach-of-bail backdown after years of saying that it will not work and ask: what does the Premier say to those Queenslanders who have lost loved ones at the hands of young offenders out on bail?

Ms PALASZCZUK: What I say is that the Newman laws did not work. There is very clear evidence that they did not work—they did not work—and what the people will see—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Let me put the facts on the table. It was ineffective in reducing offending by children—

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition will cease his interjections or he will be warned.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Some 94 per cent of those charged with an offence reoffended within two years. That is why it did not work. Some 185 young offenders were convicted of the LNP offence and—

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK:—no-one spent one extra day in detention. That is a failed law.

Mr Bleijie: So what did the Premier do in eight years?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I do not think the former attorney-general should be talking about his track record of justice in this state.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Failed boot camps—

Mr Brown interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Capalaba, I was on my feet. You are warned under the standing orders. Members, the level of interjections is too high. I appreciate the issue at hand. Be respectful. Only one member has the call, and that is the Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We will amend the Bail Act and it will be an offence to breach conditions of bail. That is a real breach-of-bail condition written in law, not a fake condition that did not work. We are absolutely determined to do this. Let me say this: the suite of measures that we will introduce today are comprehensive. We have looked very closely at the early intervention measures that are working and we are continuing to roll them out to other parts of the state.

Ms Grace interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right; I take that interjection from the education minister. I have spent time speaking with the Stronger Communities—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr McDonald interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Kawana is warned under the standing orders. The member for Lockyer will cease his interjections as well.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I have spent time speaking with the Stronger Communities committees, sitting down talking about the intensive work that they are doing. In some instances it involves young people who are going to school and then not going to school and ending up committing crimes simply because they cannot participate in school due to hearing difficulties or speech difficulties. We need to tackle all of these issues. This is not going to be solved overnight. That is why we have a suite of measures that we have announced today that we will wait to see whether or not the opposition supports. It is comprehensive. We have listened and we are taking action.

Manufacturing

Mr SAUNDERS: My question is of the Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Will the Premier update the House on how the Queensland government is bringing manufacturing back to Queensland?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Mr Speaker, you heard from the Treasurer—I thank the member for Maryborough for that question—how well our economy is going in this state and I am proud to lead a government that has nation-leading growth where over 480,000 people are now into work compared to when we were elected in 2015. Over eight years I am absolutely proud of our track record when it comes to people in employment and giving people the dignity of a job. I am also very proud that we are bringing manufacturing back to Queensland, and what does that mean for Maryborough?

Mr Saunders: Jobs, jobs, jobs!

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right; I take that interjection: it means jobs, jobs and more jobs and \$7 billion worth of making trains in this state. I had the opportunity to go to Maryborough recently with the member for Maryborough. In fact, our whole cabinet went there because of the significance of this announcement, because as a government we get out across the state. We will be taking our cabinet across the different parts of this state this year again. We were able to meet with the men and women who work at Downer. Generations of families are working at Downer and they are absolutely proud to know that today they have certainty for their livelihoods and their families' livelihoods. Over a century ago Maryborough was one of the significant hubs of Queensland, but what we saw during the Newman years were massive cuts to jobs, services—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! Members will come to order!

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is one of the reasons that the mighty member for Maryborough was elected into this House because he stood up to those savage cuts to services and now we see Maryborough and the region thriving. The \$7.1 billion Queensland-made Train Manufacturing Program will see new trains being rolled onto the South-East Queensland network by 2026, supporting 800 jobs—800 jobs in a regional centre—and we know that this—

Mr Crawford: Disability compliant!

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take that interjection from the minister: disability compliant. I understand the dignity of a stable, secure job for generations to come. We are going to link in with the schools to make sure that those young people can get jobs locally, they can raise their families locally and they will not have to leave Maryborough.

Youth Crime

Mr POWELL: My question is to the Premier. Three Queenslanders have lost their lives to alleged teen offenders since the Premier said she would act following the Boxing Day tragedy. After refusing to recall parliament early, why has the Premier broken her commitment to victims to debate and pass changes this week?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I find it very ironic coming from those opposite when they were saying that they did not have enough time to consult, so do not rush it. Let me say this—

Government members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right: one hand—

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Let me make it very clear to those opposite. I said it at the press conference yesterday and I will say it again today: today the police minister will introduce the reforms. They will then go to the committee. The committee will have the opportunity for over two weeks of consultation. Secondly, it will enable members here to go back to their communities to talk about these reforms in their local communities and to come back here and speak on these issues.

Ms Bates interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am absolutely confident in the process that I have set out that has been endorsed by the government, and once again it will be interesting to see whether the opposition will support these strong laws. Will it support them?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr MELLISH: I rise to a point of order. I am struggling to hear the Premier's answer over those opposite. It is a very important matter, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Aspley. I have it well under control.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We know their attitude when it comes to youth justice conferencing. They axed that.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms PALASZCZUK: We know their attitude towards the courts. They got rid of the Murri Court, the drug court—all diversionary courts. We had to rebuild the court processes in this state because the Deputy Leader of the Opposition abolished them.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Everton, member for Glass House, this is the last time you will get any kind of caution. You will be warned under the standing orders in future.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Then of course there was the Auditor-General's report on the failed boot camps.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Further to the member for Aspley's point of order, Hansard requires the ability to hear the comments being made by the person who has the call of the chamber. The level of interjection is too high. This is applicable to both sides of the House. I will immediately start ceasing any kind of caution; I will warn members.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Unlike those opposite, we are looking at programs that are working and we are going to be rolling them out to other parts of the state. As I said, I have sat down with Deputy Commissioner Mark Wheeler, I have sat down with the Police Commissioner, I have sat down with the heads of departments, I have sat down with the ministers and we have worked out a plan—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr Powell interjected.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Everton, member for Glass House and member for Nanango, you are all warned under the standing orders. I had hoped I had made myself clear in my statement earlier. Clearly not.

Ms PALASZCZUK: And we have listened to the community and put together a suite of measures that will tackle the causes of youth crime.

Job Creation

Mr HARPER: My question is to the Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Will the Premier outline to the House how the Palaszczuk government is creating good, secure jobs for Queenslanders and is the Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Thuringowa for the question. We know that the economy in Townsville is going incredibly well. I reflect that the regional unemployment rate in Townsville is around 2.3 per cent. Recently when I was up there members were reminiscing with me about how the unemployment rate soared to over 13 per cent when the nickel refinery closed its doors. I remember how people felt when that happened. I remember sitting down and speaking with the workers. They believed they did not have a bright future left in Townsville because of the flow-on impact of the jobs that were lost.

A government member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will take that interjection: the public servant numbers were cut as well. What we see now is a city that is vibrant and the projection of growth into the future is unbelievable. When we look at the investment that is coming in relation to the new minerals province with vanadium, we have the resources that are needed. Townsville stands at the cusp of exporting but also manufacturing domestically. Townsville's future is bright compared to where it was all those years ago when the closure of that mine had such a devastating impact. I cannot be more proud of the work that has been going on, the strong commitment of the local members, the building of infrastructure—the pipeline, the stadium—

Mr Harper interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, and Riverway Drive. The Minister for Main Roads is well aware of the extension that is needed there. Also our \$62 billion Energy and Jobs Plan. The majority of this funding is in regional Queensland: Mackay, Townsville and, of course, we have train manufacturing in

Maryborough which will also flow, but also the commitment to hydrogen across our state in regional Queensland. The world is our oyster. I had a great meeting with SunMetal about their commitment to powering their facility with solar and looking at hydrogen trucks. This is a key example of a company that is going from strength to strength and which continues to employ many Townsville locals. I thank the member for the question and his strong support and great work locally.

Youth Crime

Mr BLEIJIE: My question is to the Premier. In April 2021 the government heralded strong youth justice reforms to deal with the 10 per cent of youth offenders who are putting the community at risk. Given the 10 per cent has now blown out to 17 per cent, does the Premier concede these changes did not keep Queenslanders safe?

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I said, we have announced today further measures taking the total investment to \$1.1 billion. Unlike the LNP, we did not cut police when we were in office; we increased police. There were 1,000 fewer police in 2020 because of what the Newman government did. Unbelievable.

An opposition member: Let's make it up.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No, it is called fact. There were 130 less in the Brisbane region, 150 less in the North Coast region—does the member want me to keep going? Let me elaborate on some more of our programs that we are rolling out as part of our comprehensive package. With intensive case management we will build on the program that is already being delivered in Townsville and Cairns and we are expanding it to Brisbane, Logan, Toowoomba, Moreton, Gold Coast, Rockhampton and Ipswich. We are targeting chronic youth offenders aged 13 to 17 years and their families to help break the cycle of crime. We are expanding youth co-responder teams, already operational in many parts of Queensland. They have already completed 40,000 engagements with young people, including to check their compliance with bail conditions and follow up to ensure they are accessing the right services. We will be expanding these co-responder teams to Toowoomba, Hervey Bay, Mount Isa, Ipswich and South Brisbane. I mentioned previously the Townsville Stronger Communities initiative, which is going very well, where all agencies are tackling these issues and working with families. This has never happened before. It is working in Townsville.

An opposition member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I find that offensive because there are many workers who are involved in this who are actually changing young people's lives. I find that deeply offensive. That is deeply offensive and appalling. Perhaps the member should sit down and watch them. We are also bringing together police and other key representatives to provide the intensive coordination of services and this will be rolled out to Mount Isa and Cairns. It is a program that is working and is getting good results, to the extent that some of these workers are going and picking young people up and taking them to school because the best place for them to be is in school, not out on the streets. I find it deeply offensive that the member would make such a comment when this is such a serious issue and needs to be treated seriously.

Natural Disasters, Resilience

Mr WHITING: My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure. Can the Deputy Premier outline how the Palaszczuk government is building disaster resilience in Queensland and is he aware of any other approaches?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Bancroft for his question. I know how passionate he is about building resilience in his community. I can still clearly remember visiting Deception Bay with the member for Bancroft just after the natural disasters, the rainfall events, last year and it was that experience, amongst others, that helped inform our Resilient Homes Fund which right now is delivering that resilience in places like Deception Bay. The \$741 million fund is the largest home resilience program of its kind ever to be delivered in Australia.

We cannot stop floods from occurring but we can take steps to reduce their impact and to make Queensland stronger. Since that fund was announced in the middle of last year, we have been busy undertaking home assessments for home owners who have expressed an interest in retrofitting, raising their homes or, indeed, having the government buy them back. More than 5,800 home owners have now registered for the fund, which remains open for Queenslanders who have been affected by those floods and want to register. The team has completed 4,500 home assessments and 3,300 reports have

been sent to home owners, 540 homes have been identified for voluntary buyback, 230 have accepted offers, 127 contracts have been executed, 82 contracts have settled and we have completed now the demolition of four of those properties. We have begun to remove those flood-affected properties from the housing stock of the south-east so that next time homes will not flood again.

While the Palaszczuk government has been delivering funds to Queenslanders affected by natural disasters, those opposite have taken hundreds of thousands of dollars from a fraudster convicted of ripping off Queenslanders who thought they were donating to disaster recovery. This is a bloke who stole \$30,000 in a fake raffle from Queenslanders who thought they were buying raffle tickets to support flood-affected Queenslanders in 2011. He ran fake sausage sizzles supposedly to raise funds for disaster victims in 2015. How much has he given to the LNP? \$238,000! That is from a bloke who has been ripping off Queenslanders. They really will take money from anyone.

The charities commissioner said, 'This kind of behaviour is deplorable.' She said, 'It is preying on the generosity of Australian people who always give to needy causes and give in time of disaster.' When asked about this bloke, who has given him \$240,000, the Leader of the Opposition says, 'I'm not aware of that individual that you're talking about.' Has anyone else forgotten a donor who has given them \$240,000? The funds should be returned—

(Time expired)

Youth Crime

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier listen to Queenslanders and remove detention as a last resort for young offenders to unshackle the judiciary so they can do their job?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Let me say to the Leader of the Opposition—sorry, she was the leader of the opposition and people still think she is. I say to the member for Nanango that the very first principle of the Youth Justice Act is that the community must be protected from offenders, particularly serious repeat offenders. That is our priority. That is why we are creating a presumption against bail for serious repeat offenders and it is why we have flagged tougher sentencing for stealing a car and boasting about it on social media. The member refers to the 18th youth justice principle, which is consistent with other jurisdictions and is a principle of the United Nations. Therefore, we will not be moving away from that principle, which is in every other jurisdiction in the nation.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Everton, you have already been warned under the standing orders. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Everton withdrew from the chamber at 10.43 am.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, if I call the House to order then it will come to order. If you are on a warning, there are no interjections.

State Revenue

Mr O'ROURKE: My question is to the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. Will the Treasurer update the House on Queensland's latest revenue forecasts and how that revenue is used to benefit regional Queensland?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Rockhampton for his question. He knows very well how important our revenue is to support good jobs, better services and investment in regional Queensland. I know he is proud to represent regional Queensland in this House. That revenue helps support those good jobs and better services, and it helps to protect Queensland's great lifestyle. The member for Rockhampton is a great champion for that.

As I announced in the midyear budget update, general government sector revenue for this financial year is now forecast to be \$7.34 billion higher than was predicted when I delivered the budget. Much of that revenue uplift comes from coal royalties built on historically high coal prices. Those prices for coal have never been seen before. As I also announced in the midyear budget update, the windfall from those new progressive bipartisan coal royalty tiers is going back to regional Queensland. I say 'bipartisan' because those members opposite did not oppose them, but they have not said a word in support either.

Therefore, I was interested to read some comments from the shadow resources minister, the member for Condamine. I will say this about the member for Condamine: he speaks plainly and clearly. He does not rely on the autobabble of the Leader of the Opposition. You will never hear the member

for Condamine use the Leader of the Opposition's favourite cliché that something's 'not his style'. Because the member for Condamine speaks plainly, Queenslanders understand exactly what he meant in December when he told the Industry Queensland website, 'We didn't support the royalties tax per se.'

The member for Condamine has belled the LNP cat. When given the choice of supporting the people of regional Queensland or multinational mining companies, the LNP does what it always does and backs its corporate mates in the mining lobby. The LNP, which is all whinge and no work, is willing to turn its back on regional Queensland. It is turning its back on the billions of dollars of coal royalties going back into infrastructure and services in regional Queensland. How would they cover that shortfall?

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Southern Downs, welcome to 2023. You are warned under the standing orders.

Mr DICK: They would cover that shortfall through the one and only policy they genuinely and truly believe in: cuts. We know this because the Leader of the Opposition said that the LNP's debt reduction strategy would involve cutting spending. More cuts from the LNP! We should not be surprised that, under the current leader of the LNP, the LNP is returning to cuts, which is the only way that it knows. The LNP's willingness to give away revenue serves as a stark warning to the people of Queensland.

Youth Crime

Mr NICHOLLS: My question is to the Attorney-General. On 16 June last year, on breach of bail the Attorney said, 'That offence did not work.' She said further, 'It was not a disincentive. It did not stop young people reoffending.' Has the Attorney's strong view changed or is the change announced a captain's call?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for the question because I want to be very clear about the policy that the LNP introduced and called 'breach of bail'. What was the offence that the LNP introduced? The then attorney-general, the member for Kawana, introduced into the Youth Justice Act an offence to be found guilty of committing an offence whilst on bail. Even when I say it out loud it is so convoluted and complicated that of course it did not work. The Childrens Court found that the legislation was flawed but, most importantly, the court found that you could not impose an additional penalty for anyone found guilty of committing an offence because it breached section 16 of the Criminal Code, which is the rule against double punishment. That is another wonderful legacy from the member for Kawana, the worst attorney-general—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members to my right! Member for Bundaberg, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms FENTIMAN: What the Premier has announced is that breach of bail, which currently exists in the Bail Act for adults, will be extended to juveniles. We know this will work because it works for adults. I want to be very clear: if a young person breaches a condition of their bail then they will come back before the court, and that means at that point we can intervene earlier to stop their reoffending.

We can make sure that the programs we have been investing in—and we have just seen another \$100 million to expand those programs—can actually stop that young person reoffending.

Mr Janetzki interjected.

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

Ms FENTIMAN: As part of our suite of initiatives, most importantly, we are treating that cohort of serious repeat offenders differently in the legislation, because we have tried with those programs and they have been ineffective. We will give the courts other sentencing options to make sure that the serious repeat offender cohort is treated differently.

I also want to be very clear: there are programs we are investing in that are working. Intensive case management, where Youth Justice works with families and the young person daily, is working. We have seen a 50 per cent reduction in reoffending because of that work—a 70 per cent reduction in violent reoffending. That is what it takes: intensive work with families to address the underlying causes such as domestic and family violence, drug and alcohol abuse and serious mental ill health. That is what we are committed to doing to keep the community safe.

(Time expired)

Silicosis

Mr KING: My question is of the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Can the minister advise the House of what actions the Palaszczuk government has taken to protect workers from silicosis in the engineered stone industry, and are there any alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for the question. Silicosis is a serious issue and I know that worker safety is very close to his heart. Queensland has led the nation in responding to and addressing silicosis in the engineered stone industry. On 17 September 2018 I was provided with an urgent briefing on the sudden and alarming spike in diagnoses of silicosis among workers in the engineered stone industry. As with other serious issues, we treat it very seriously and there is never just one solution. The next day I issued an urgent safety warning to workers in the industry and banned all dry cutting of engineered stone. On that same day I wrote to the then Commonwealth government calling for an urgent national response including banning the importation of engineered stone. I am still waiting for a response.

Since 2018 Queensland Health and Safety have conducted audits of all known workplaces. We continue to regularly audit these workplaces. Some 1,053 Queensland workers have undergone health screening funded by WorkCover at a cost of \$2 million. Twelve months later, in 2019 we introduced Australia's first code of practice for the Queensland stone benchtop industry and Australia's first dust lung disease register. We have invested \$5 million in medical research for occupational lung disease treatments. A silica code of practice for the construction industry will come into force on 1 May this year. We will never rest on our laurels, but I am pleased to see that our actions are having a positive impact. I dread to think, if we did not take decisive and immediate action in 2018, how many more lives would have been lost.

The National Dust Disease Taskforce released its final report on 12 July last year. Queensland's approach to tackling dust lung diseases was viewed as a model example to follow. Queensland's Dr Graeme Edwards, an occupational medicine expert and member of the national task force, said this morning that Queensland got a jump on other states and did great work. He went on to say that we led not just in Queensland and Australia but also around the world.

I am pleased to see that stabilising WorkCover claims for workers in the engineered stone industry shows that our actions are helping keep Queenslanders safe. Since September 2018 I wrote several times to the then Morrison government, but they did nothing. They never responded. In fact, ministers responsible for occupational health and safety have met more times under the current Albanese government than during the whole 10 years of the Morrison government. I look forward to next week's meeting, where this matter is on the agenda and Queensland can put its position.

Youth Crime

Mrs GERBER: My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice. On breach of bail the minister said on 17 June last year, 'We don't want something that didn't work,' a view the minister confirmed just six days ago at the Toowoomba crime forum. Has the minister's strong view changed or was this a captain's call?

Ms LINARD: Of course I stand by those comments, because those comments are based on fact. The Attorney-General has just outlined it, and I will outline those facts for the member today. The offence that the LNP had in place—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms LINARD: No, three facts. You asked the question; let me answer the question.

Mr SPEAKER: Members will direct their comments through the chair.

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Burleigh will cease his interjections.

Ms LINARD: Thank you for that insight—a great insight! The first number: 185 young people. The second number: 94 per cent of those 185 young people reoffended. The third most important number that I want to be clear about in this House, because it is the number that most concerns the community, is the number of custody days that those 185 young people served because of their breach-of-bail offence. That number is zero—absolutely zero.

Mr Healy interjected.


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

Ms LINARD: It is zero. The community is asking for this government to continue to listen and make the changes and reforms that will make a meaningful difference. That is not what those opposite had. What we are proposing and what will be—

Interruption.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (10.56 am): Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe that the minister and the Attorney-General before her have misled the House. The opposition's policy—

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry, is this—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members to my right. Is this a point of order or a matter of privilege suddenly arising? You need to choose.

Mr POWELL: Apologies, Mr Speaker: it is a matter of privilege suddenly arising. I believe that the minister and the Attorney-General, who spoke before her, are misleading the House. The LNP's policy—

Mr SPEAKER: No, this is not an opportunity to debate the point. If there is a matter of privilege suddenly arising, you need to state what that is and it will be dealt with in the appropriate course via procedure.

Mr POWELL: The amendments were with regard to the breach—

Mr SPEAKER: Member, I have asked you not to debate the point. What is your matter of privilege suddenly arising?

Mr POWELL: I believe that the minister and the Attorney-General are misleading the House and I will be writing to you.

Ms PUGH: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. I believe that the member knows that that is not a point of order—

Mr SPEAKER: No, you can resume your seat.

Ms PUGH:—and I believe it was a frivolous—

Mr SPEAKER: Member, you will resume your seat and cease your contribution.


Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I will wait for silence, members. That was a matter of privilege suddenly arising and I will take that. Member for Mount Ommaney, I believe that your point of order was a frivolous point of order. You are warned under the standing orders.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Youth Crime

Resumed.

 **Ms LINARD:** What I find deeply disingenuous is that those opposite would now say, 'No, sorry, that's not our policy.' They have consistently said 'bring back'—therefore, bringing back that which those opposite had in government. Stop lying to the Queensland public. This is the problem: as I stand in this House they repeatedly with their questions politicise an issue that the community does not want politics being a part of. Our Premier has stood and said, 'We need to take a bipartisan approach to an issue that people are frightened about.'

Mr Hart interjected.

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

Ms LINARD: It is disgusting and disingenuous for those opposite to come in here, flip around, change their position and be disingenuous with Queenslanders about a policy that they have changed, because they also know—

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Currumbin, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms LINARD: What we introduced was a presumption against bail, and that has seen up to an additional 100 young people in detention and for longer. What we are introducing today is an ongoing, absolutely resolute focus on keeping the community safe and dealing with the emerging issue, which is repeat offenders—a continually emerging issue in the community.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Dr Rowan interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Buderim, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Moggill, you are warned under the standing orders. I can warn all members to the left of me, if you like. It is entirely your call.

Strengthening Medicare Taskforce

Mr MELLISH: My question is of the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Can the minister update the House on the work of the Strengthening Medicare Taskforce and its implications for Queenslanders?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for Aspley for his question. He understands the benefit that Queenslanders and Australians get from a free public health system and our strong Medicare system in this country. It was a Labor government that introduced Medicare across this country. It is a legacy that we should be proud of. Some 39 years ago Medicare was introduced into Australia. Even back then the coalition government opposed it. It was then premier Joe Bjelke-Petersen who refused to sign up to Medicare. Liberal and National governments over many years have sought to undermine the Medicare system in this country.

Ms Camm interjected.

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

Mr Perrett interjected.

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

Mrs D'ATH: We have seen over the last decade under the Turnbull-Abbott-Morrison government the stripping away of Medicare benefits to the community. We saw so many important referral services no longer attracting a Medicare rebate. We have seen the gap in costs significantly grow because they froze Medicare and refused to listen to GPs and health professionals across the country.

I have struggled to find any press conference where the Leader of the Opposition in Queensland has proactively gone out and talked about Medicare and GPs. They are too busy playing politics with the health of those in this state to talk about the important issues. If they want to help deal with the pressures on our emergency departments and the bed block and other pressures on the hospital system they must tackle primary and allied health care. They must ensure that there are affordable and accessible general practitioners in every community across this state. Without that the people do not get the care they need. They end up with chronic, complex health issues like—

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: I take the groan from the other side. I am sorry the opposition thinks it is boring talking about delivering health care to the people of Queensland. We need to make sure that we are investing in our GPs and they are affordable. That is what an Albanese Labor government is doing. They are working with every state and territory premier of all political persuasions to make improvements in Medicare and accessing GPs. It is about time the opposition got on board with this.

(Time expired)

Youth Crime

Mr DAMETTO: My question is to the Premier. Queensland's youth detention model has proven ineffective in rehabilitating offenders. The Cleveland Youth Detention Centre has a 95 per cent reoffending rate within 12 months. Will the Premier commit to properly assessing Katter's Australian Party's relocation sentencing policy, which genuinely aims to break the crime cycle?

Ms PALASZCZUK: The detention centres in this state serve their purpose. We have announced today two new detention centres which will be modelled on the one recently built, which is more of a therapeutic model looking at long-term systemic issues, whether that be drug addiction, trauma or sexual abuse. We need to make sure that the new facilities are responding.

In relation to some of the questions asked, I add that we have done some evaluation of some of the youth justice programs. With Transition 2 Success 62 per cent of youth did not reoffend within 12 months. With integrated case management there was a 51 per cent reduction in offending and a 72 per

cent reduction in crimes against the person. With restorative youth justice conferencing 77 per cent either did not offend or decreased offending. With the youth co-responder teams there is 95 per cent compliance when it comes to bail interactions.

We are throwing a lot of resources at those programs that are evidenced based and working. Members have heard me say in the House that there are many early intervention programs that stop young people from coming into contact with the youth justice system such as the great programs through the Clontarf Foundation—I had the honour of speaking with them—educational programs and getting involved with families at an early stage when there may be a family member who has had contact with the youth justice system. All of these programs are happening, we are evaluating them and the ones that are working we are rolling out. That is where the investment is going.

I will add to my answer to the member for Nanango's question. Under our proposed serious repeat offender program the courts will be required to ensure community safety is the paramount consideration during sentencing. It is very clear. It is targeted at serious repeat offenders. They will be required to ensure community safety is the paramount consideration during sentencing. That is for that significant group of people who are serious repeat offenders.

Mr DAMESTO: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The question was specifically around whether the Premier would be supporting Katter's Australian Party policy.

Mr SPEAKER: Yes. Premier, do you have something to add regarding the question as asked?

Ms PALASZCZUK: The answer is no.

Police Service, Aerial Capability

Mrs McMAHON: My question is of the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services. Will the minister update the House on the investment the government is making in the Queensland Police Service's aerial capability and any other approaches the minister is aware of?

Mr RYAN: I thank the member for the question. I am pleased to get a question on this because it is a little recognised aspect of the Queensland Police Service's commitment to community safety—that is, the aviation capability component of the Queensland Police Service. We see this capability being used for broader things than just public safety such as search and rescue, aeromedical responses, aeromedical transfers, frontline police operations and the movement of prisoners. It is a critical component in a big state like Queensland for us to have an Aviation Capability Group within the Queensland Police Service.

I take this opportunity to commend the pilots, particularly given that on Australia Day 2018 I had a little incident on a plane and the pilots kept me safe on that plane. I thank the pilots and the entire team within the Aviation Capability Group of the Queensland Police Service for what they do on behalf of all Queenslanders when it comes to community safety.

The government is backing them in with additional resources to support their aviation capability. In the next 12 to 18 months we will not only see a renewal of the Polair fleet in South-East Queensland—Polair will grow to three brand new helicopters; we have a great partnership with Surf Life Saving Queensland to deliver Polair services—but also see a renewal across the fixed-wing fleet with seven new fixed-wing planes. That not only acknowledges that a lot of those aviation assets are at end of life and need renewal but also in a big state like Queensland we need to make sure we have the best. These new aviation assets will ensure that our pilots can fly those planes longer and faster, which will deliver better community safety outcomes. We have backed that in with a financial commitment.

That brings us to compare and contrast. We have heard a lot of fake things from those opposite today about fake laws and fake breach of bail. It is no surprise that you hear a lot of fake things coming from them because they have a leadership team made up of a fake Gold Coaster and a fake Elvis. There was also a fake commitment to the Queensland Police Service Aviation Capability Group when those opposite were last in government. Guess what they did to Polair? They said that the Queensland Police Service can have Polair—

An opposition member: We introduced it!

Mr RYAN: No, but it was a fake commitment because you gave no money. You did not fund it.

Mr SPEAKER: Direct your comments through the chair.

Mr RYAN: It was reported in a 2012 *Courier-Mail* article titled 'Queensland police told to find helicopter funds from their own budget'. It stated, 'QPS was told it must fund the \$18 million cost from existing budget.'

Those opposite are just fakes—fake money, fake commitment, fake laws, fake breach of bail, a fake leadership team and fake outrage—all the fakes. They have no real commitment to community safety and the Queensland Police Service.

(Time expired)

Olympics, Host City Contract

Dr MacMAHON: My question is to the Premier and Minister for the Olympics and Paralympics. On what date will the government release the full Olympics Host City Contract as defined in the operational requirements document, including the games delivery plan?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am happy to get back to the member in relation to that specific answer.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, are you taking that on notice?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will get back to the member.

Youth Crime

Ms BOYD: My question is to the Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs. Will the minister provide an update on how the Palaszczuk government is responding to the issue of youth crime in the community?

Ms LINARD: I thank the member for the question and her interest in our genuine response not only in relation to dealing with repeat offenders but also interventions to stop further young people from coming into the system. With the introduction of the Strengthening Community Safety Bill today the government is implementing a stronger response, more consequences for youths who are serious repeat offenders and more investment in tackling the complex causes of youth crime. We are introducing tough new laws and increasing our investment in youth justice after careful consideration of the feedback from stakeholders, communities and our frontline services. I thank all who have contributed their honest feedback.

These new initiatives are based on evidence and they follow the feedback given to us. We have listened. The bill we introduced today has one central aim; that is, to ensure all Queenslanders are safe. Our new investment of \$332 million will help boost police, tackle the complex causes of youth crime and support community safety. As the Premier has said, this is beyond politics. We are approaching this issue and adopting a bipartisan approach in proposing to make breach of bail conditions an offence for young offenders just as it is for adult offenders. I look forward to the support of those opposite.

While we target serious offenders we will also continue to fight the complex causes of youth crime and invest over \$100 million in additional funds into programs that are proven to make a difference. It includes, as the Premier outlined earlier, intensive case management. We will continue that program in Townsville and Cairns and we will expand it across the state in Brisbane, Logan, Toowoomba, Moreton, Gold Coast, Rockhampton and Ipswich. What we have seen already from our evaluation is a 51 per cent reduction in offending frequency and a 72 per cent reduction in the proportion of crimes against the person. We will expand youth co-responder teams into Toowoomba, Mount Isa, Hervey Bay, Ipswich and South Brisbane. We have seen very high levels of compliance—above 90 per cent—due to the number and intensity of interactions and oversight provided. Other measures will include a further investment of \$4 million in on-country programs, more investment in grassroots early intervention, because we know these measures allow a greater and more intensive response to tackling youth crime.

While we invest in things that are evidence based, those opposite have an alternative three-point plan: firstly, detention as a last resort—we are introducing a new sentencing framework; secondly, breach of bail—we will introduce a workable alternative; and thirdly, a plan a plan to review our plan—we will continue investing in things that are evidence based and provide an assurance to government that we will continue reviewing those programs.

Police Service, Personnel

Mr LAST: My question is to the Minister for Police. Are there more or fewer full-time-equivalent sworn police officers today than there were in June 2022?

Mr RYAN: I do not have the exact numbers, but I can tell you that the government has provided record funding to the Queensland Police Service. In fact, there would be 1,000 fewer police in Queensland if those opposite were elected at the last election. I can categorically say that the approved

strength of the Queensland Police Service and the budgeted number provided by the government to the Commissioner is up. It has increased under this government. It is higher this year than it was last year.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Currumbin, you can leave the chamber for one hour under the standing order 253A.

Whereupon the honourable member for Currumbin withdrew from the chamber at 11.14 am.

Mr RYAN: That is our commitment to the Queensland Police Service. We have provided record funding, record budgeted numbers and record approved strength to the Queensland Police Service. That is what we do; those opposite pledge cuts to the Queensland Police Service. Just five minutes ago we heard about their cuts to Polair. At the last election we heard how they were not going to match our election commitment, and that would have delivered 1,000 fewer police in Queensland today than under our government. Our commitment is resolute. The commitment those opposite made at the last election would have seen cuts right across the state, including: 90 fewer police in Cairns and the Far North; 90 fewer police in Townsville and the north; 125 fewer police in Central Queensland, including Mackay and Rockhampton; 150 fewer in places like the Fraser Coast, Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay; 130 fewer in Brisbane; and 60 fewer on the Gold Coast and Logan. The member for Toowoomba North will be excited to hear that under their government there would have been more than 100 fewer police in Toowoomba and the south-west district. That was their election commitment. That was what they took to the people of Queensland. That is what they promised the Queensland Police Union.

The Police Union is on the record as saying that the government promised 1,000 more police than those opposite at the last election. That is our commitment. We follow through on our commitments. We have provided the approved strength and funding to the Commissioner to deliver on that commitment. In addition to that, we are backing in the Queensland Police Service with the additional resources that they need, including additional tools, equipment and the extra safety support they need such as body worn cameras, integrated load-bearing ballistic vests, additional police vehicles, more tasers, real helicopters and real planes, unlike those opposite. This is a government whose record on the Queensland Police Service is solid. It is public and we are very proud of it. We will continue to back the Queensland Police Service to do what they do best, which is keeping us all safe.

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

MOTION

Business Program



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.17 am): I move—


1. That the following business will be considered this sitting week with the bills listed below to complete all stages by 5.55 pm on Thursday, 23 February 2023:
 - (a) the Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill; and
 - (b) the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill.
2. If the nominated stage of each bill has not been completed by 5.55 pm on Thursday, 23 February 2023, 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.

I take this opportunity to welcome all members, particularly government members, back to the legislative chamber for 2023. I also welcome the Clerk and his team of parliamentary staff back to the precinct for 2023. I wish everyone a safe and healthy 2023. I hope that the tenor of debate is lifted to that of policy and ideas rather than the personal, which we have seen in recent times.

Turning to the motion before the House, this week the House will consider the Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Both bills will be considered by the House and questions put no later than 5.55 pm on Thursday evening. These bills have gone through the committee process and are another example of how the Palaszczuk government is getting on with the job of delivering for all Queenslanders regardless of where they live.

In addition to the legislation which will be debated, the House will introduce important legislation such as the Strengthening Community Safety Bill. We will also recognise a significant milestone in our state's history this week with the introduction of the Path to Treaty legislation—legislation which I know this side of the chamber supports—and I will watch with interest the views of those opposite.

Last year Queenslanders witnessed a terrible and tragic situation where hardworking, dedicated Police Service officers were harmed and murdered in the line of duty. An innocent Queensland citizen was also murdered. While this may have occurred in 2022, we all still remember this terrible event. This week this chamber will remember and honour the Queensland Police Service officers who lost their lives doing their job to protect the community. We will also remember the innocent community member who came to the scene and lost his life during that incident. With those few words, I commend the motion to the House.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (11.19 am): I rise to address the business program motion circulated by the Leader of the House. I will echo her comments in regards to a general welcome back to the chamber for 2023, particularly to Mr Speaker, the Clerk of the Parliament and the parliamentary staff who serve us all so diligently regardless of which party we represent or whether we are independents.

As the Leader of the House mentioned, the bills to be debated this week are the Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Both are important pieces of legislation, and the opposition will have long speaking lists on both of those. We also note another motion being moved later this week—and I convey my sympathies very early on to the families of those police officers and Mr Dare who lost their lives tragically late last year—and the LNP will also ensure that we speak to the motion in that regard.

I note the Leader of the House is looking for a slightly different tone in debate this year, but it may not come as any surprise to her that the opposition will be opposing the business motion this morning. What may surprise the Leader of the House is the reason why. Whilst we are debating two important pieces of legislation—the domestic and family violence protection bill and the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill—we are not debating one very important piece of legislation, a bill that we were told we would be debating in the House this week. Before I get accused of verballing particularly the Premier on this, I want to refer to the comments the Premier made back in late December 2022 which she replicated in January 2023. This was while the Leader of the Opposition and the opposition were calling for an early return of parliament so we could sort out the youth crime epidemic sweeping this state. I quote—

The Premier shut down calls for an early return, insisting they're working through changes to the law.

Then in a direct quote she said—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member, I am listening to your contribution and taking advice at the same time. I would like you to assure us that the contribution you are making here will not be anticipating debate in relation to a bill that is on the *Notice Paper* to be introduced later in the week.

Mr POWELL: With due respect, Mr Deputy Speaker, that bill has not been introduced yet, and therefore I cannot be anticipating debate on it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take some advice on that. Member, you can continue your contribution.

Mr POWELL: As I was saying—

Mr BROWN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order in regards to relevance. The motion talks about the sessional orders of this week, not the sitting calendar as a whole which the member is straying into.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will grant some latitude. The member is making points around his views on what should have been debated this week. I will give him some latitude in relation to that, but I ask him to please bring it back to the subject of the debate.

Mr POWELL: I will add that the Leader of the House actually referenced an anticipated piece of legislation in her contribution on this business motion debate—the Strengthening Community Safety Bill. Also, as I believe the Leader of the House will verify, this was a topic of discussion at yesterday's meeting where we did consider the business motion. Again, let me try for a third time to quote the Premier. This is a direct quote. She said—

They are going to be strong laws, but also the consultation is happening now and they will be ready to be introduced on day one. That is fine. I understand they are going to be introduced today. Going on, she said in a direct quote—
... and if we want to fast-track them, the best thing the opposition can do is agree with us to pass them that week.


We were going to be opposing this notice of motion this morning not because of what is on it but because of what is not on it—that is, the Strengthening Community Safety Bill that we have been told about. We were told that this bill would be ready to go on day 1 and that the consultation would have occurred already. We were constantly told that it could not occur during January and that we could not come back early because consultation was underway. What we have heard from the Premier this morning is that sure she has consulted but it was with the commissioner, the deputy commissioner, the directors-general, her ministers and her caucus but no members of the community.

Mr Janetzki: Not Toowoomba.

Mr POWELL: Definitely not members of the Toowoomba community. The Premier could not even attend the forum in Toowoomba.

What we have now discovered is contrary to the position that was put forward by the Premier herself that we could debate and pass those laws this week. That was something the opposition immediately agreed to. Again, we heard this morning this fallacy that somehow it all comes down to whether or not the LNP will agree to them. Of course we agree to them. They are our laws. They are our amendments. They are our changes. It does not have to be a constant excuse that these laws could not be passed now.

As I raised in question time, tragically three Queenslanders have lost their lives since the Premier announced the changes back in late December. I fear that if we wait two more weeks there will be further Queenslanders who will lose their lives because of young people out on bail. We will not be supporting this motion this morning—not because we think the Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 are not important, but because we should be debating the youth justice laws.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.26 am): I rise to support the business motion and to also refute the previous speaker's assertions that somehow they were their laws. They will not be. That is a fact. They will not be the laws that were put in by the previous government. The member for Glass House needs to be careful about misleading the House about a matter that he knows not to be true.

These laws have been thoroughly collaborated on and worked on and they deserve to have community scrutiny. What we are seeing here today is an opposition which has got form. Last time they were in power, they did a lot of things late at night in this parliament. All of a sudden, they sacked the parliamentary PCCC committee. They took drastic measures at short notice with no consultation when they were in power, and they are now suggesting that the community should not be consulted about these important laws and that the parliamentary committee process should not be consulted about them either. The LNP are putting forward to this House their usual approach in terms of a lack of consultation and a lack of scrutiny on laws that are important. These laws will be important for this state. They deserve better than to be rammed through this chamber, in the same way the LNP did when they were in power for that short period.

They are not in any way their laws, and they know that to be true. We believe these laws are very good, very well researched and very well collaborated on. We believe in them, but we also believe they should get scrutiny from the parliamentary committee process and from the community who have a lot of interest in them. The opposition is effectively arguing here that neither one of those things should happen.


When the Leader of the Opposition says, 'We're going to be different this term,' but then comes in and contradicts himself and goes back to the same old disrespect for parliamentary process and the same old disrespect for consulting and involving the community in a process of looking at these laws, we know that they speak with forked tongues. We know that nothing has changed from an opposition that have got form. They are not straight with people. We know the Leader of the Opposition's form on the laptop. Day in, day out, at media conference after media conference, we were told that the laptop was a seizure, that it was a raid, that there were goons involved, and we know that was not true and the PCCC report showed that not to be true.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member, I will bring you back to the substance of the debate.

Mr BAILEY: What I am talking about here is integrity. The fact is these laws need to be scrutinised by the community, they need to be scrutinised by the parliamentary committee process, and the Premier has given commitments that once those important processes and inputs have happened, then those laws will be put to the vote here in the parliament. That is a government that believes in working in collaboration to ensure that occurs.

The LNP have not changed one iota from the Newman government era. They do not believe in parliamentary committee process. They do not believe in the community having input and having time to scrutinise laws that they are very interested in. We can have as much rhetoric from the opposition as we like, but it is actions that matter, and the actions of those opposite show that they have learnt nothing from eight years in opposition because they do not believe in scrutiny of this legislation.

I endorse the motion from the Leader of the House. There are a range of bills that are important to debate this week, including the treaty bill, which is a very important one, and these bills deserve to be scrutinised. They do not deserve to be not scrutinised on the LNP whose processes and whose behaviour shows they have learnt nothing since the Newman government. It is still the Newman government style. There are so many Newman government leftovers over there, in their shadow cabinet, so we know nothing has changed over there. Nothing has changed. I endorse the motion.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.30 am): Talk about throwing your leader under the bus. I say 'bus'. I would ordinarily say 'trains', but he forgot to order them. He has thrown his Premier under the bus.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find that personally offensive, not to mention inaccurate, and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. I reflect on the contribution the minister has just made. I agree with him about consultation and I agree with him about the committee process. The difference is and the difficulty he has with his argument is that it was the Premier, his leader, who said two weeks ago the laws are going to be introduced on Tuesday, debated and finished this week. It is his leader that gave that commitment.

We know he spends a lot of time on social media. The Premier broadcast that press conference on social media. That is where I saw it. I watched the Premier announce on Twitter that the laws were going to be introduced. They were so important. She had listened to the Queensland community about crime and safety and she was going to go straight into parliament, introduce laws, debate them and have them voted on this week. Not only did the Premier say that, she challenged the opposition to support the laws going through this week. We said, 'Absolutely, but we will do one better, Premier. Recall parliament and we will get the laws through quicker.' That is what should have happened. We should be debating these bills today because parliament should have sat weeks ago, but we could not. Why? Because the Premier was in France, drinking champagne. She was on a superyacht drinking Aperol—

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

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Resume your seat. Pause the clock. The House will come to order. What is your point of order, member for Miller?

Mr BAILEY: The member for Kawana is clearly abusing standing orders. It has nothing to do with the business motion. I ask that he be brought back to the motion that is before the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, I have given some latitude. I would ask you to come back to the substance of the motion before the House.

Mr BLEIJIE: The commitment was given by the Labor Premier that these laws would be introduced and debated this week. That is why the Manager of Opposition Business sets out why we cannot support the motion. We cannot support it because it is not what is in the motion; it is what is not in the motion. The youth justice laws that are about to be introduced by the police minister should be on for debate this week because that is what the Premier promised. What has changed? What has changed since that announcement? One thing has changed: the 10-point plan six weeks ago is now an 11-point plan. They talk about breach of bail and it needs to go off to committee. The Minister for Main Roads is misleading this parliament and misleading you, Mr Deputy Speaker, because the LNP policy on breach of bail was clear. It was an amendment to the Bail Act in 2021—

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Resume your seat, please, member for Kawana. Member for Miller, I will make a ruling before I take your point of order. Member for Kawana, you now seem to be straying into debating specific points in relation to matters that you are raising. I ask you to come back to the substance of the debate.

Mr BLEIJIE: Both the Leader of the House and the minister—the minister, particularly—spent considerable time on a particular element—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Resume your seat, please, member for Kawana.

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I take your point of order, member, I ask you to resume your seat. Member for Kawana, I listened very carefully to the member for Miller's contribution and he was responding to points raised by the previous speaker and doing so in a manner that related to the substance of the motion. You are straying into territory where you are debating specific issues and points, and I ask you to come back to the substance. Before you rise to your feet, member for Lytton, do you have a point of order?

Ms PEASE: I do, thank you. I would like to comment that the member for Kawana is reflecting upon the chair and your statement and questioning your ruling.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mr BLEIJIE: The motion clearly sets out the laws to be debated this week. Under the sessional orders and the standing orders, the opposition and the crossbench are not able to move amendments to this business program motion. The point we are making is through the committee meeting yesterday, as I understand it from the Manager of Opposition Business, the youth crime bill debate came up. The Manager of Opposition Business asked at that meeting why we are not debating those juvenile justice laws this week—he advised me what took place in the meeting—and it was discussed and hence we are debating it today.

I table for the record of the House amendments that were moved in 2021 with respect to juvenile justice laws setting it out quite clearly.

Tabled paper: Amendments moved by the member for Burdekin, Mr Dale Last MP, to the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 and extract, dated 20 April 2021, from the *Record of Proceedings*, Queensland Parliament, pages 989 to 993 [\[163\]](#).

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I take the member for Miller's point of order, I want to reflect on something that the member for Kawana was contributing there. I want you to assure the House that you are not offending standing order 211 by discussing matters that occurred in a committee of the parliament.

Mr BLEIJIE: If I may give a fulsome response, there have been many occasions on both sides where the Leader of the House and I, when I was Manager of Opposition Business, did, through the Business Committee, discuss what was happening at those meetings yesterday to give a full reflection on the motion we are debating and put both the positive and the negative of that, and that has occurred in most of the Business Committee motions in the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take that into consideration.

Mrs D'ATH: Can I comment on that point of order?

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

Mrs D'ATH: I would like to comment on that point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I ask you to resume your seat while I take some advice.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! While I am taking advice, I would ask the House to come to order, and that is all members.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leader of the House, resume your seat. I ask all members to come to order while I am taking advice. I will hear the member for Miller's point of order first.

Mr BAILEY: Once again, the member for Kawana is straying into history relating to a matter that is not part of this Business Committee's motion.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member. Resume your seat. I have already dealt with that and I am managing that aspect. Leader of the House, I am not going to engage in a debate across the chamber around this matter. If there is a new point of order you wish to rise to, I will hear that; otherwise I call the member for Kawana.

Mr BLEIJIE: The LNP place community safety of utmost importance. Only a few weeks ago in my own electorate I held a crime forum and, based on the Premier's promise that we would be debating these laws this week, I said at that crime forum the government has announced that we will be debating youth justice laws to help solve the issues of youth crime in this sitting week. That is why I am so distressed and angry that we are not going to be debating these laws.

I accept the point the minister makes about committees and consultation, but that was not the commitment the Premier gave. The Premier promised Queenslanders that these laws were so urgent they would be introduced and they would be passed this week. I simply say to the Leader of the House: why are the youth justice reforms not in this motion for debate today? We would amend the motion if we could to include it, but under the sessional orders we are not able to amend this business program motion. If it was so important for Queenslanders a few short weeks ago that the Premier advised that, why are we not debating the youth crime laws this week? That was the promise made; that is the promise that should be kept. That was the commitment the Labor Premier gave. If she is now not committing to delivering on that promise, it shows they have no interest in solving the issues of youth crime in this state.

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

AYES, 50:

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

NOES, 34:

LNP, 32—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, 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, 1—MacMahon.

KAP, 1—Dametto.

Pair: Smith, Crandon.

Resolved in the affirmative.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY SAFETY BILL

Introduction



Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (11.45 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Bail Act 1980, the Criminal Code, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 and the Youth Justice Act 1992 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I also table a statement of exceptional circumstances. I nominate the Economics and Governance Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023 [\[164\]](#).

Tabled paper: Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023, explanatory notes [\[165\]](#).

Tabled paper: Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[166\]](#).

Tabled paper: Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023, statement of exceptional circumstances [\[167\]](#).

The statement of exceptional circumstances, which I just tabled, outlines the reasons for the provisions in the bill that override the Human Rights Act 2021. I refer members to the statement of compatibility that details the incompatibility of these measures with the Human Rights Act 2021.

The Palaszczuk government understands the impact that youth crime is having on our community. This is why we are taking new, tougher action to further protect the community and tackle the complex causes of youth crime. The government has once again moved decisively in response to serious offending that is occurring in our community.

On 29 December 2022, we announced further strategies to take new action to address the harmful behaviours associated with offences like unlawful use of a motor vehicle by young offenders. Members of the community have called for a defining change to be made to the way in which the government responds to serious repeat offending, particularly by those young offenders.

Overall numbers of unique young offenders are declining and the majority of young people who have contact with the youth justice system do not reoffend after the first contact. However, recent events amplified community concerns about the strength and adequacy of responses to this small cohort of serious repeat young offenders. This bill contributes to addressing those concerns, and coupled with a combined investment package of more than \$332 million focused on prevention, rehabilitation and support measures, this bill will provide a stronger foundation from which to make that change. Additional funding of \$9 million will also enhance assistance for victims of crime, including expediting financial assistance and improving response to victims of property crime where violence or a threat of violence has occurred.

While this bill contains significant reforms to strengthen and build on the operation of some of Queensland's current youth justice and criminal laws, the significant additional investment package of more than \$332 million ensures that programs to divert children away from crime will continue, building on the work already done over recent years and continuing to reduce the overall number of unique young offenders. More than \$88 million will be available for grants programs and programs delivered by non-government organisations, and \$66 million will be provided over two years for priority police initiatives including extreme high-visibility patrols, police online and engagement teams with intelligence capability, and a specialist youth crime rapid response squad. The greatest impact of these legislative reforms will be on the small cohort of serious repeat young offenders who are responsible for a large proportion of youth crime and require intensive effort to change the trajectory of their offending.

The opposition has previously called for the reintroduction of former section 59A of the Youth Justice Act, which was introduced by the former LNP government in 2014. This is not what the government is proposing in this bill. The reality is the LNP never legislated for a breach of bail offence for young offenders when they were last in government. What the LNP introduced in the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 was not 'breach of bail'. The offence they introduced, at section 59A of their Youth Justice Act, was called 'finding of guilt while on bail'. In fact, the explanatory notes for the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 says—

The Bill inserts new division 2 into part 5 of the Youth Justice Act 1992 making it an offence for a child to commit a further offence while on bail. This new offence will be taken to have been committed where a finding of guilt is made against the young person in relation to that further offence.

There is no reference to breach of bail—not in the explanatory notes or in the bill itself. The fact is the former section 59A of the Youth Justice Act did not allow a young offender to be punished for breaching a condition of bail following the decision by the Queensland Childrens Court. It was a fake offence and it did not work.

The evidence is clear: that offence, the LNP's 'finding of guilt while on bail', did not work. The vast majority of offenders convicted of a 'finding of guilt while on bail' did not spend any additional time in detention in connection with the LNP's offence. Let's look at how the LNP's offence operated in practice. A young offender on bail would need to be charged and later convicted of a further criminal offence. Only then, when the young offender was convicted of that further offence, would the offender be deemed to have committed the offence of 'finding of guilt while on bail'. It sounds like a nonsense because it was a nonsense. It was ineffective, inefficient and poorly drafted. In fact, as pointed out by the Childrens Court, the explanatory notes for the LNP's bill even referenced the wrong act when referring to the penalty applied to adults for breaching a condition of bail in the Bail Act. Is it any wonder when the member for Kawana was responsible for the introduction of that legislation?

This government has been very clear: anything we do must be evidence based and stand up to the scrutiny of the courts. That is why this bill seeks to amend section 29 of the Bail Act 1980 to expand the application of 'offence to breach conditions of bail' to young offenders. Unlike the LNP's failed law, the offence at section 29 of the Bail Act has worked effectively in respect of adults for more than 20 years, since it was clearly legislated by the Beattie Labor government in 2000. This real-deal breach-of-bail offence for young offenders will mean that an offender who breaches any conditions of their bail undertaking may be liable to this offence and the penalty that accompanies it. This is what the community and the government expect.

In taking this legislative step, the government is also providing additional resources to the Queensland Police Service to enhance their bail compliance activities across the state. The government acknowledges that removing the prohibition on the application of this offence to children is not

compatible with human rights. The bill proposes to override the operation of the Human Rights Act in relation to this provision. The decision to override the operation of the Human Rights Act is not taken lightly but is considered necessary in order to address the acute problem presented by a small cohort of serious repeat offenders who engage in persistent and high-risk offending.

As announced on 29 December 2022, the bill will amend the Criminal Code to increase the maximum penalty for the unlawful use or possession of motor vehicles, aircraft or vessels to 10 years imprisonment. It will also introduce a new circumstance of aggravation, with a maximum penalty of 12 years imprisonment, for the offence of unlawful use or possession of motor vehicles, aircraft or vehicles where the offender has published material advertising their involvement in or of the offending on social media and introduce new circumstances of aggravation, with a maximum penalty of 14 years imprisonment, for the offence of unlawful use or possession of motor vehicles, aircraft or vessels where the offending occurs at night or where the offender uses or threatens violence, is or pretends to be armed, is in company, or damages or threatens to damage any property. The maximum penalty for unlawful use or possession of motor vehicles, aircraft or vessels where the offender uses or threatens to use the motor vehicle, aircraft or vessel for the purpose of facilitating the commission of an indictable offence under section 408A(1A) of the code will be increased from 10 to 12 years.

We said that we would increase these maximums and target these behaviours because these offences are serious. They are dangerous, and the community rightly denounces those who do these things. The risk to the community is real and the community—and this government—will not tolerate it. The government acknowledges that these amendments may also limit section 29(1) and 26(2) of the Human Rights Act—the right to liberty and the right of the best interest of the child—however, these limitations are outweighed by the need to appropriately reflect the seriousness of the unlawful use of a motor vehicle offence.

In 2021 the government introduced amendments to the Youth Justice Act 1992 to establish a presumption against bail, or show cause provision, for young people who are charged with prescribed indictable offences while on bail. Prescribed indictable offences include serious offences which attract a life sentence or maximum imprisonment of 14 years if committed by an adult; for example, grievous bodily harm, robbery or burglary. They include specified offences such as assault occasioning bodily harm, wounding and the unlawful use of motor vehicle offences in certain circumstances.

Under these provisions, the court or police officer must refuse to release a young person from custody unless the young person can show why their release is justified. The introduction of these measures had a significant and immediate impact on the number of young people remanded in custody. The provisions commenced on 30 April 2021 and the average number of children in custody the following month rose by over 30 to be 70 higher than the same month the previous year. By September 2021 they were up by another 20—101 more than the same month the previous year.

The bill amends the definition of ‘prescribed indictable offence’ to provide that the presumption against bail applies to being a passenger in a vehicle the subject of an unlawful use offence and also to the offence of entering a premises with the intent to commit an indictable offence. This will ensure presumption against bail provisions stay current, reflect emerging patterns of offending behaviour and continue to protect the community.

To further facilitate greater operation of the current electronic monitoring device provisions targeting serious repeat youth offenders, amendments will be made to extend the duration of the trial to 2025. The eligibility criteria will also be extended to children over the age of 15 years. Section 52AA of the Youth Justice Act 1992 provides that a court may impose an electronic monitoring device as a condition of bail for a young person in certain circumstances. These powers have facilitated a trial of electronic monitoring devices in the Townsville, north Brisbane, Moreton, Logan and Gold Coast areas. A review of the trial has been completed, and I understand that the report was published this morning. The review found that, while there are some benefits associated with electronic monitoring, a larger sample size is needed to determine its effectiveness in deterring offending behaviour, nor can any changes to offending be attributed to engagement with the trial. A larger sample size is required. To establish a more robust evidence base, the bill amends section 52AA to extend the sunset clause to 30 April 2025 and, as I said, expands the eligibility criteria to include young people aged 15 and over.

I announce today that the government will expand the trial sites to include Cairns, Toowoomba and Mount Isa in the near future. Additionally, and subject to further detailed work occurring on the resourcing of the extension of the trial, we are proposing to expand the scheme to include electronic monitoring on sentenced young offenders in the community as a tool to assist with their supervision.

This bill also focuses on building on strengthening the current sentencing framework in the Youth Justice Act 1992. Amendments in this regard include making it clear that when sentencing a child a court must take into account their relevant bail history. It is intended that those serious repeat youth offenders who display unacceptable behaviour in not complying with bail and who pose a risk to community safety are a less viable option for community-based sentences.

The bill will introduce a new and separate sentencing scheme for serious repeat youth offenders. For children declared to be serious repeat offenders, the courts will be required to ensure community safety is the paramount consideration during sentencing. A declaration will be available upon application by the prosecution where a child has been previously sentenced to detention for a prescribed indictable offence. The child can then be declared a serious repeat offender if the court is satisfied that there is a high probability that the child would commit a further prescribed indictable offence. As a result, a declared serious repeat young offender will be subject to specific sentencing considerations that focus primarily on protecting community safety and will enable the application of longer periods of detention. If the child subsequently offends, the declaration may have effect on a sentencing court of like or higher jurisdiction for a relevant period of 12 months.

This new provision strengthens the sentencing framework for young offenders by creating the ability of a sentencing court to declare a child a serious repeat offender in certain circumstances to ensure considerations such as community safety are paramount during sentencing and that serious repeat offenders are held in detention on sentence for longer than would normally be the case. This will mean that, where appropriate, youth offenders will have the opportunity to complete the necessary rehabilitation programs identified in any pre-sentence report. The other sentencing factors in the Youth Justice Act will still be relevant but will not be primary considerations.

The government acknowledges that new sections 150A and 150B of the Youth Justice Act are incompatible with human rights. The bill therefore proposes to override the operation of the Human Rights Act in relation to these provisions. This decision to override the operation of the Human Rights Act is not taken lightly but is considered necessary in order to address the acute problem presented by a small cohort of serious repeat offenders who engage in persistent and high-risk offending. I have tabled before parliament today a statement of exceptional circumstances that outline the reasoning for this override provision and refer the parliament to this statement of compatibility that details the incompatibility of this measure and others that I will talk to with the Human Rights Act.

Amendments will also strengthen conditional release orders under the Youth Justice Act by strictly mandating that if a child breaches a conditional release order for a prescribed indictable offence then they must serve the suspended term of their detention, unless there are special circumstances. The maximum duration of a conditional release order will also double to six months. This will allow young people even more time to complete the intensive programs they need to address the causes of their offending.

Strengthening the current youth bail framework in the Youth Justice Act and creating a new offence of breach of bail for young offenders will provide police the power to consider the welfare of the community as well as the child when making decisions about how to deal with a child who is breaching their bail conditions. This includes amendments that expressly remove the requirement for police officers to consider alternatives to arrest if they reasonably suspect a child on bail for a prescribed indictable offence or certain domestic violence offences is likely to contravene bail or is contravening bail.

With the bill increasing penalties and strengthening the youth bail and sentence frameworks, this will likely increase the number of children held on remand and in detention. To assist detention centres to accommodate the anticipated increase, the bill enables the transfer of certain 18-year-old sentenced or remanded detainees to adult facilities. Although this amendment does enliven some human rights issues, this will be appropriately dealt with as part of ongoing considerations. Specifically, the bill amends section 276B of the Youth Justice Act to provide that sentenced persons aged 18 years or older are liable to be transferred if they have a remaining period of detention of two months instead of the current six months in the act. The bill will also provide that the initial application for a delay to a transfer date will be made to the chief executive instead of the Childrens Court. The chief executive making this decision at first instance will be more efficient than requiring an application to the Childrens Court.

The Youth Justice Act 1992 does not currently contain provisions for the transfer of remanded young people into adult custody. This bill will provide that a person over 18 who enters custody on remand for a child offence goes to an adult facility unless the remanding court orders otherwise and detention centre remandees over 18 years can be transferred to adult correctional facilities. The latter

scheme will also apply to remandees aged at least 17 years and 10 months who have at least two months until their next court date or no next scheduled court date. The bill ensures procedural fairness for these amendments by providing an opportunity for the young person to obtain legal representation and comment on the proposed transfer. The chief executive's decision is reviewable by the Childrens Court.

While the bill takes new action to strengthen responses to serious offending, the importance of also building on prevention and early intervention to achieve better outcomes for children engaged in the youth justice system and break the cycle of offending is recognised. The bill introduces amendments to ensure the continuation of, and commitment of the government to, multiagency collaborative panels, also known as MACPs. MACPs have existed since 2021 to ensure a collaborative response to the needs of young offenders through a multiagency and multidisciplinary approach. They have proved effective in bringing together relevant government agencies and non-government service providers to ensure timely and coordinated assessments of the needs of serious repeat offenders and responses to those needs. This includes providing access to mental health programs, drug and alcohol programs, enrolment into education and connecting children to culture and healthcare providers.

The bill establishes MACPs in legislation in a way similar to the establishment of the suspected child abuse and neglect system under the Child Protection Act 1999. The bill prescribes the MACP system's purpose, membership and the responsibilities of core members. Finally, it is important to note that the Senior Officers Reference Group of the Youth Crime Taskforce will provide oversight of the implementation of the proposed reforms and will report to the cabinet subcommittee on progress.

This bill strengthens Queensland's response to serious offending, particularly unlawful use of a motor vehicle and youth offending specifically, and increases focus on supporting and improving the protection of the community. It provides courts and police officers strengthened tools to respond to this unacceptable offending which poses a significant risk of harm to both the community and offenders. The bill will be accompanied by additional funding for continued and expanded youth justice related programs across multiple communities in Queensland. Priority police initiatives will receive an additional injection of funds over two years to further support this response to serious youth offending.

This bill targets serious repeat offenders, tackles the causes of youth crime and also continues our record of investing in community safety. The government has listened to the community, to members of parliament and to experts. Whilst not wanting to single anyone out, I want to particularly acknowledge the thoughtful and constant advocacy of the member for Thuringowa and his Townsville colleagues, the member for Cairns, the member for Bancroft, the member for Greenslopes, the member for Maryborough and his Wide Bay colleagues, the member for Capalaba and the member for Rockhampton who have been very diligent and very firm in their advocacy. 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) (12.07 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 Economics and Governance Committee

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

Declared Urgent

Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (12.08 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, under the provisions of standing order 137, the Strengthening Community Safety Bill be declared an urgent bill and the Economics and Governance Committee report to the House on the bill by Friday, 10 March 2023.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PROTECTION (COMBATING COERCIVE CONTROL) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 14 October 2022 (see p. 2807).

Second Reading



Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (12.09 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

On 14 October 2022 I introduced the Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. The bill was referred to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee for its consideration. The committee's report was tabled on 25 November 2022 and made two recommendations. The first recommendation was that the bill be passed. I thank the committee for its thorough consideration of the bill and I would also like to thank the organisations and individuals who made submissions to the committee and participated in the public hearing. Today I table the government's response to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee's report.

Tabled paper: Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 39, 57th Parliament—Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, government response [168].

The bill amends the Criminal Code, the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012, the Evidence Act 1977, the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 and the Youth Justice Act 1992 to implement the recommendations from the first report of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce, *Hear her voice*, as well as making miscellaneous amendments to other legislation. The task force was established by the Palaszczuk government to provide independent and expert advice about the best way to fulfil the election commitment to legislate against coercive control.

I want to take a moment to thank the courageous victim-survivors, families and stakeholders who have advocated tirelessly for these changes and I also pay my respects to lives needlessly lost to domestic and family violence. Sunday marked three years since the murder of Hannah Clarke and her three children, Aaliyah, Laianah and Trey. I want to particularly acknowledge and thank Sue and Lloyd Clarke whose tireless advocacy has increased community awareness on the dangers of coercive control. For many Queenslanders it was the first time they had heard the term 'coercive control' or realised that they or their loved ones were victims of domestic violence.

In its first report the task force made 89 important recommendations for reforms to domestic and family violence services and justice systems. The bill delivers on several of the legislative recommendations before we introduce a criminal offence of coercive control later this year. We heard throughout the committee process that stakeholders wanted us to take our time and ensure that we are also investing in our systems and particularly training for our frontline responders. The government has now committed well over half a billion dollars to implement the recommendations of the two task force reports and the report of the commission of inquiry into police and how they handle domestic and family violence.

There is still so much work to be done to address the unacceptable issue of violence and abuse in our community. The challenge before us is immense, but the Palaszczuk government has accepted that challenge and this bill is an important next step in doing that. The task force heard that the offence of stalking is under-utilised by police and is often misunderstood as behaviour that occurs only at the end of or outside of a domestic relationship. Currently Queensland's unlawful stalking offence uses outdated concepts and language and needs to be modernised to better reflect contemporary tactics used by perpetrators, including electronic or digital monitoring and surveillance on mobile phones or tracking devices on cars. One victim-survivor told the task force—

He would ask who I am talking to and then if I told him no-one because it is not his business he would go on to recite something that he could see in my conversation with my friend.

The bill renames the offence of unlawful stalking to be called unlawful stalking, intimidation, harassment or abuse. This new title better reflects the contents of the offence as well as increases awareness and encourages better use of the offence by police and prosecutors.

Importantly, the bill also provides a circumstance of aggravation for the offence of unlawful stalking where there exists or has existed a domestic relationship between the offender and the stalked person. A person convicted of this aggravated form of the offence will be liable to a maximum penalty of seven years imprisonment. A court can make a restraining order in relation to a charge of unlawful stalking. The bill proposes an increase to the maximum penalty which applies to the offence of

contravening such a restraining order from the current 40 penalty units or one year imprisonment to up to 120 penalty units or three years imprisonment. The bill provides for a further increase in the maximum penalty to 240 penalty units or five years imprisonment if in the five years before the contravention of the restraining order the person has been convicted of a domestic violence offence. These amendments also better reflect the way technology can be used to facilitate intimidation, harassment or abuse such as cyberbullying and doxxing. Cyberbullying, like other forms of bullying, can cause severe harm to the victim and those around them and that is why the Palaszczuk government has been committed to tackling the prevalence of cyberbullying.

These legislative amendments strengthen our response and will capture conduct we know to be harmful, such as publishing an individual's personal information online in a way that is threatening, humiliating or abusive. The task force found that in some cases courts are not sentencing domestic violence offenders appropriately because they are not being given adequate information about the nature of the offending, including criminal histories showing previous offending related to domestic violence. The bill addresses this by amending the Criminal Code to require the prosecution, where an accused is charged with a domestic violence offence, to disclose to the accused a copy of that person's domestic violence history.

Consistent with recommendation 61 in the task force's second report, the bill includes amendments to modernise the archaic language of our Criminal Code with respect to sexual offenders. Victim-survivors such as Grace Tame have argued that the current use of outdated terms diminishes the gravity and severity of the unlawful criminal offending involved in the offence. The amendments are intended only to modernise terminology. By replacing the term 'carnal knowledge' with 'penile intercourse' it is not intended to substantively alter the scope or operation of offences in the Code.

The government has listened to the voices of brave victim-survivors and the bill renames the section 229B offence, 'maintaining a sexual relationship with a child' to 'repeated sexual conduct with a child'. While most stakeholders supported the renaming of the offence, I acknowledge that a number of stakeholders indicated preference for the offence to be renamed 'persistent sexual abuse of a child' which is a term used in some other jurisdictions. Queensland is uniquely placed with regard to section 229B. Queensland was the first Australian jurisdiction to introduce an offence of this nature. Additionally, the 2017 Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse found that the Queensland offence provided the best opportunity to charge repeated or ongoing child sexual abuse in a manner that is consistent with the sort of evidence a complainant is more likely to be able to give. The offence is extremely effective in delivering justice for victim-survivors. That is why it is imperative that the offence continues to operate in a way that does not jeopardise convictions and justice for victim-survivors. It is vital that we keep our language broad to ensure we can continue to have successful prosecutions. The new offence title has therefore been strategically constructed to minimise the potential for any unintended consequences in the Queensland specific context.

The bill also replaces the outdated term 'carnal knowledge' with the new term 'penile intercourse'. While most submissions to the committee welcomed the replacement of the term 'carnal knowledge', I acknowledge that not all stakeholders felt comfortable with the term 'penile intercourse'. In its second report the task force cautioned that changing the name of an offence is not a matter of simply replacing one name with another, because jurisprudence is built around the interpretation of language used in and the elements of an offence. Whilst the terminology used in an offence can influence how it is understood by the community, it is also important that well-intentioned changes to language do not have unintended and detrimental impacts. Carnal knowledge currently means the insertion to any extent of a person's penis into the vagina, vulva or anus of another person. These forms of penetration are a key element of a number of offences in the Criminal Code. Other forms of sexual penetration, such as digital and penile-oral penetration, are captured by offences such as rape and sexual assault. One stakeholder expressed a concern to the committee that the requirement for penile penetration under some offences was discriminatory because it suggests certain offences can only be committed by male perpetrators, however, I can assure the House that the amendments in the bill will not alter the current position that both genders may commit offences with carnal knowledge as an element.

The task force heard that coercive control is a pattern of oppressive behaviour carried out by one person to control another. This is done by causing the victim to fear for their or someone else's safety. It can also be done by physical abuse and sexual coercion. One brave victim-survivor told the task force—

Nothing I could do was right. I was told how to dress and what to wear. When we ate dinner I was made to sit at his feet. On one night I said something wrong and he got up in front of the kids and kicked my dinner plate across the room. I was terrified a lot of the time.

The bill amends the definition of 'domestic violence' to recognise a pattern of behaviour that must be considered in the context of the relationship as a whole and to clarify that harm can be cumulative and may occur over a period. This will assist police, prosecutors and courts to identify coercive and controlling behaviours such as domestic and family violence.

The reports of the task force and the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board have identified that we must improve both our laws and our systems to prevent the misidentification of the person most in need of protection in domestic and family violence matters. The bill addresses this issue by amending the act to provide further guidance on how to identify the person most in need of protection and strengthens the current framework for hearing cross applications.

The task force revealed how cross orders can be a mechanism for systems abuse by the perpetrator by falsely alleging violence or used in retaliation for a protection order by the victim. Amendments in the bill intend to stop perpetrators using the court system as a means of continuing to control and intimidate victims. The bill also addresses systems abuse by amending the act to allow the court to award costs against an applicant in civil domestic violence proceedings if the court decides that the applicant has used the proceedings to intentionally engage in behaviour that is domestic violence.

The bill also allows the court to make a substituted service order in limited circumstances to prevent respondents from evading personal service to frustrate the process and leave victims without the protection of a domestic violence order.

The bill also expands the operation of the protected witness scheme which ensures that a protected witness cannot be cross-examined by an unrepresented defendant to include the complainant in a domestic violence offence. An accused perpetrator or a person named in a domestic violence order who refuses legal assistance to cross-examine a protected witness cannot undertake a cross-examination.

To address concerns raised by stakeholders during the committee process about additional demand due to these amendments, the Queensland government will provide \$18.62 million over four years and \$4.7 million ongoing to Legal Aid Queensland to fund the expansion of the protected witness scheme. These amendments are about ensuring that court processes will not be used to inflict further suffering upon those who need the court's protection.

The bill amends the Evidence Act to ensure relevant evidence of domestic violence can be admitted in criminal proceedings. The Evidence Act currently allows for relevant evidence of the history of the domestic relationship between a defendant and a complainant to be admitted in limited criminal proceedings such as homicides and assaults. Consistent with recommendation 63 of the first task force report, the bill removes this limitation and will enable relevant evidence of domestic violence to be admitted in relation to any criminal offence.

The task force noted that the patterned and cumulative nature of coercive control manifests in complex ways that are not well understood by the broader community, police, lawyers or judicial officers and expert evidence on these issues may be needed in some cases. New amendments to the Evidence Act facilitate admission of expert evidence in criminal proceedings about the nature and effects of domestic violence and modifies two common law rules of evidence that may prevent an expert's evidence being admitted into evidence. The effect of this provision is to prevent evidence being inadmissible only because the evidence answers the ultimate issue for the finder of fact's determination or relates to a matter of common knowledge.

The task force also found that jury directions about domestic and family violence are vital to ensure judges and juries consider contextual evidence of the nature and impact of coercive control and domestic and family violence. The bill amends the Evidence Act to introduce directions and ensure that members of juries are given directions by judges to address misconceptions and stereotypes about domestic violence. The bill also makes further amendments to the Evidence Act to expand the standing of a victim or alleged victim of a sexual assault offence so they can appear at all stages of a sexual assault counselling privilege proceedings.

Submissions to the task force explained that perpetrators of coercive control can manipulate their victims to commit crimes or to wrongly admit the extent of their culpability. To address this the bill amends the Penalties and Sentences Act to require a sentencing court to have regard to whether an offender is a victim of domestic violence and whether the offending is attributable to the effect of the domestic violence upon the offender when sentencing the offender.

Further, the bill amends section 9 of the Penalties and Sentences Act to require the court to treat those features as mitigating factors when sentencing. The task force did note that police, lawyers and judges will need to be astute enough to recognise when perpetrators falsely portray themselves as

victims. The amendments in this bill provide the court with a discretion not to treat those matters as mitigating factors because of the exceptional circumstances that may exist in a particular case. These amendments are also reflected by similar amendments to the Youth Justice Act and will ensure that a child's exposure to domestic violence, in addition to being a victim of domestic violence, are factors that the court must have regard to in imposing a sentence.

The bill further amends the Penalties and Sentences Act to provide that a history of domestic violence orders made or issued against an offender may be considered in determining an offender's character. A history disclosed under that provision may be used to inform the sentencing process.

The definition of a domestic violence order in the bill is intentionally broader than the types of orders contemplated by the definition of a domestic violence history as defined by the bill. This is because the intention is not to limit the types of orders which a sentencing court may consider in determining a person's character. It is also not intended to limit material being relied upon by either the defence or prosecution at sentencing that shows the offender was an aggrieved on a domestic violence order.

The bill also makes amendments to other acts. It amends the Coroners Act to permit the reappointment of the State Coroner and Deputy State Coroner beyond the current limit of two five-year terms. However, the current maximum duration of five years for an appointment and reappointment will be retained. The bill amends the Oaths Act to address a number of issues that have arisen during the implementation of the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Act. The bill amends the Telecommunications Interception Act to complement existing Commonwealth legislation by ensuring the Queensland Public Interest Monitor can properly perform the role created under the international protection order scheme, including, for example, that the PIM is notified of relevant applications and can appear at the application to make submissions.

I also foreshadow that during consideration in detail I will be moving amendments to the Public Guardian Act 2014 to provide legislative certainty to the Public Guardian in making decisions about converting community visitors from a non-permanent to a permanent basis. The amendments will remove an unnecessary requirement in the Public Guardian Act and ensure community visitors will be able to access the new conversion framework under the Public Sector Act when it commences on 1 March this year. As a result of this commencement date, these amendments are time critical.


Despite the amendments made to the Public Sector Bill late last year, the need for further amendments has arisen following further consideration by the Public Guardian of her commitment to bring about the enhancements to employment rights that the Public Sector Act brings. They are necessary to provide certainty to her in her decision-making under the conversion regime as well as to the entire community visitor workforce. Ultimately, the amendments will mean that, come 1 March, the Public Guardian can confidently start the significant task of converting more than 80 community visitors who have been continuously employed with the Office of the Public Guardian for over two years.

As stakeholders and the committee have noted, effective implementation of the amendments to the Criminal Code, the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act and the Evidence Act will rely on other activities. As I have said, the committee made two recommendations. Firstly, they recommended that the bill be passed. In noting, though, the absolute importance of training, education and change management activities, the committee's second recommendation was that the government report back on those activities within 12 months of the report being tabled. The Queensland government accepts that recommendation and will report back accordingly.

A whole-of-government training, education and change management framework is being developed as a priority in consultation with government and community stakeholders. This includes the development of an implementation plan and resources to support the adoption of the training framework across agencies, and a monitoring and evaluation plan to determine the effectiveness and the outcomes of the training framework. The intent of the framework is to strengthen responses to victims and perpetrators of domestic and family violence through supporting greater consistency of domestic and family violence training delivered across a broad range of service types. It will seek to ensure workers have a comprehensive understanding of domestic and family violence and coercive control so that they can recognise and respond to people affected, within the parameters of their agency's role and responsibilities. It will support workers to understand the gendered nature of domestic and family violence and its impacts.

This is an historic day for Queenslanders. It is an historic day for victim-survivors. When I tabled the first *Hear her voice* report I made a commitment to victim-survivors that the government heard them and was acting. I am proud that we continue to act. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Before calling the next speaker, I will remind the House of the members who are on a warning until the lunch break. They are the members for Clayfield, Broadwater, Capalaba, Kawana, Mudgeeraba, Everton, Glass House, Nanango, Southern Downs, Bundaberg, Toowoomba South, Cairns, Mount Ommaney, Burleigh—he should be okay!—Currumbin, Buderim, Moggill, Gympie and Whitsunday.

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (12.29 pm): Today I rise to contribute to the debate on the Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. It contains amendments that have been long-awaited by many and, sadly, by far too many who have to live with domestic and family violence. I refer to the diverse range of women, men and children whom domestic and family violence impacts. It impacts First Nations women, professional women, women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, women with disability, women with different sexual preference or orientation, women every day living out their lives—women like me and like other women in this House.

In 2021-22 the Queensland Police Service recorded 139,000 domestic and family violence occurrences. Research tells us that up to 80 per cent of DV at times is not reported. This is particularly relevant to violence that is non-physical, social, financial and psychological—things like gaslighting, which is a form of psychological manipulation by which perpetrators manipulate their victim by placing self-doubt in their mind.

I am all too aware that there are many people who understand domestic violence firsthand in such a way that they cannot explain because it is part of their normal, everyday life. There are also many who cannot share their story or their experience. Sadly, too many across our state have lost their lives as a result of domestic and family violence. We have all witnessed one family who channelled their grief and their loss to become Queensland's most visible advocates of coercive control, the Clarke family. Domestic and family violence took their grandchildren and their own daughter, who did not know what coercive control was. In fact, Hannah did not recognise the behaviours of her then husband that, by nature, were the definition of coercive control. When I speak with members of the legal fraternity, I hear that it is all too common, unfortunately, that victims of domestic and family violence do not understand what coercive control is.

While this bill aims to address the recommendations from the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce and the need for a specific offence, this bill contributes to expanded definitions that will support further legislation, as part of a further tranche of reforms, to introduce a new, standalone offence of coercive control. We understand that the government will introduce that as part of the reform agenda. The LNP will not be opposing and in fact will be supporting these amendments today—amendments to the Criminal Code that rename, modernise and strengthen the offence of 'unlawful stalking' to 'unlawful stalking, intimidation, harassment or abuse'.

I note the committee's recommendations. I also note the chair's personal views that instances of DV in his opinion have not increased but that the willingness of those aggrieved to come forward has grown. I agree that when victims of domestic and family violence have a greater awareness of what it is they do come forward. However, when I speak to police officers, teachers, health professionals and services across the state, I only hear comments that cases are increasing. As the issues of cost-of-living pressure, the housing crisis and the societal issues of drug and alcohol abuse and violent pornography now able to be accessed by children of all ages and adults are more widespread than in any generation before, there is evidence not only that violence is increasing but also that the occurrences of physical, psychological and emotional violence are in fact increasing.

The history of domestic and family violence and the degradation of women and children in their own homes in Queensland is shameful. For too long this has happened behind closed doors. For too long serious abuse was belittled as being 'another domestic'. For too long victims have spoken up only to be silenced and for too long we have said, 'Enough is enough.' The Premier herself has said that the time is right for action. Except there is one thing: she said that on 18 August 2015. She has been in power for that long and what have we achieved as a state? There have been countless reports, yet no evaluation of any measures that have been enacted. This is an issue on which we want to work with the government. I think we all agree that we want to see women and children protected from this insidious violence, but we will not stand by. While we will support amendments, it is also our job to call out when the government continues with words and very little action.

The Queensland Audit Office report *Keeping people safe from domestic and family violence* was nothing short of damning. As it reminds us all, when we talk about this system and services, the outcomes of ineffectiveness are sometimes tragic, resulting in tragic situations and circumstances. It is important to reflect on this report as we debate this legislation, because it is essential to ensure that the

changes before us are monitored and that they work. We know too well that the stakes are high if they do not. The legal fraternity, police and services in the sector are all very concerned that the need for education and funding is enormous. In particular, the need to engage and consult further with services that support both our Indigenous and our cultural communities is critical.

We already have an over-representation of Indigenous women currently dealing with domestic and family violence. This has been raised directly with me by organisations such as the Bangle Foundation as well as Indigenous leaders in Far North Queensland. The Audit Office found a lack of evaluation of domestic and family violence initiatives to the point that the department even stopped collecting expenditure data in 2019, so the department does not know how much it has been spending on domestic and family violence initiatives since 2019. I repeat: the department does not even know how much it has been spending on initiatives to prevent and educate about domestic and family violence across our state. The report found that prior to that only four per cent had been spent on prevention measures. This is very concerning when we want to see and witness a societal change, introduce further reform, enhance laws and give police and the judiciary further powers. We—I say ‘we’ as a collective—need to do a whole lot more. It is disturbing when the government is allocating only four per cent on prevention measures, education and perpetrator programs.

Couple this with other findings. The department does not know the use, detail or outcomes of the RESPECT program and as a result has no idea whether the program has been effective or whether it is even a useful resource. The department does not track perpetrator programs. The government does not collect data on attendance rates, completion rates or waiting lists for perpetrator rehab programs. It also does not know how many perpetrators reoffend after they have completed rehabilitation programs.

Queensland Corrective Services cannot confirm how many domestic and family violence perpetrators have been in Queensland’s prisons and has no permanent programs for rehabilitating domestic and family violence perpetrators in Queensland prisons. The department has not reviewed the placement of high-risk teams since 2016. It does not analyse data to determine which local government areas are most in need. Some areas with the greatest DV rates in the state do not have high-risk teams. Once again the lack of police training was pointed out, especially for those assigned to specialist DV roles. Finally, the introduction of choking, suffocation or strangulation in a domestic violence setting as a specific offence in 2016, following the *Not now, not ever* recommendation, has not been measured in terms of how effective it has been in preventing subsequent violence. To date, the Queensland Police Service has had low conviction rates for this offence.

It is the single biggest reform that is required. It should be a priority for this government. I received a phone call today from a lawyer who is acting for a woman with domestic and family violence as part of her life and they have little confidence in the law as it currently stands.

I raise these points because, as members can see from the final one, it is vital that when this House introduces measures and makes decisions to reform and change definitions we monitor them to ensure they work and are effective. It cannot be that we bring these in, make an announcement and then walk away. That has happened time and time again. Some of these measures will work—and I hope they do—but some may not. Some may put even more pressure on the victim. Some may have unintended consequences. These need to be identified and reformed in a timely way to ensure that we have the best legislation and measures in place to do what we can to protect victims.

As I said, the LNP will be supporting these amendments today, but we want to see a system that recognises the gendered nature of domestic violence and does not put all the burden on the victim but works to prevent and rehabilitate perpetrators and, in particular, provides early intervention—all leading to a safer Queensland. In terms of the specifics of these measures, there are several that I will comment on.

The first is modernisation of the sexual offence terminology. I understand many stakeholders—and I note the Attorney-General addressed this as well—hold concerns around the choice of terms in modernising this terminology. I too share their concerns, as I am sure many in this House do. The idea of modernising this language is to stop sanitising the gravity of the offence. Adults do not have sexual relationships with children. Any kind of sexual relationship an adult has with a child is child abuse.

I would love to have seen the word ‘abuse’ in the title of the offence; however, I understand the need to ensure there is every chance of a successful conviction and that that is not put at risk by changes in terminology that would have an impact and unintended consequence for victims. While conduct does not grasp the gravity of the abuse it does take a step away from the word ‘relationship’.

The changes to the definition of ‘carnal knowledge’ are clearly piecemeal and rushed. We need wholesale changes to this section of legislation to give clarity to sexual offences with children. I understand the legal history in Queensland but for victims and modernisation greater reform needs to be explored.

Evaluating measures will be particularly important for the cross-application changes. We know many victims are misidentified as the perpetrator, particularly those from a First Nation background. While we support this measure, it must be tightly monitored to ensure we are not further traumatising victims through misidentification.

I hold similar concerns for the resourcing of Legal Aid with the expansion of the class of protected witnesses. In *Hear her voice* systems abuse was well documented. Where there is a perpetrator who is unrepresented in court and is further exerting control over a victim through cross-examination it needs to be ruled out. However, given the lack of data on this, I am concerned that Legal Aid Queensland will have to wait until the problem appears before it will get assistance from the government. While I note the Attorney’s announcement of further funding, Women’s Legal Services has expressed the concerns they have about the strain this will put on their services when they are already not able to answer and respond to 30 per cent of inquiries. We know this will put additional strain on the system and if it leads to further delays it will create more trauma and potentially be a deterrent to victims coming forward. We call on the government to monitor and ensure that there are no gaps left.


There will also need to be additional resources for police. Any expansion of definitions leads to an increased need for resources to respond to that. *A call for change* was a sobering read. We know the majority of police are out there doing the right thing to protect and serve our community. It is concerning when we ask questions of the police minister about the current full-time-equivalent resources and recruit numbers that are not going in the right direction and we are introducing reforms such as that coming with coercive control that our already under pressure police resources will not be helped with this situation. The Queensland Police Union also stated that they envisage needing an extra 500 officers with the rollout of these reforms. We certainly need to support them as this task will be large. Without a doubt, this responsibility lies at the feet of the police minister but also lies with all of us when we are speaking with our local services.

As I said before, the LNP will support the amendments contained in the bill but it will mean nothing if there is no follow through. We call on the government to ensure that genuine action, genuine resourcing and genuine education is carried out and that they plan, deliver and evaluate so that we can ensure a safer Queensland for women and children.

If possible, I would like the Attorney to address the issues around the implementation supervisor. The *Hear her voice* recommendations outline the need for an implementation supervisor. There was an announcement late last year that someone had been appointed in an acting role. We would like clarification that a permanent appointment has been made because this tranche of reform and that which is to come will require that appointment to ensure the reform is carried out.

It was raised by victims who have grave concerns as we look to the additional stages of reforms regarding coercive control that proof beyond reasonable doubt is already challenging enough in the system when there is physical abuse, and at times horrendous physical abuse. There are real concerns that domestic violence legislation already addresses coercive control and that it has been very challenging for police to prosecute. We have seen that already with the strangulation laws. Without a doubt, what is raised by many across the state is that if this reform is not handled properly victims will be the ones who pay the ultimate price.

On behalf of the LNP, I acknowledge Sue and Lloyd Clarke. I also acknowledge the advocacy of Councillor Fiona Cunningham, who I know has worked very closely with the Clarke family. This is a milestone for their advocacy for their daughter, Hannah, and her three children. Let us remember that there is far more to do and that it sadly took such a graphic tragedy to occur in a suburban community to see action. It should not take so long.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (12.47 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. The bill was introduced into the Legislative Assembly and referred to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee for detailed consideration on 14 October 2022. The committee tabled report No. 39 on the inquiry on 25 November 2022, with two recommendations arising out of its examination of the bill.

The objectives of the bill are to: give effect to legislative reform in recommendations 52 to 60 and 63 to 66 of the Women’s Safety and Justice Taskforce in chapter 3.8 of its first report, *Hear her voice: report one—Addressing coercive control and domestic and family violence in Queensland*; modernise

and update sexual offence terminology in the Criminal Code in response to advocacy that the language appropriately reflects criminal conduct; address stakeholder concerns regarding the operation of the sexual assault counselling privilege framework in relation to the standing of counsellors and victims and alleged victims of sexual assault offences; amend the Youth Justice Act 1992 to provide specific mitigatory circumstances relating to domestic violence; amend the Coroners Act 2003 to remove the limitation upon the number of terms of reappointment of the State Coroner and the Deputy State Coroner; amend the Oaths Act 1867 to address issues that have arisen in the implementation of the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Act; and amend the Telecommunications Interception Act 2009 to enable the Public Interest Monitor to perform the role intended under the international production order scheme in relation to applications for interception.

The committee's first recommendation is that the bill be passed. Recommendation 2 is that the Queensland government develop a consistent evidence-based and trauma-informed framework to support training and education, change management across all parts of the DFV and justice system as soon as possible, and report back on its progress within 12 months of the tabling of this report.

The bill proposes to rename, modernise and strengthen the offence of unlawful stalking throughout chapter 33A of the Criminal Code and other legislation to 'unlawful stalking, intimidation, harassment or abuse'. The task force found that stalking and harassing behaviour towards victims, particularly the electronic surveillance of them and their children, was prevalent in circumstances of coercive control. The committee recommended broadening the type of offending captured by the offence to better reflect the way an offender might use modern technology in this regard, including capturing unlawful electronic surveillance and creating a non-exhaustive list of ways a person can be contacted by electronic and remote means. A number of the submitters supported proposed amendments to rename and modernise the offence of unlawful stalking. The current definition of domestic violence in the act is not clear with regard to the nature of coercive control. The bill amends the definitions of 'domestic violence', 'emotional or psychological abuse' and 'economic abuse' in the DFVP Act to include a reference to a pattern of behaviour.

The department acknowledged that an evidence-based and trauma-informed framework will be introduced across the justice system which is informed by people with lived experience and experts in the service sector, academia and policing, and that training and education for frontline services is being considered to ensure: that they are skilled in identifying a pattern of behaviour, specifically elements of coercive control; that the increased demand for Legal Aid, court and policing resources will be monitored and included in future budget considerations; and that a whole-of-government strategy and action plan is being developed to address concerns about disadvantage and discrimination.

At our public hearing on 17 November, the principal commissioner of the Queensland Family and Child Commissioner, Mr Luke Twyford, summarised the prevalence of domestic violence and coercive control when he said—

... there needs to be recognition that domestic and family violence, coercive control and stalking are not moments, they are not events and incidents that you respond to in a moment or in a half an hour; that each of those things has been built up in someone's life, both the perpetrator and the victim's life, over a long period of time, and that any response has to recognise that it is a long process; it is a journey that you have to take the perpetrator, the survivor victim and the children on.

It is important to test the committee's inclination for change. To not embrace the changes or recommendations in the *Hear her voice* report is to bury our heads in the sand. The harm that men have perpetrated, and continue to perpetrate, on women and children in our community cannot be underestimated. There will continue to be devastating consequences for families and communities if we ignore the issue. My personal view is that instances of domestic violence have not increased, but the willingness of aggrieved persons to come forward has increased. Aggrieved people believe that now they will be listened to because of the courage this government has shown to bring about real social change. This does not diminish the courage of the women who have come forward and those who continue to come forward to report incidents of domestic violence.

We know that it is also the responsibility of men to call out this behaviour. Men can no longer be passive bystanders to domestic violence they know about. They need to step up, speak out and draw attention to behaviour that puts women and girls at risk. While the police have been under intense scrutiny recently because of the behaviour of a few, the fact is that police have embraced change in this area of the law. They are calling out wrong behaviour from within their own ranks and accepting change as they review policy and protocols in how they respond to aggrieved people.

Everyone acknowledges that more education and funding are needed if we are to move forward with these reforms to make women and girls feel safe and able to call out domestic violence. I am proud to be part of a government that does not shy away from an issue that others considered too hard. The

government engaged with experts who had the knowledge, understanding and awareness of the trials and tribulations that families have been speaking out about. These experts encouraged the harmed, the vulnerable and the disenfranchised to share their stories. The experts worked with stakeholders and survivors to create a future built on the courage those women and girls displayed. I am proud to say that the government listened and it is acting.

I would like to pass on the committee's gratitude to the individuals, stakeholders and organisations who provided written submissions and shared their stories with us. I would also like to thank our parliamentary staff and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. I commend the bill to the House.



Mrs GERBER (Currumbin—LNP) (12.56 pm): 'The volume of my voice turned down almost to mute.' This is how one survivor described their experience with coercive control. 'Coercive control is silent for the most part. You are dismantled piece by piece. One day you look in the mirror and you don't know who you are,' another said. Domestic and family violence and coercive control are confronting. It is sickening, and we have a responsibility as parliamentarians to do everything in our power to protect victims from their abusers.

The experiences and stories that we heard as part of the committee process examining this bill really were confronting. The experiences of women and their children with coercive control simply should not happen in our society. Sharing these experiences can be incredibly difficult and traumatic to relive, and I want to begin by thanking every single person who made a submission with the intention of helping us put an end to domestic and family violence and coercive control in Queensland, to make our homes safer for everyone. Your willingness to share your experiences with the committee and the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce is extremely appreciated. It has helped the task force to produce two *Hear her voice* reports spanning 1,759 pages and 277 recommendations. Your contributions and your voices have been invaluable.

No community, it seems, is immune from the atrocities of domestic and family violence. Last month our Currumbin community experienced an incredible loss: the tragic and horrific death of Wendy Sleeman. I want to put on the record that our community will not forget Wendy Sleeman. On 29 January our community came together to honour Wendy's life and her memory. Wendy was a strong and generous woman. She was kind and had an enormous heart. She was funny. It was said that she was also stubborn and sacrificed so much. Wendy was a community hero. She was an integral part of the Autism Gold Coast foundation group and Gold Coast ASD Support Group. I want to read into the record what one of Wendy's friends said at the vigil because it is relevant to this bill and it is relevant to the state government's response to domestic and family violence. Monica said—

Until the government takes violence against women seriously—very seriously—we are always going to be in danger. People will not be safe. Wendy should not just be another statistic. Wendy, at last, my friend, you are safe. These tears are for me and for the sadness of a life taken so brutally and so soon. So Wendy, may you rest in peace.

The rate at which we see men, women and children die or suffer at the hands of domestic and family violence is far too high. We are not seeing the progress we need from this state government to keep them safe. We cannot fail any more women. We must not back down in our fight against domestic and family violence. The Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce handed down their first report 446 days ago. It took 316 days for the Attorney-General to refer this bill to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee.

Debate, on motion of Mrs Gerber, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Youth Crime



Mr CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): When governments give up on integrity, they give up on governing in the interests of Queenslanders. When governments are at war with themselves, they give up delivering good services for Queenslanders. When governments stop listening, oppositions are tasked with driving policy change for Queenslanders. I have no intention of making any commentary about any bills before this House, but I will speak about the LNP's position on breach of bail—

Government members interjected.

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

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will speak about the LNP's stance on breach of bail, a policy that has been founded by listening, reflecting and acting. It was in this House nearly two years ago that the member for Burdekin attempted to debate the idea of making breach of bail an offence in the Bail Act, and the government took a shine to it word for word.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Leader of the Opposition, I have been taking some advice in relation to the standing order that you are potentially offending, and you are coming very close to offending that standing order.

A government member interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not need any assistance. I know you are attempting to deliver your speech without offending the standing orders. I ask you to be very mindful of that standing order.

Mr CRISAFULLI: They are changes that are just the first of many steps in delivering the change that Queenslanders are yearning for—a change to feel safe in their homes, in their businesses, in their streets, with their families, with their friends. Overwhelmingly, as I listen to Queenslanders, they feel that the government has let them down, that the government has not listened and that the government has not been swift to act.

Mr Walker: Where are your policies?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members, you have all been here long enough to know that when I am on my feet the chamber comes to silence immediately. I will not tolerate that sort of behaviour again. You are interrupting your own member making his contribution.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Maybe the front bench does not have anything to fear after all. We have been here before. When the last round of rushed changes were here, we pointed out to the government where we thought things could be improved. Fast-forward a couple of years and time has shown our criticism and our observations on the policy that we pointed to—which was the GPS trackers—to be correct. Despite that, we will do all we can in the way we conduct ourselves inside and outside this House to let victims know that they have a voice and to let Queenslanders know that we believe in a society where you can go to work and come home and your rights get put ahead of the rights of offenders but a society where young people who deserve a second chance get one. That is going to be the hallmark of all we do in the months and years ahead.

I have sat and listened with victims and with the families of Queenslanders whose lives were cut short—people like the Fields and the Leadbetters; brave people who were with us this morning in the chamber like Ben Beaumont and Michelle Liddle; and people like Lee Lovell. Queenslanders rightly ask 'if only'—if only families were given the opportunity to cuddle a loved one just one more time. We have met and listened to brave Queenslanders—like Ben Cannon, who was prepared to go in to bat for a mate, and like Justin Bendall-Harris, a security guard in Townsville who was just doing his job when he was allegedly rammed by young teens in a stolen vehicle playing a game of cat and mouse.

We have met with people doing their job, like Danni, who the member for Southport and I spent some time with just last week. Danni is a migrant success story, someone who came to this country with little just to have a crack. She said to me, 'I don't want anything from the government. I don't want money; I don't want favours. I just want to be able to go home and be safe and come to work and not have to put up with what I'm putting up with.' That is not too much to ask. It was the same call from John in Toowoomba. It is across the state.

These are Queenslanders who are law-abiding citizens, who pay their taxes, and all they want is for the government to listen and acknowledge what is going on in the community and not say, 'We have the toughest laws,' when they are not, and not say, 'What we're doing is great,' when it is not. It is real. There is a conga line of people who want action. They do not want ministers to come and talk at them. They want to be listened to, and that is not too much to ask. The timing of this debate is something that would frustrate every member. For senior ministers today to try to rewrite history on the timing of this debate is disappointing. We repeatedly called for parliament to be recalled—and the crossbench joined us, I might add—because everyone else found it in their hearts to get back to work before the end of—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock while I take some advice. Leader of the Opposition, I know you are attempting to be careful about the matters that you are raising, but you are clearly dealing with issues that are subject to the bill so you are offending standing order 231. The matter has been

referred through to the committee. You will have an opportunity to debate this matter fully in the second reading debate and members of your party will be able to debate it when they participate in the committee process. I ask you to move beyond that to other parts of your contribution.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I wish to explain how serious the opposition views this though as an issue that needs to be dealt with.

Mr Harper: One trick pony.

Mr Power: This one.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, you will not use props.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Of all the people to interject, it is the member for Thuringowa—a region where for seven years we have seen the spiral of crime. The member said several years ago that he had had enough and he was not going to take it anymore. I am not sure what he is not taking anymore, but he certainly is not knocking back his salary. Of all the people who should not be interjecting, it is the member for Thuringowa, whose region is under siege.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr CRISAFULLI: I might say that this debate needs to be had in the fullness of the community while listening. I will say that there are a number of things that I intend to speak about, and we as a team intend to talk about, in a bid to arrest the youth crime epidemic gripping this state. I talk about the provision of detention as a last resort, a provision—

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Clayfield, member for Logan, you are both warned under the standing orders.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I talk about detention as a last resort because if we are serious about unshackling the judiciary, there is a provision that allows—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. The House will come to order. Leader of the Opposition, posing a question around an alternative policy to the bill is still talking about the bill. I bring you back to my earlier ruling that the speech was offending standing order 231 and ask you to move on.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I accept your ruling, Mr Deputy Speaker. I speak about the importance as a community to get serious about early intervention, about the need to give young kids help and give them hope, and that is important.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!


Mr CRISAFULLI: I wish to take the interjection and I will explain why. The members continue to try to walk both sides of the street by saying that things are working, 'but we are listening'; by saying that everything is A-OK, 'but we hear you that things are bad out there.' It does not work like that because I know in the government's heart they do not believe there is an epidemic out there because they have given up listening, because they see this as a political problem, not a law and order problem.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Resume your seat, please. I will have silence while I am taking advice, thanks. I am going to warn the members for Nanango and Lytton for quarrelling across the chamber.

Mr CRISAFULLI: At the heart of any good government is keeping its citizens safe—keeping its citizens safe. People want to know that they can go home after a hard day's work and be safe—be safe in the workplace, be safe at home. When governments give up listening, the safety of its citizens get put in harm's way. When governments give up listening, they are always too slow to act and Queenslanders pay the price. When governments give up listening, they stop consulting with the people who elect them. When governments give up listening, citizens run second to the political survival of the government. When governments give up listening, you know they are not the government they once were. This government has given up on listening, and every day more and more Queenslanders are giving up on this government.

Liberal National Party, Performance; Palaszczuk Labor Government

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure) (2.13 pm): I have to say that you have to feel for the poor Leader of the Opposition, do you not? There are a lot of reasons you have to feel for him, but I will give you one: two years and he has had one idea. One idea in two years. His one-point plan put 300 times. More than 300 times he has said we should bring back his one idea. You would think now that the government has found a way to implement his idea that will work—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Resume your seat. Deputy Premier, I know you were present for the previous speech. You are clearly anticipating debate on this bill. I will not tolerate it from any member, nor will anybody who is sitting in this chair.

Dr MILES: Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. You would think those opposite would accept this bipartisan attempt to take the politics—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: No! Pause the clock. Deputy Premier, you will cease anticipating the bill or I will sit you down. You will move on.

Dr MILES: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Bonney, you are warned.

Dr MILES: I am very happy to move onto other matters of the Leader of the Opposition's credibility because if he had the interest in integrity that he purported to have, then he would acquaint himself with the top two donors to the LNP because the second biggest donor to the LNP is a convicted fraudster, someone who took money, who took \$30,000 intended for flood victims in 2011. Someone who ran dodgy sausage sizzles in 2015 to raise money for disaster victims has donated \$240,000 to the LNP. It is possible even that some of those funds that the LNP received was actually donated and intended for flood victims. Then the Leader of the Opposition says he never heard of him. As common are known to do, he has some aliases, so it is possible that the Leader of the Opposition knows him by different names than those that have been used in the media. If the Leader of the Opposition had any credibility, he would return those funds to a reputable charity so that they could be distributed to actual flood victims, those for whom the funds were donated and raised for and should be contributed to. That is what you should do: deliver those funds to the flood victims. Take care of them in the way that this government is with the Resilient Homes Fund.


The Palaszczuk government's plans for Queensland are working. Our economic plan is delivering—

Opposition members interjected.

Dr MILES: They do not like to talk about unemployment or jobs. We have record low unemployment. We have record high exports. We have the biggest budget surplus in Queensland's history. The economy is booming. Thousands of people are moving to our great state for those jobs, for that economic activity and for our fantastic lifestyle.

We have a plan to bring manufacturing back to Queensland, creating jobs now. We have a plan to rebuild our hospitals, and there are hospitals being built now under our Health and Hospitals Plan. We have the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, the most ambitious renewable energy plan of any Australian state. We see other states copying our plan. It will deliver more solar, more wind, more batteries and more jobs. We will create the manufacturing jobs and opportunities here so that we are not importing all of those materials. We are making large-scale batteries in Maryborough. Ninety-five per cent of the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan will be invested in regional Queensland, seeing us achieve our ambitious targets right in time for Brisbane 2032, the Olympic and Paralympic games. Again, we have a fantastic plan to deliver a climate-positive games, one that will create affordable housing; that will deliver new infrastructure and new facilities for budding Queensland athletes.

Wellcamp, Future Use; Palaszczuk Labor Government

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.18 pm): I intently listened to the Deputy Premier talk about plans and I was waiting for him to tell us what the plan for Wellcamp was because I recall the Premier said her Deputy Premier was going to come up with some exciting things for Wellcamp. She said, 'You won't believe it. You wait! Get the popcorn out because this man has some exciting things happening with a \$220 million'—stay in the chamber! I have not finished. Stay!

The Premier said that the Deputy Premier has some great ideas. However, he had five minutes to tell us what they were but all he knows is \$220 million was wasted, and for what? Next month he will hand the keys back. The Premier flew over Wellcamp the other day in a private jet to land in Miles so she could attend the melon festival. She did not go to Toowoomba. She could have flown into Wellcamp quarantine facility at the aerodrome to talk to the Toowoomba residents about crime, but no. Do honourable members know why? It is because there's more melons than felons with this Labor government; that is what they are interested in. This mob—this Labor government—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Unparliamentary.

Mr BLEIJIE: I have not seen a more dysfunctional rabble since the dying days of the Anna Bligh government. That is what is happening. The backbench are getting nervous, and they ought to be.

The Premier did an interview the other day about her eight years in office. She did not do any TV sit-down interviews; she just did an interview with the *Courier-Mail* about her eight years in office and it was thankfully recorded and is available online. I would urge all honourable members, particularly the members for Pine Rivers and Pumicestone, to listen to the Premier's interview. In that interview the reporter Jack McKay asked the Premier, 'And your backbench, Premier? Are any promotions going to be happening in your backbench?', and the Premier flatly said, 'No.' What was the reason she said no? If we look at the backbench—and I agree—there is no talent; there is no prospect of promotion. It gets worse because the backbench who are now rebelling against the Labor government—their own side—would say, 'My God, if you can be the health minister like Minister D'Ath and get away with what she is doing, there is hope for me yet.' What a disgrace that you can be a minister like the health minister or the Deputy Premier earning nearly \$400,000 a year, be so incompetent, waste \$220 million at Wellcamp and keep your job. That is the Labor Party.

I love that in the interview the Premier was asked, 'Who would make a good Premier after you? Who would make a good Premier? Would Treasurer Dick make a good Premier?' The Premier said, 'He's doing a good job as Treasurer.' The Premier was asked again, 'But would he make a good Premier?' 'No, he's doing a really good job as Treasurer.' That is debatable. It means there is no prospect of ever seeing Treasurer Dick promoted to Premier.


Then she was asked about the Deputy Premier and the Premier said, 'He's doing a very good job as Deputy Premier.' What is more telling in this interview is that the Premier said, 'I am Premier. I am here to stay. I'm not going anywhere.' We see the arrogance and hubris again that has only been seen under Anna Bligh. There is so much *deja vu*; it is reminiscent of the dying days of the Bligh government—the arrogance, the hubris, the not listening to Queenslanders, the, 'I'm in charge. I'm doing what I want to do,' the fact that, in the Premier's words, 'No-one in the team, no-one in my whole cabinet or backbench, can do the job I'm doing, so I'm going to stay here forever to do it.' I say 'not if Queenslanders have a say', and they will next year. They will have a big say in that.

Those opposite talk about policies. The LNP is doing more governing from opposition than the Labor Party is doing from government. Learner's licence fees have been cut in half. They had to drag Minister Mark Bailey back from holidays to announce it. He did not know they were announcing it other than seeing it on the Premier's Instagram account. The patients tax has been kicked out for another two years. Then there is the renters tax and law and order.

We are continually seeing this Labor government copy the policies of the LNP. They are bereft of ideas. If it takes the LNP to keep driving reform in Queensland, so be it. We will do that because God knows the Labor Party has given up on Queenslanders.

(Time expired)

Skilling Queenslanders for Work

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.23 pm): After listening to that diatribe of mansplaining for five minutes, I want to point out one thing that the LNP could never deliver which makes a real difference to this state. That is the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, the program that they cut. Today we have been talking about programs that make a real difference in turning people's lives around and making sure they are breaking the cycle. I say that the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program is probably one of the most successful programs seen in Australia that changes young people's lives. I have seen it in my area.

In Deception Bay Skilling Queenslanders for Work at the neighbourhood centre has helped 962 people into employment; Movement TwentyTwo, 410 people into employment; and Community Youth Programs, now called Younity, 570 people into employment. The numbers are probably much higher.

These are on-the-ground, successful, community-based programs that are making a difference, breaking the cycle and turning people's lives around. That is one thing the LNP would never do and could never do. They never invested in our young people in our communities when they were in government and they will never do so again.

I want to talk a bit about how we got our successful community-based programs that take on these programs to break the cycle. Community Youth Programs started in Deception Bay over 25 years ago. There was a youth issue and it was pretty intense at night. A group of local people got together to hold barbecues at midnight so these young people could come and talk about their problems and build up that trust over many months. Once you have that trust, you can work with the young people and get them into programs. We started doing community programs to help those young people.

Then they decided to start programs for families, working with those families for young people. They extended what they did for young people to families. Finally, they started working at getting into employment and employment programs because that is what turns people's lives around. That is what helps break the cycle when there are programs that are working with young people and families to put them into work. That is one of the things that really changes lives and breaks the cycle.

Community Youth Programs also run the YAMBI program, which is funded by youth justice. They work with a variety of young people in every aspect of life, whether it be helping them get mental health plans or working with them to get the skills to get the job they need. In the last couple of weeks I visited a program they run called the Push! program. There was an issue with young people at the Deception Bay shopping centre, so the shopping centre provided a space for Younity. There are two men there—they are great role models for young people in the area—and they are working on bikes. These young people come down and they get a bike. It is like a professional workshop. They work on that bike and when their project is finished that bike is theirs. During that time they are liaising with other young people and engaging with Community Youth Programs and those really strong role models.

That is just one program run by an organisation that we are supporting. I want to applaud the work of the neighbourhood centre, Community Youth Programs—Younity—and Movement TwentyTwo. They are doing everything they can in our community to make sure young people and their families are not caught in that endless cycle. We are breaking that cycle.

One of the things we do fund—and we would never see the LNP doing this—is services that provide those wraparound services such as mental health, health and education. It is about working with the young people and their family to make sure every aspect of their life is being helped. They are also delivering those soft skills: turning up for work, having a shower, having a shave, making sure they turn up on time, learning how to write a resume and how to catch public transport. These things are all small things, but they are absolutely crucial if we are going to address those issues that many young people in our community face.

These are only some examples of the work we have been doing for years and years that has helped make a difference to tens of thousands of lives throughout our state. Over the coming years we will be seeing even more of an emphasis on these programs that are delivered because that is something we will never stop doing. We will never stop working with communities and young people to make sure they get the best start in life. We are not going to throw them on the scrap heap. We will make sure they have the skills to be productive Queenslanders for the future.

Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment, Performance



Mr JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (2.28 pm): The Treasurer has now established that he is a triple threat to the Queensland economy. If we were in musical theatre, that would be something worth celebrating. I do not know whether the Treasurer can sing or dance, but we know he certainly can act because he is acting and moonlighting as a Treasurer all too badly. What do I mean when I say that the Treasurer is a triple threat to the Queensland economy? He offers and has established threats domestically, nationally and internationally in just one year. He is a triple threat to the Queensland economy. Internationally, we have seen him offend Japanese investment in this state by an indiscriminate use of coal royalties.

Just today we have seen Blackwater being sold by BHP. There are real ramifications of the Treasurer's failure to get tax policy right. Nationally, he is a threat to the Queensland economy. To see this we need only look at his renters tax, which we saw abandoned by the Premier in the most embarrassing manner possible. Now over summer we have seen that he is a local threat to the Queensland economy as he wants to introduce a patients tax on people who can least afford it.

I am going to pick up on a refrain that the opposition leader used today when he talked about good governments and spoke about good treasurers. Good treasurers would not indiscriminately increase royalties without consultation with the industry. Good treasurers would not drive out investment and drive up rents in the middle of a housing crisis. Good treasurers would not drive up emergency presentations and drive down bulk-billing in the middle of a health crisis. I am certain that good treasurers would not make it more expensive to go and see your doctor in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis. He is not a good treasurer. We know that he is a bad treasurer, and it is the people of Queensland who will pay for it.

I am going to say one kind thing about the Treasurer today: he does understand the doctrine of the separation of powers. We saw him use some really interesting words during that bizarre week when minister after minister was trying to work out where they stood on the 'media stunt' comments by the Deputy Premier. We watched them all with bemusement as they were trying to get their heads around what they believed: 'Should we attack the judiciary or not?'

One other reason the Treasurer could counsel his frontbench colleagues is that he knows what it is like to be abandoned by the Premier. We saw the Premier abandon the Treasurer on the renters tax issue. I table a document.

Tabled paper: Cartoons by Lethbridge depicting the Premier and Treasurer regarding land tax [169].

We saw it again when the Treasurer was abandoned on the patients tax. We saw it last week in Toowoomba as the ministers who came to my city were abandoned by the Treasurer on breach of bail. Just a few days ago they were there defending the indefensible about breach of bail. They came to our city and ran a line which now has proven to be false. They have stolen our ideas, and we needed them to because we have had a crime crisis in Toowoomba for far too long.

Ms LINARD: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. He is once again anticipating debate on this particular issue, which is now a bill before the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I was about to pause the clock and have that exact conversation. Member, I believe that you are straying towards anticipating the debate. I would ask you to move on.

Mr JANETZKI: What there is no debate about is the death of 75-year-old Robert Brown in the main street outside the main shopping centre in Toowoomba.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Toowoomba South, I know that you have professional experience in this area. Can you assure me that that matter is not sub judice?

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I not asking for any assistance. I believe that those offenders are in custody, so there is obviously a charge. You can continue.

Mr JANETZKI: The member for Toowoomba North and I have spoken repeatedly in this House. There have been petitions, speeches and representations, and none of it is for nought. I pay tribute to the editorial position of the Toowoomba *Chronicle*, which stood up and went hard on this particular issue. I acknowledge that effort, because our community was crying out for somebody to speak for it, and now we have seen it.

I turn again to the crime forum. As we were sitting there listening to the government ministers—the local media raised it, the *Chronicle* raised it and my people continue to raise it—we had one overarching question: where was the Premier? In our moment of need, in our moment of crisis, when our community was crying out for leadership, the Premier was absent and remains absent. This government is completely lacking direction and is bereft of any leadership whatsoever.

(Time expired)

Path to Treaty



Mr McCALLUM (Bundamba—ALP) (2.35 pm): Last week we acknowledged the 15th anniversary of the national apology to the stolen generations, an act of great leadership, healing and reconciliation. It will forever remain a key moment in Australian history and a key moment in Australian First Nations history. This week Queensland will see a moment of equal, if not greater, significance—another act of leadership, healing and reconciliation—with the introduction of Queensland's first ever dedicated laws to treaty. There is no mistaking that this will be an incredibly historic moment for our state. It is a moment

that we have been building towards, as the Palaszczuk government has, here in Queensland, been walking towards a formal path to treaty since 2019. This is a path and a journey that we have been on for much longer and that has stretched back for over 200 years and it is a path and a journey whose final destination will be one of mutual joy, healing and respect between First Nations and non-First Nations Queenslanders—for all of us. It is going to recognise the over 60,000 years of continuous culture and connection to this land that we call Queensland.

We as humans naturally seek consensus. In my opinion, agreement and agreement making is intrinsic to us. We see examples of it everywhere every day, whether it is basic retail trade, workplace agreements or personal and family arrangements, right through to legal contracts. Our path towards treaty here in Queensland has included previous examples of agreement making with First Nations people. Indigenous land use agreements, cultural heritage management plans and native title are all significant and important precursors and milestones.

It is said that treaty will not be a journey for the faint-hearted—and that is no doubt true, but we are Queenslanders and we are stout of heart, we are generous of heart and we are generous of spirit. We look out for each other, we work together and we give each other a fair go. In Queensland, unlike any other jurisdiction in Australia, our path to treaty is a result of First Nations and non-First Nations Queenslanders working together.

There is great support and momentum here in Queensland, including in my local Bundamba community. Last Friday night I was holding a mobile office in Ebbw Vale and the issue of treaty and Voice came up a few times, mainly prompted by some corflutes that I had on display. One local voiced his support as a mark of respect for a dear friend of his and as a way of further closing the gap on Indigenous health outcomes. Then I was having a yarn about treaty and Voice with a local resident who holds an esteemed position as pro-vice-chancellor for one of our most prestigious academic institutions when another resident who was sitting at a nearby table and who must have been listening to our conversation said unprompted, 'Should have happened years ago.'

I was reflecting on that moment later that night and it made me recall a memory when many years ago as a young boy I would be driven around by my grandfather and as we drove around South-East Queensland he would point out the places that he was not allowed to go as a young man. He was not allowed in certain pubs or places of business—these are well-known places that are still around today—and it is a really sobering memory for me to recall that. I am thankful for my grandfather and all of our elders for their strength and guidance and I hope that they would be proud of the steps that we are taking now, just as I hope that the children of today and future generations who will be living the future afforded by treaty will look back and wonder, 'Why did it take so long?', because it is going to be enriching for all Queenslanders. Treaty means truth; it means respect. Treaty means healing, treaty means reconciliation and treaty means celebration for all of us.

Thalanga Mine, Closure; Dugald River Mine, Deaths



Mr KATTER (Traeger—KAP) (2.40 pm): I rise initially to speak of the death of a mine—Thalanga Mine in Charters Towers. Kerry Hyde, a close friend of mine, worked there for years and I have known many people who have worked there for years. It has operated for roughly 30 years and two forces combined—the receivers and government department—to ensure that it shut down. There will be no more mining of copper, lead or zinc in that region forever. It was a viable mine that had a processing plant. It was a big enough mine to sustain the processing plant. Now Waterloo, Lontown and many other leases that in the future would have been prosperous for Charters Towers have no chance because they do not have the plant there to deliver it to. The next closest is out in the north-west where I live.

That mine was closed down, but it was curious how it happened. There were 130 permanent employees plus contractors with 30 years of history and a good, viable outlook. FTI Consulting—from the infamy of Kagara zinc after it did a terrible job there and left all of the local workers and contractors unpaid—has come in again and, not surprisingly, has ripped out its big fee and none of the creditors will get paid and the mine is put straightaway as an abandoned mine. Even more curiously, Abandoned Mines within the department said, 'Thanks very much. Here's the access to that rehabilitation bond money that we've got. Let's just cancel the lease straightaway.' There were two viable buyers for that mine. Think about that: we are now going to be taking taxpayers' money to pay out the workers at Thalanga. There is not enough environmental bond to clean it up, so we will all again be paying for that. Instead, we could have had a mine. Two viable buyers did not even get a chance to make an offer before the consultants gave it to the Department of Resources as an abandoned mine. Now there is no

mine and no processing plant—I am told that it is going to be ripped to pieces and sold for scrap—and it is moving straight into rehabilitation. Again, we cannot develop any more of those products in Charters Towers in the future.


Some might think that 120 jobs is not very significant, but in Charters Towers it is. It is like a game of Jenga: when you pull one of the blocks out the whole economy can be unstable and a mine can be just the sort of thing that carries it through a down time. It is very significant and it is either real incompetence or undermining of an industry or just a government department callously grabbing hold of that money to the disbenefit of industry and Queenslanders. That needs an inquiry, an investigation and some scrutiny to analyse what has happened between FTI Consulting and Abandoned Mines within the department.

On a much more sombre note, I want to pay tribute after the loss of the two miners at Dugald River mine last week—Trevor Davis, who was 36, and Dylan Langridge, who was 33—who were fatally injured in the accident at Dugald River mine outside of Cloncurry in the Traeger electorate. On behalf of the people of Cloncurry and Traeger, my deepest condolences to their families, friends and colleagues. I know it has rattled many people. We have had other deaths before, but this has really rattled people. Many people are saying, ‘I went home to hug my husband because I can’t help but think.’ Again, another of my good friends said that they had worked the shift before that. They had just come off shift right before that accident.

We all know people down there and a lot of people are now thinking, ‘Crikey, this is a risky industry.’ I think it behoves all Queenslanders to be grateful for the jobs those miners do, because a lot of them are going to go back down that hole and other holes around Queensland this week knowing that those risks are there and that they may not go home to their families, and that is a big deal. They contribute a lot to our economy, so we should all be grateful for the job they do and all wish that they are safe. All of us individually promote safe attitudes in our workplace and those around us and within our electorates.

I want to thank the mines minister, who has been very responsive and gracious in keeping me well informed throughout the process of what was happening. I really appreciate that and I think it helped the whole situation. I again want to pay tribute to not just those two miners but all those miners who have lost their lives over the years contributing greatly to the state of Queensland. We have our 100-year celebration in Mount Isa this week. A great part of what Mount Isa has always been is mining and many lives have been lost in creating the wealth that has come out of there. In Queensland’s 150-year celebrations Mount Isa Mines was voted the most significant business in Queensland history, and that was not just about a company but all those workers who kept going down that hole to make the state that we have today. We should be grateful for that and hope more of them come home safely.

Path to Treaty

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (2.45 pm): I want to begin by acknowledging the First Nations people of the land on which we meet and pay my respects to their elders past, present and emerging. Queensland is home to two of the oldest richest living cultures in the world in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. I stand here today as a proud First Nations woman from the Kulkalgal nation of the Torres Strait and one of three First Nations members of parliament. Today I am giving my voice to my First Nations brothers and sisters across this state to speak to the Palaszczuk government’s bold commitment to establishing treaty or treaties with First Nations peoples in Queensland.


Path to Treaty is the journey to a new shared future between First Nations and non-Indigenous Queenslanders. The Queensland government started this conversation in 2019, with reconciliation, truth-telling and healing at the heart of the dialogue. The move towards Path to Treaty has been a long time coming and I applaud the Palaszczuk Labor government for its courage to enter a place where no other government in the history of this state has ever gone before. Treaty gives us the opportunity for truth-telling to set the record straight. When Australia was first discovered, it was not discovered on the basis of truth. Instead, the land was discovered and claimed terra nullius, translating to ‘no-man’s-land’. This ugly terminology set the foundations on which Australia was built upon and it was because of this terminology that our ancestors—my ancestors—faced their fate. Blood was shed. Families were torn apart, with children forcibly removed. Missions were set up and operated by churches. Culture was denied. While terra nullius gave new hope and opportunities for new settlement, severe trauma and pain formed the basis for First Nations people that would eventually be passed down over countless generations.

The very foundation that this country was built upon denied Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' right to be seen or heard. From that very first point of contact, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples existed as nobody on no-man's-land. Sadly, the recount of history gives us two very different recollections: the white history, one that portrays glory and achievement; and the other, the black history, one of great sadness and loss. I cannot fathom what my First Nations ancestors had to endure and today to our past, present and emerging I say, 'I hear you.'

I condemn every past government policy that stripped and debilitated our First Nations people. I condemn every past government policy that was created to segregate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from society. I condemn every past government policy that encouraged racial divide and hate in this state. We will never be able to rewrite the past; it is not possible. What is possible is embracing treaty to its fullest intent where we write a brand new chapter in our state's history that allows us to fully acknowledge and accept that Queensland has a dark history, that we make the ultimate commitment to focus on deep healing and that we continue to walk this path together and work that little bit harder to reconcile our history towards a more unified state—one with a shared history. It saddens me that people that are closest to my heart—my grandparents, my parents—were all affected by these hideous policies.

Today I represent all those who did not have a voice, standing in solidarity with our Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, and the Queensland Labor government on the right side of history to right the wrongs of the past. Treaty gives us hope for the future. I believe that treaty is the agent of change that will influence social, economic and political discourse for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. While I look to the past to give me strength and wisdom to do what is right, I want to fully embrace this moment as I look into the future to give hope for generations to come.

Bruce Highway

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (2.50 pm): One of the real benefits of being the shadow minister for main roads is driving on the highways and byways of this great state. Last Wednesday I flew up to Townsville, hired a car and over three days drove southwards from Townsville through to Mackay then down to Rocky. The specific purpose was to actually see firsthand the condition of the Bruce Highway. Pretty much every member in this chamber who has ever driven the Bruce Highway would know that there are particular sections that are absolutely woeful. The Minister for Transport and Main Roads—and if I just pick up one part of that title: Main Roads—has been in that particular role now for eight long years. Last year, with my learned colleague to my side, Dale Last, the member for Burdekin, I specifically travelled to the Bowen intersection on the Bruce Highway. When I was last there it was—and I think used the words at the time—like an apocalyptic scene out of *Mad Max*. It was absolutely atrocious. That was one of the big reasons why I went back there to have a look. What saddens me is that while it is true that there are roadworks being undertaken—and I am not a traffic engineer, but I had a good deep look—it appears as though yet again it is going to be screeded over, bituminised over and there is no flood resilience being built into it. I stand to be corrected but after the next significant rainfall event I know that when I go back up to that section of the Bruce Highway it will be pretty much back to where it was a few years ago. This is the recurring point. We seem to be throwing money after money, whether it be on the Bruce or any other highway. We are not taking the opportunity to do it right.


That was just the start of it. I spoke with the mayor, the deputy mayor, truck drivers and small business operators and to a person they all said you literally take your life into your own hands on certain parts of the Bruce Highway. It defies belief that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads has done away with the Bruce Highway Trust that was put together for the betterment of the Bruce Highway. That is not the only thing that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads has done away with. I asked a specific question about Driver Reviver centres. I cannot believe that last year we had one of the worst road tolls in living memory. It was absolutely terrible. It breaks my heart. The reality is that one of those contributing factors is people falling asleep at the wheel needing to be revived. If it was going to cost a million dollars to get some of these Driver Reviver centres back up to speed, why would the government not do it? The figure is around about half a billion dollars in fine detection revenue. We all know that is meant to be put towards road safety programs. Why would the Minister for Transport and Main Roads not use a million dollars to get those Driver Reviver centres up to speed.

The Minister for Transport and Main Roads must have had a shocking recent holiday because of, as we heard earlier, the learner licence fiasco. For week after week after week nothing was done. That is another example of government being run, incredibly, on this side of the chamber. That was another backflip that was done through good old fashioned people power. The bottom line is this is a

minister with a track record with Cross River Rail, which is a huge fail on many, many fronts. We have the Beams Road crossing. There is lots and lots of social media but not much happening—in fact, virtually zip. We have the Centenary Bridge duplication. There is nothing happening there as well. This is a minister who spends far more time on social media than actually spending time doing what I have done and drive the Bruce Highway or pick any other highway. Do not just fly in there and get chaperoned by staff. Hire a car, put the seatbelt on and go for a decent drive.

The other thing I will say in passing is this: my first destination was Townsville. I cannot believe that pretty much from the moment that I arrived to the moment that I drove south all I could hear were police sirens.

Thuringowa Electorate

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.55 pm): I am pleased to share with the House that we recently hosted the Premier in Townsville once again for the Australia Day flag raising ceremony. Our Premier made a commitment in 2015 to come back each year to North Queensland. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the many defence personnel who make that flag raising event such a success for our community. The Governor of Queensland attended as well. This event brings together members of our proud community and our defence personnel who perform an outstanding parade concluding with a 21-gun salute from our Strand headlands at Jezzine Barracks. I particularly enjoy this annual occasion as it is just another opportunity, as the local member for Thuringowa, to join the Premier to announce the 2020 election commitments and perhaps even get a further commitment for my electorate as well.

I joined the Premier at the site of the 1300SMILES stadium which is all but gone with the extensive demolition due to conclude soon. Then we visited the Kirwan Health Campus for another health announcement. I am pleased the police minister is in the House today because he knows that in 2020 our government made an election commitment of \$30 million—and I thank the minister—towards the new Kirwan police station to be located at the former site of the Cowboys' home stadium. Thanks to the minister and the Premier it is now closer to \$100 million as the Premier announced the site will be home to the brand new Police Academy as well. The old academy is well past its due date. It is almost 50 years old. Our hardworking police deserve new facilities. We are very proud of our North Queensland police facility, one that the LNP wanted to sell. This new site will bring together other units of the Queensland Police Service including the Rapid Action Patrol hub, Tactical Crime Unit, Policelink, of course the Police Academy and the hardworking officers of Kirwan station to their new home. Essentially, we will have hundreds of police located in Kirwan in the electorate of Thuringowa making our community safer.

I commend Acting Deputy Commissioner Mark Wheeler and his entire senior leadership team for their recent high-visibility activities in our city. Last year I made direct representations to the Minister for Police to do a pre-emptive police operation to counter crime in my community and that resulted in Operation Uniform Theta. It resulted in hundreds of arrests and charges in Thuringowa. Specifically, at a local level I approached the OIC of Kirwan to increase the police presence and patrols at the Willows Shopping Centre over the Christmas break. The feedback I received directly from constituents and business owners was that there was an increased feeling of safety. We had the new mobile police beat—another asset delivered to our community, thank you, Minister—due to that high activity over the Christmas school holidays. I take this opportunity to congratulate the new officer in charge of Kirwan station, Matt Lyons, who has the welfare of his officers as one of his highest priorities. I will also ensure through my representations to the minister that the staff have input into the design of the new police facility. I know Matt well. He was a former leader of the Townsville Stronger Communities Action Group.


This commitment builds upon my track record of delivering new facilities in Thuringowa for police and emergency services. In 2018 we opened the Upper Ross police facility, boosting staff numbers up there to 10. We have delivered more police in Kirwan. This is in stark contrast to the LNP who sacked police in Townsville, cut their operating budget and lowered police numbers under the former Newman LNP government of which the opposition leader was a member before, of course, he cut and ran to the Gold Coast. We back our police; we do not sack our police.

All ageing infrastructure has an end of life—there are a couple on the other side I could probably refer to—and the current police academy at Rowes Bay has dutifully served its purpose. It is now time to deliver a brand new facility for our hardworking Queensland police officers, one that is fit for purpose, to continue the proud tradition of training new recruits in our North Queensland academy. Many of those officers will set their careers in communities throughout Northern Queensland.

Of course, the North Queensland Cowboys have a great interest in the site as it is their former home. The initial designs for where the parade ground will be, which we saw displayed when the Premier made the announcement, give a nod to the old site. I am working very closely with the CEO of the North Queensland Cowboys, Jeff Reibel, to see if we can get some community consultation happening around naming, perhaps involving the names of former coaches and players. It is going to be a great facility. We back police in Townsville and I will continue to fight for more in Thuringowa.

POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (3.00 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Drugs Misuse Act 1986, the Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990, the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the Police Service Administration Act 1990, the Youth Justice Act 1992 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 [\[170\]](#).

Tabled paper: Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, explanatory notes [\[171\]](#).

Tabled paper: Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[172\]](#).

The amendments in this bill have been requested by the Queensland Police Service and implement a commonsense change to the criminal justice response to minor illicit drug use in Queensland. Commissioner Katarina Carroll said—

I wanted this reform because research shows that if you divert people early to health and education services they are less likely to reoffend.

And I know that my esteemed predecessors as Police Commissioner also wholeheartedly back this reform.

It just makes sense.

She went on to say—

Police will continue their tough enforcement action in taking dangerous drugs off the streets of Queensland.

Saving police time by expanding drug diversion for minor offences would enable officers to target drug manufacturers and traffickers domestically and internationally.

We know that one in six Australians has used an illicit drug in the past 12 months and that a small proportion will develop a substance abuse disorder. Sadly, those who do develop an addiction suffer the unfulfilled potential, poor health outcomes and broken relationships that so often accompany that struggle. The expanded police drug diversion program proposed by the Queensland Police Service and established by this bill will help to prevent people developing a substance abuse disorder.

The statistics clearly show that police drug diversion programs result in the majority of those individuals never again having contact with police. The Queensland Police Service estimates that more than 17,000 minor drug offenders will be eligible for the new police drug diversion program in year 1 of implementation. That is 17,000 opportunities to prevent someone from developing a substance abuse disorder. The enormity of those opportunities will undoubtedly be life-changing for many Queensland families. Equally important are the experiences of our frontline workers who deal daily with the consequences of drug use and the impact it has, both on individuals and the community.

It is those experiences that focus our attention on finding a better approach—a better approach that connects people who use illicit drugs with the help they need; an approach that gives hope to the many Queenslanders concerned about the drug use of a loved one, and their son, daughter, sister or friend might find that help; an approach that relieves the pressure on our criminal justice system and allows our police to focus their attention on people who seek to profit from the suffering of others by producing, supplying and trafficking dangerous drugs.

It is an evidence-based approach that has broad support from those who know best. The concept of diversion is supported by health experts, including the Australian Medical Association Queensland. The AMAQ has publicly called for the expansion of the police drug diversion program and has taken

the position that substance use should be treated as a health issue to address the underlying causes of substance use and encourage help-seeking behaviours. The expansion of the police drug diversion program is also supported by Dr Erin Lalor of the Alcohol and Drug Foundation and Rebecca Lang of the Queensland Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies. I commend them for their very strong advocacy on this issue.

Importantly, this reform is supported by the police. Police Commissioner Katarina Carroll has asked the government to progress this reform because the research shows that if you divert people early to health and education services then they are less likely to reoffend. Indeed, it is supported by every Queensland-based former police commissioner in the post-Fitzgerald era. Jim O'Sullivan, Bob Atkinson and Ian Stewart all publicly support this proposal. In addition, former Corrective Services commissioner Professor Peter Martin and former Australian Federal Police commissioner Mick Palmer support the proposal.

The government has listened to the evidence and the experts, and this bill delivers on that advice. Under the existing law, when police come into contact with a person in possession of a small amount of cannabis, they can divert the person to a drug diversion assessment program. A drug diversion assessment program provides drug users with tailored education and counselling and, where appropriate, the person is connected with further treatment. It is a successful program. We know that the majority of people who are diverted from the criminal justice system for possession of cannabis are never again dealt with by police. However, the existing program is limited.

Currently in Queensland, drug diversion is available only with respect to the possession of small amounts of cannabis and things used in the smoking of cannabis. Currently, prosecution remains the only option available to police to deal with offences relating to the possession of a small quantity of any other dangerous drug, the possession of anything used in the administration of such drugs or the misuse of pharmaceuticals. This bill will expand the existing drug diversion framework to make it available with respect to minor drug offences involving the full spectrum of illicit drugs and the unlawful possession of pharmaceuticals.

It is the intention of the government that drug diversion be available only to people who are in possession of dangerous drugs for their personal use and in circumstances where the possession does not have a nexus with other criminal offending. For that reason, the bill places limits on the operation of the framework. The bill provides that drug diversion will not be offered unless a police officer reasonably believes that the drugs possessed are for the person's personal use. Subordinate legislation will also set limits on the quantity of drugs to which the diversion framework will apply. Further, people who have been previously sentenced to imprisonment for serious drug crimes will not be eligible, even if they are in possession of drugs for their personal use. Importantly, where the offence is committed in connection with another indictable offence diversion will also not be available.

The bill establishes three tiers of diversion. When police first deal with an eligible person who has committed a minor drug offence they will deal with them by way of a drug diversion warning with the option of a police referral. If the person is dealt with on a second and third occasion then the person will be offered a drug diversion assessment program as an alternative to being prosecuted for the offence. If the person agrees to the offer they must sign an agreement to participate in and complete a drug diversion assessment program. The person will be required to participate and complete the agreement and, as is the case with the existing diversion framework, if the person fails to complete the assessment then they will commit an offence pursuant to section 791 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000. The bill also amends the Youth Justice Act 1992 so that the expanded diversion framework can be considered amongst a range of diversion options that are currently available to police when dealing with a young person for a minor drug offence.

While this government is committed to providing Queenslanders who are struggling with drug addiction with the health interventions they need, we are equally committed to ensuring that those who trade in the misery of others—the people trafficking in dangerous drugs—are punished. That is why this bill amends the Drugs Misuse Act 1986 to increase the maximum penalty for the offence of trafficking dangerous drugs from 25 years to life imprisonment. This amendment is intended to send an unequivocal message: if you profit from the addiction of others then you should expect to go to jail for a long time. The trafficking of dangerous drugs causes serious harm to individuals and the community alike. It must be met with a punishment that is equal to the harm.

This bill also contains amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act to introduce other community safety initiatives like a circumstance of aggravation for evasion offences. An evasion offence is committed where the driver of a motor vehicle fails to stop when directed to do so by a police

officer. Evading the police is a serious offence. It undermines the capacity of police to enforce the law. It is a category of offence that is often committed in circumstances that are also inherently dangerous and in circumstances where other offending is involved.

The bill will introduce a circumstance of aggravation for this offence. The circumstances of aggravation will include: where the offence is committed at night; where the offence is committed with threatened or actual violence; where the offence is committed whilst being or pretending to be armed; where the offence is committed in company with one or more others; where the offence is committed when there is damage or attempted damage to property; or when the offence is committed where the person committing the offence has relevant convictions. Where the circumstance of aggravation applies, the person will be liable to five years imprisonment.

The bill amends the Police Service Administration Act to make it clear also that executive officers can be appointed to a rank as well as to a position. Executive officers are a small cohort of police officers at the rank of deputy commissioner and assistant commissioner. Executive officers lead and manage significant components of the Queensland Police Service. The nature of their role requires a degree of flexibility and responsiveness to the strategic needs of the Queensland Police Service. For that reason, the bill amends the Police Service Administration Act to make it clear that such officers can be appointed to the rank of deputy commissioner or assistant commissioner as opposed to a specific position at that rank.

Another objective of the bill is to support the effectiveness of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services by amending the Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990. Currently, it is an offence for an individual to obstruct a person performing functions under the Fire and Emergency Services Act if the individual has first been warned that their conduct constitutes an obstruction. The definition of 'obstruct' includes assault as well as other acts—for example, hinder, resist or threaten—however, it is not considered necessary to warn an individual that it is an offence to commit an assault against a person who is performing a function or exerting a power under the Fire and Emergency Services Act. Therefore, the amendments provide a separate assault offence in the Fire and Emergency Services Act which will not require a warning in an instance of an assault; nor will a person be able to claim that they had a reasonable excuse for an assault, as they currently can for an obstruction.

An amendment will also provide for a regulation to prescribe certain matters about requests for notices prohibiting the lighting of fires or applications for permits to light fires made under sections 64 and 65 of the Fire and Emergency Services Act. In the interests of community safety I commend this bill to the House, and I encourage all members to support it.

First Reading

Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (3.12 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


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

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PROTECTION (COMBATING COERCIVE CONTROL) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 49, on motion of Ms Fentiman—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (3.13 pm), continuing: The Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce handed down its first report 446 days ago, it took 316 days for the Attorney-General to refer this bill to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, and it has now been 88 days since the committee

handed down its report recommending that the bill be passed. This government has been far too slow to act. There is a dire need for the Labor government to get its act together and make genuine progress towards making our state safer for everyone. In fact, since 2015 we have seen close to 400 recommendations put to this government to prevent domestic and family violence and improve responses to it in the community.

This government is good at making announcements, but its track record on action is abysmal. Take for example the duplication of recommendations. The government makes an announcement and fails to follow through, so the same recommendation has to be made again. Look at recommendations 88 and 89 of *Hear her voice: report one*. These recommend an independent implementation supervisor who could ensure the effective rollout of the recommendations from the *Hear her voice* report, but almost a year later the government's lack of action in implementing this recommendation was called out, including in the commission of inquiry into the Queensland Police Service's response to domestic and family violence, *A call for change*. Even then, instead of actually taking action, establishing the role and announcing an independent implementation supervisor to ensure the effective rollout of the *Hear her voice* recommendations, the government chose to cut corners and introduce an acting role, all to cover up its complete inaction in the first place.

There are hundreds of recommendations, various duplications and little to no evaluation measures. What can we expect after eight years of ineffective leadership from this state government? It is not just the opposition saying this. The Queensland Audit Office report *Keeping people safe from domestic and family violence*, released on 10 November 2022, found that the government does very little assessment and evaluation of its measures—meaning it does not know what is working and what is not, meaning it does not know what resources it needs and meaning it does not know what is helping Queenslanders and what is not.

Without meaningful evaluations to ensure potential issues are identified and addressed early, how can we expect real progress to be made? This is especially relevant with the bill before us, given the concerns raised about the unintended consequences of a number of reforms raised by stakeholders throughout the committee process. The LNP will always support legislation to protect Queenslanders—and that is the intent of this bill—but it is necessary to share some of the concerns raised by stakeholders.

One of the most debated issues during the committee process was the modernisation of the sexual offence terminology. Currently, section 6 of the Criminal Code uses the terminology 'carnal knowledge'. This bill proposes to amend this to 'penile intercourse'. The government has suggested that this change brings Queensland into closer alignment with all other states and territories as none of them utilises the term 'carnal knowledge'. During the committee process we heard that no other Australian jurisdiction uses the term 'penile intercourse' either. In fact, across other jurisdictions we see terminology that ranges from 'sexual abuse' to 'sexual penetration' and 'sexual intercourse'.

The Queensland Law Society also raised a concern during the committee hearing around the discriminatory potential of the term 'penile intercourse'. The Queensland Law Society stated that the necessity for penile penetration in these offences is out of step with every other Australian jurisdiction, all of which have 'replaced the suite of offences using the term "carnal knowledge" with ... language that captures a broader scope of conduct'. This broader scope of conduct includes penetration by a penis, the body part of a person other than a penis or an object. The Queensland Sexual Assault Network also holds similar views. Its submission states—


QSAN agrees with the need to modernise and update sexual offence terminology but unfortunately, we do not agree with the amendments in the bill.

We note the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce recommended the modernising of the language concerning the offences of maintaining and carnal knowledge ... but we note there was no consultation on the specific wording of these amendments.

This submission was also supported by the Queensland Domestic Violence Services Network and Full Stop Australia. My colleagues on this side of the House agree that we need to modernise sexual offence language, but we need to get that language right. Many submitters are concerned that calling sexual abuse 'sexual conduct' in the bill and section 229B of the Criminal Code continuing to be worded as 'maintaining a sexual relationship with a child' sanitises what the behaviour actually is. It is not conduct; it is abuse. Sexually abusing a child is not having a relationship with a child; it is abuse of a child. Submitters were concerned that the language used inadvertently suppresses the damaging effects that sexual abuse has on the survivor, especially when that survivor is a child. Legislation must prioritise the wellbeing of survivors while ensuring we do not undermine the chance of a successful prosecution.

The LNP supports the modernisation of sexual offence language and we must get that language right. We cannot continue to sanitise offences to be more palatable or less offensive. As a former prosecutor I understand that we cannot undermine the chance of a successful prosecution, but there is a middle ground there and I do not know whether the state government has found that yet.

Adding to this are the Caxton Legal Centre's concerns with the wording of the provision determining who is most in need of protection in a relevant relationship. All of these concerns around terminology and language need greater consideration from the state government. Domestic and family violence is intolerable and we must do everything in our power to protect Queenslanders from it. In my view, this state government has been too slow to follow through with recommendations to ensure that we have the most effective response possible. These changes in this bill will only be as good as the ability of this government to carry them out and monitor them. To date we have seen a failure in relation to the government to monitor its own effectiveness and to carry out recommendations. We need action.

 **Mr HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (3.20 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 introduced on 14 October 2022 by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence and referred to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee. The bill seeks to give effect to legislative reform in recommendations 52 to 60 and 63 to 66 of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce in Chapter 3.8 of its first report, *Hear her voice: report one—Addressing coercive control and domestic and family violence in Queensland*.

The secretariat, as always, worked extraordinarily hard to support, administer and collate the work of the committee, and for that I thank them. Similarly, I would also thank my fellow committee members: committee chair, Peter Russo, the member for Toohey; Jonty Bush, the member for Cooper; Jon Krause, the member for Scenic Rim; Laura Gerber, the member for Currumbin; and the effervescent Sandy Bolton, the member for Noosa. This was an extremely important body of work and the attitude and approach of the entire committee reflected this.

Consequently, the committee made two recommendations. Recommendation 1 was that the bill be passed. Recommendation 2 was that the Queensland government develops a consistent evidence-based and trauma-informed framework to support training and education and change management across all parts of the domestic and family violence and justice system as soon as possible and reports back on its progress within 12 months of the tabling of this report.

Coercive control constitutes a pattern of behaviour perpetrated against a person to create a climate of fear, isolation, intimidation and humiliation. It is an intrinsic part of domestic and family violence. While it is almost always a precursor to the horrors that follow, it also demonstrates that a woman can be the victim of domestic and family violence for a hideously long time before the behaviour spills over into physicality. I use the term 'woman' quite deliberately as the great balance of this violence, particularly if it escalates to serious assault or death, is usually perpetrated by men against women. Those who bristle at this fact or are uncomfortable with emphasis are, in my view, an impediment to improvement.

In 2021 the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce was established to examine coercive control and review the need for a specific offence of domestic violence and the experience of women across the criminal justice system. The task force recommended the creation of a new standalone offence of coercive control. However, it also made it clear that, prior to the introduction of a standalone offence, system-wide reform was needed to ensure sufficient services and supports are in place across the domestic and family violence service and justice systems, along with critical amendments to existing legislation which should be implemented immediately.

This includes that the system needs to respond better to coercive control through a shift from focusing on responding to single incidents of violence to focusing on the pattern of abusive behaviour that occurs over time. To that end, the bill proposes to rename the offence of unlawful stalking throughout chapter 33A of the Criminal Code and in other legislation to 'unlawful stalking, intimidation, harassment or abuse' and modernise the offence by broadening the type of offending captured by the offence. It is to this crucial improvement that I would like to devote most of my time.

While most submitters supported the proposed amendments to rename and modernise the offence of unlawful stalking to include unlawful harassment, intimidation and abuse, particularly in relation to capturing the use of technology to facilitate this behaviour, the Women's Legal Service suggested either leaving the term 'unlawful stalking' as it is in the heading and title of the section and including the words 'intimidation, harassment or abuse' in section 359B(c) or explicitly including a subsection which clarifies that the heading is not intended to limit the operation of the section.

Similarly, the QPU, the Queensland Police Union of Employees, contended that the amendments to restraining orders would increase policing hours with greater breach and/or contraventions of the orders, requiring police to investigate and substantiate matters. Clause 23 would increase the complexity of restraining order proceedings, particularly in cases where there was no existing order, which would fall on police to enforce and explain, requiring additional training and expertise within the police service to manage. Despite these very reasonable concerns, I believe that the central intention of the bill remains excellent and will help to deliver a large measure of safety for Queensland women by ensuring these perpetrators are held to account and captured by a much broader and more modern application of intent.

The additional conduct that will be captured by the offence of unlawful stalking, intimidation, harassment or abuse will include: contacting a person in any way using any technology and over any distance, including but not limited to contact by telephone, mail, fax, SMS message, email, an app on a computer or smartphone or other electronic device, or on social media; monitoring, tracking or surveilling a person's movements, activities or interpersonal associations without the person's consent, including through the use of technology; publishing offensive material on a website, social media platform or online social network in a way that will be found by, or brought to the attention of, a person; giving offensive material either directly or indirectly to a person, including by using a website, social media platform or online social network; and a threatening, humiliating or abusive act against a person whether or not involving violence or the threat of violence, with an example of that conduct being the publishing a person's personal information.

Other changes include an update of the language used for particular offences. The bill replaces the term 'carnal knowledge', which is utilised in sexual offences across the Criminal Code, with 'penile intercourse'. The term 'penile intercourse' is ascribed the same definition as 'carnal knowledge' and is therefore not intended to alter the concept of carnal knowledge as it has been applied to date in Queensland. I believe this change more accurately captures the nature of offending of this type.

Additionally, the bill changes the title of section 229B of the Criminal Code from 'Maintaining a sexual relationship with a child' to 'Repeated sexual conduct with a child'. Let us be very clear, offending of this nature does not involve a relationship, with all that the word implies; it is abuse, plain and simple, so let us label it as such.

I close by making some broader observations about the nature of the challenges facing women upon which these amendments will rest. Domestic and family violence should not ever be characterised as a women's issue. Be under no misapprehension, it is a men's issue and it always has been. It is a men's issue because it is overwhelmingly perpetrated by men against women, and it is for that reason that the primary share of work and resources must be directed to that area.

It is a men's issue because, appallingly, there are still members of society who seem obsessed with victim blaming or with gender roles that are at best outdated and at worst down right fatal for women in that they reinforce inequity and the toxic behaviour that it fosters. It is vital that every man in this chamber and every man outside this chamber in a position of power or influence embraces the fact that this is a men's issue.

The victim's behaviour is not the issue here, the perpetrator's behaviour is what must change. We, the men in this chamber, have to confront this head on and force that change. Not only do we need to challenge the incidents of bad behaviour; we also need to call out the patriarchal gender-entrenched attitudes that actually cultivate coercive control because they are legion and they are still all pervasive in our society.

If you are one of those who throw your head back and sigh 'not all men' then you are not seeing the whole picture, because all men—yes, all men—have to be on board with the shift in thinking that is needed. Men have the fundamental tenets of humanity within them and should not need to have a daughter to know that this pattern of behaviour is wrong. We men must stop making excuses. We must stop looking for societal loopholes to excuse coercive control.

On a personal note, gentlemen, could I just note: please stop using the term 'woke' as a pejorative and learn what it actually means. Because until you do you are contributing to a bigger problem, thus slowing down mechanisms for urgently needed change. I commend this bill to the House in the hope that it will trigger a wider discussion that every man in Queensland needs to be part of.



Ms BOLTON (Noosa—Ind) (3.30 pm): The Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 brings in changes to the Criminal Code to address coercive control, which is defined as a pattern of behaviour perpetrated against a person to

create a climate of fear, isolation, intimidation and humiliation. This is an important reform that addresses a real and urgent need in the community. It comes after the tragic death of Hannah Clarke and her three children and the formation of the Small Steps 4 Hannah Foundation by her parents Sue and Lloyd, who have campaigned tirelessly for these laws around Australia.

Support for this legislative change has been extensive, from victims and their loved ones to organisations such as the Women's Legal Service of Queensland and Ending Violence Against Women Queensland. No to Violence stated that the bill—

... has the potential to form improved responses to family and domestic violence, by better defining the extent of its totality, reflecting the lived experience of victim-survivors, and providing improved recognition of the behaviour, tools and tactics applied by men who use violence.

The bill will amend the Criminal Code and rename 'unlawful stalking' to 'unlawful stalking, intimidation, harassment and abuse'. It will expand the definition to include contacting a person using technology such as SMS, monitoring or tracking a person's movements, publishing offensive material and threatening, humiliating or abusive acts against a person, including publishing their personal information online. The bill also updates enforcement mechanisms for these offences and updates some language in domestic violence legislation. All of these changes represent a real and important shift in domestic violence laws and the government is to be commended; however, there were some submitter concerns and within the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee's report I provided a statement of reservation on these.

Firstly, a key issue that arose during the committee's inquiry was the issue of funding. While I recognise that the government has recently introduced funding for women in the criminal justice system and victims of domestic and family violence, that funding is not specifically for coercive control. Two main budget items were identified by a number of stakeholders, including the Queensland Police Union and Legal Aid Queensland.


There will be impacts on the criminal justice system as a result of the increased number of cases this bill may bring about as well as increasingly complex cases. This will result in police needing more resources for training and evidence gathering for these more complex cases. This will flow through to the Director of Public Prosecutions and Legal Aid Queensland as well as organisations supporting Queenslanders in the justice system. The Queensland Police Union estimated that 500 extra police would be required. Micah Projects, a not-for-profit organisation providing services and support to individuals and families, submitted that leadership at all levels of the Queensland Police Service and courts must reinforce that DFV is a major crime. This requires strategic and effective policing and legal responses to reduce harm and prevent its occurrence, and police and criminal justice system personnel must be adequately and routinely trained in patterns of coercive control.

Secondly, given the lack of general understanding of what coercive control is and the pattern of behaviour the offence refers to, the community will require extensive age-appropriate and culturally relevant education campaigns. As put forward by Multicultural Australia, with the great diversity in cultural norms in relationships the types of education and capacity building required will need to be tailored to those communities. The bill also proposes new terminology for certain domestic and family violence offences. Knowmore, a not-for-profit organisation that provides legal advice for survivors, strongly supported the bill's objectives to modernise and update sexual offence terminology in the Criminal Code, as the language currently used does not reflect a contemporary understanding of the nature and impact of sexual violence, especially violence against children. However, the change from 'carnal knowledge' to 'penile intercourse' generated some opposition from stakeholders, who said it was not a suitable term and should be gender-neutral. The department's response was that it was the best available given the need to keep the meaning of the term the same. The Queensland Law Society stated they do not support amending the definition of 'carnal knowledge' without also reviewing its use throughout the Criminal Code, which would have been an appropriate approach.

As has been observed, the examination of this bill has had its complexities and has been made especially difficult again given the time frames, which were inadequate for legislation this important. It should be remembered that six weeks is the minimum and should not be the standard. With so many issues being raised by stakeholders that have not been sufficiently addressed by government responses, it is important not to dilute the powerful efforts of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce and the recommendations of its *Hear her voice* report. For this reason, the government must confer with stakeholders via the existing Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce to monitor the implementation of this legislation, quickly identify any shortfalls in resources or unintended consequences, provide feedback in the development of revised offences and terminology, and provide advice to the minister

and the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee at the 12- and 24-month marks after the legislation comes into effect. As one submitter stated, a lack of resources could see the intent of this bill fail, and that is not an option.

In closing, I would like to express my deep gratitude to the minister and the department, our chair and my fellow members of the committee for their work on this bill throughout the year, sometimes in challenging environments. I would also like to thank our secretariat for doing an outstanding job in all ways. More specifically, I express my gratitude to all submitters and witnesses in the inquiry into this bill for sharing heart-rending realities and assisting us in so many ways, including our youngest submitter, Amelia, a brave 16-year-old student, who is truly inspirational. To the Clarke family and all those impacted by domestic and family violence: may this bill deliver greater safety for our loved ones and may your strength embolden others to come forward to see an end to what should never, ever be perpetrated by those we trust. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (3.37 pm): I also stand to support the coercive control bill. As a woman, I cannot help but reflect on this bill from a gendered perspective—from a woman's perspective and my own lived experience of how even the threat of domestic violence has shaped my life. Many women I know and have known throughout my life would have experienced some sort of behaviour at the hands of their partner that would fit within the definition of 'domestic violence'. In fact, if I had a dollar for every time I have heard the remark, 'At least he doesn't hit me,' I would be a wealthy woman. 'He calls me names, but at least he doesn't hit me.' 'He puts me down, but at least he doesn't hit me.' 'He tells the kids I'm useless, he gives me the silent treatment if we don't have sex, he won't let me go on birth control, he monitors what I eat, he doesn't like my friends, he takes my salary and gives me an allowance instead, he threatens to harm himself if I leave, he tells me I'm unlovable—but hey, at least he doesn't hit me.'

We know that domestic violence occurs on a much greater spectrum than physical violence and that it encompasses social, economic and psychological acts. As humans, community members and legislators, we have to do better than setting the standard of behaviour so low that a woman will continue to stay in a toxic, destructive and dangerous relationship simply because she has not yet been hit. We have to get better at recognising coercive control—the pattern of behaviours perpetrated against a person to create a climate of fear, isolation, intimidation and humiliation.

I am really proud to be part of a Labor government that has committed the focus and the resources towards better understanding a woman's experience of violence and looking at ways to improve the victim's experience of the criminal justice system. I have sat in this chamber today and listened to the debate that has been occurring, and I have been thoroughly confused by some of the comments made by members opposite around a lack of action. For me, in the two years that I have been here, I have seen nothing but action in this space. I acknowledge that there is always work to do—there will always be emerging issues and the work will never be done—but I have seen nothing but action. We convened an independent task force that travelled the length and breadth of this state speaking to hundreds of victims—not just victims from my community, but victims from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and multicultural communities and from women with a disability. Over 700 submissions were received, nearly 200 recommendations were made and nearly \$500 million has been committed in two years.

We have had a commission of inquiry into police responses to domestic and family violence. That was not an easy task to undertake but we did it anyway. We have a women's strategy that puts women's economic participation at the centre of what it seeks to achieve because we know that is what is going to lift women out of these relationships. I am not sure what other action they would like to see beyond that. That is a lot of heavy lifting that has gone on. I really applaud the effort of this government and all of the submitters and stakeholders who have given up their time to contribute. It is really quite woeful for opposition members to stand in here and suggest that no work has been done when I am sure those stakeholders would say that they have done a damn lot of work to get this to where it is.

In March 2021 we established the independent task force to examine coercive control and to review the need for a specific offence of domestic violence and the experience of women across the criminal justice system. The task force's first report, *Hear her voice: report one—Addressing coercive control and domestic and family violence in Queensland*, was released in late 2021. That report made 89 recommendations for broad systemic reform to Queensland's domestic and family violence service and justice systems, including a series of recommendations that led to this bill.

The task force recommended the creation of a new standalone offence of coercive control. Although the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act defines domestic violence to include coercive and controlling behaviours, it does not define what these are and the task force found that the

current definition of 'domestic violence' in section 8 of the act could be clarified. The bill will therefore amend the definitions of 'domestic violence', 'emotional or psychological abuse' and 'economic abuse' in the act to include a reference to a pattern of behaviour.

I would like to read a statement provided to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee by Sue and Lloyd Clarke, the parents of Hannah Clarke and founders of Small Steps 4 Hannah. They shared with us—

We have to admit that we did not understand coercive control, even as our family was dealing with it on a daily basis. We knew that something was wrong with the behaviour, and we certainly knew that Hannah deserved so much better from her husband. We didn't understand that this bad behaviour had a name, could be codified and should be illegal. And, of course, we didn't know where it was leading.

Further amendments to section 8 of the DFVP Act make it clear that domestic violence includes behaviour that may occur over a period, includes individual acts that when considered cumulatively are abusive, threatening, coercive or cause fear, and must be considered in the context of the relationship as a whole. These amendments will strengthen systems' responses to coercive control through a shift from focusing on responding to single incidents of violence to focusing on the pattern of abuse that occurs over time.

The task force was also clear that, prior to the introduction of a standalone offence, system-wide reform was needed to ensure sufficient services and supports were in place across the service and justice systems, along with critical amendments to existing legislation that should be implemented immediately. This approach was supported by many of the submitters to the committee's parliamentary hearings, including Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety. As the chief executive officer, Padma Raman, told the committee—

It is great to see that Queensland has taken a two-stage approach and that the idea of training is essentially vital. This is really complex behaviour that we are trying to regulate. One of the things that ANROWS's research has found is that the nature of coercive control in itself is such that it is tailored to the individual victim. It is such nuanced behaviour that we are going to have to spend a lot of time making sure that the people who address these issues, including frontline police and courts, are capable of identifying this behaviour appropriately and correctly.

I have chosen to focus my contribution today on the clarification of relevant acts in relation to coercive control, but I do want to emphasise that the bill contains a number of provisions designed to improve the safety of victims of domestic violence. The bill will rename the offence of 'unlawful stalking' to 'unlawful stalking, intimidation, harassment or abuse'. This will broaden the type of offending captured by the offence and better reflect the way that an offender might use technology to facilitate unlawful stalking, intimidation or harassment.

The bill will increase the maximum penalty for the offence of contravening a restraining order to 120 penalty units or three years imprisonment. It also provides for a circumstance of aggravation if the person has been convicted of a DV offence in the five years before the contravention of the restraining order. Clause 30 of the bill relates to cross-orders. It amends the principles for administering the DFVP Act, making it clear that the person who is most in need of protection in the relationship must be identified and only one domestic violence order should be in force unless there are exceptional circumstances and clear evidence that each person in the relationship is in need of protection from the other. The task force recommended amendments to the DFVP Act to ensure the court is provided a respondent's criminal and domestic violence histories to help determine the risk to the aggrieved and whether to make a protection order, and to assist in best tailoring the conditions of the order to keep the victim safe.

We are 52 days into 2023 and five women have already lost their lives in Australia allegedly through fatal acts of domestic and family violence. If members are interested, I got this statistic from the Facebook group called 'Counting Dead Women'. I will just let the fact that we need a page like that sink in for one moment.

I acknowledge the extensive work undertaken by the women's justice task force and thank the many hundreds of submitters to that reporting process, in addition to thanking the submitters and individuals who spoke at our Legal Affairs and Safety Committee hearings. I also thank our Parliamentary Service staff and the department. I acknowledge the work of my parliamentary colleagues, in particular the chair, the member for Toohey. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr KRAUSE (Scenic Rim—LNP) (3.46 pm): The LNP is supporting this bill. I would like to reflect on the work of the task force in bringing forward recommendations, some of which are being implemented in this bill. I also wish to comment on the journey that this parliament and the community

have been on over the past eight or nine years. It is an ongoing journey, but from a parliamentary point of view I think it can be traced back to 2014 with the commencement of the *Not now, not ever* review during the term of the LNP government. This process will be ongoing.

I recall at that time that in the community I represent around Beaudesert there were significant calls for changes to be made to the law around domestic and family violence, especially in terms of trying to create a standalone criminal offence in relation to domestic violence. That actually was very close to home for me. It arose from the Beaudesert branch of the LNP and in particular from lived experiences relayed to me by a member of that branch in relation to the injustice that had been visited on their family because the legislative frameworks for police and also for the broader justice system simply were not up to scratch to help their family member.

I was extremely proud that the government acted then to set up the *Not now, not ever* review. People wanted quicker action, and I understand the reason why—because they had suffered so much and they are still suffering so much. They thought a task force just did not seem enough; they wanted immediate legislative responses. However, sometimes that is not always possible because it takes time to find the right responses, and we are still finding the right responses across the board.

The calls for a standalone offence of domestic violence were made. I note that the Queensland Police Union in their submission to the committee for this inquiry indicated their support for that approach as well. The task force recommended the new standalone offence of coercive control, and this bill is certainly a step in the right direction in terms of implementing that recommendation. The act already includes references to coercive control and behaviours in the definition of ‘domestic violence’, but at the moment what they actually are is not defined. We support the bill and the process that has been ongoing for several years now.

There are some points with this bill, mainly raised through submissions to the committee, that I wish to highlight in my contribution here today. Firstly, and most briefly, issues to do with evidentiary requirements in relation to domestic and family violence order applications. There are changes being proposed in this bill that will make evidence of domestic violence more admissible in those applications, and the type of evidence that can be admitted in those proceedings is being broadened. There were some concerns raised around this in relation to the interests of justice and a fair trial or fair applications for people. One of the first concerns raised was, as I understand it, made by Multicultural Australia in respect of criminal history because criminal history can be very broad and could risk the right to a fair hearing for the accused. It was also an issue raised by some people, I understand, in the Indigenous community where people have been previously misidentified as perpetrators in those communities and that the admission of that evidence into applications could be prejudicial to the outcome of them.

The Queensland Police Union also had some concerns with this matter. I refer to some of the contribution from Mr Moore of the Queensland Police Union, in particular subsections (d) and (f) in that section that is broadening the matters that could go to an application, and the risk that it could lead to mistrials or miscarriages of justice because it is poorly defined and very broad. We explored these matters in the committee. There was certainly also concern from the Queensland Law Society in respect of this.

The other issue that needs to be raised and was heavily touched on by the Queensland Police Union is in relation to resourcing. Mr Leavers from the Police Union estimated that if the standalone offence of coercive control is introduced, it could bring about—and this was on the evidence that he gave—an extra 10,000 complaints per year, generating an extra 880,000 policing hours. His estimate was that this would require an extra 500 police to be employed dedicated solely to those matters, and all those hours are not taking into account the training that needs to go in to having police deal with these matters. The impact that attending domestic and family violence incidents has on police officers was also something highlighted very strongly by the Police Union. In the committee process he gave some quotes from serving constables. I will read one of them into the record. A senior constable of 11 years service noted—

We are no longer general duties officers. We could be referred to as DV duties as this is all we do for an eight-hour period.

Obviously when we are broadening the scope of work in that space that is only going to increase, and there should be specific training put in place for that work as well.

The impact of the service delivery redesign project was also touched on by the Police Union President, Mr Leavers, and the impact that that had in certain districts. Certainly I have received feedback from the area I represent that has taken part in the project that it is leading to areas having fewer policing resources than they had before the SDRP was implemented. That affects the ability of police to address domestic and family violence incidents, as well as every other type of criminal activity,

whether it is a youth justice issue, a car theft issue, traffic enforcement—all of them. The Police Union made some very strong points in relation to the extra resources they are going to need not only arising out of this bill and the inquiries before it but also in relation to SDRP in general. I hope that Mr Leavers is able to visit the Logan district and talk to his members there, and I hope the commissioner can as well, because the SDRP is certainly having an impact across the district, and in particular I know about the impact it is having in the area that I represent around Beaudesert.

The other matter touched on by the committee was the ability for expert reports to be introduced into domestic and family violence applications, and the fact that findings of fact, it seems, could be made based on expert evidence and reports. That is a concern that the legal community touched on and one that the members of the committee questioned witnesses about. It also raises the question of access to those reports because they all cost money and engaging experts costs money. If one party has access to an expert and an expert report but the other party does not, it places them at a disadvantage if they cannot get that expert advice. It also raises the prospect of applications becoming, like in other areas of the legal system, somewhat of a war of expert reports. We are in new territory there. It is acknowledged that in dealing with the complex issues of domestic and family violence, we as a society need to take new measures at times. The type of issues raised especially to do with evidence and to do with expert reports should be the subject of a periodic review and, I would suggest, not too long after implementation. A 12-month period, 24 months at the most, should be a period of review. This bill is part of a process of change. We are supporting the bill.



Hon. LM ENOCH (Alger—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (3.56 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Before I go any further, I want to acknowledge all of those people who have had lived experience in this House and across Queensland who have contributed to ensuring that this legislation has been designed in a way to address those very issues. It takes a lot to tell your story. It takes a lot to hear the story. You may not have been able to tell your own personal experiences, but when you hear other people's recount of theirs, it does trigger in yourself the feelings of those moments in your life. I do want to acknowledge all of those people.

For me personally, having been a victim of domestic violence, having experienced coercive control as an adult, I know exactly those feelings. Your world becomes very small when you are the victim of coercive control. Every part of your life is under control, whether it is the 17 phone calls a day that you get, the asking where you are every minute, who you are talking to, what are you wearing—all of these things. I do want to acknowledge all of those people who have had those similar experiences, and acknowledge that I know that this is a lot to take in, but this is important work and hopefully it is work that will ensure that others will be protected if they are having those experiences.

This bill will strengthen Queensland's current response to coercive control by making amendments to the Criminal Code, the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012, the Evidence Act 1977, the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 and the Youth Justice Act 1992. The Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce, led by the Hon. Margaret McMurdo, tabled its first report, the *Hear her voice* report, on 2 December 2021. The task force found we need to do more to respond to incidents of domestic and family violence and address coercive control. That is why the Palaszczuk government is proud to deliver amendments to modernise and strengthen the definition of 'stalking' in the Criminal Code and broaden the definition of 'domestic and family violence' to refer to 'a pattern of behaviour'. Further, we will strengthen the court's response to cross-application for protection orders to ensure the person most at risk is being protected, and strengthen the court's consideration of domestic violence history.

These amendments reinforce the Palaszczuk government's commitment to the prevention of domestic and family violence. We were very proud late last year to release our fourth action plan of the domestic and family violence strategy since we came to government in 2015. Under the fourth action plan the focus will be on addressing the critical issue of coercive control with reforms working to: increase awareness and appropriate responses to all forms of domestic and family violence; prioritise culturally safe and trauma informed responses to keep people safe at all stages of their life and in key settings; ensure domestic and family violence responses are integrated, connected, accessible and client centred; deliver initiatives that actively address perpetrating behaviours and increase perpetrator accountability; and an increased intersectional approach to responding to domestic and family violence including with sexual violence. We know that cultural change requires a long-term commitment from everyone across Queensland to effect genuine change in our society and our behaviours. This includes

working across government to protect all Queenslanders. We have committed to further training specifically looking at cultural support for victim-survivors of domestic and family violence and how we can better support victim-survivors throughout the process.

The Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy has a particular role to play in the prevention of domestic and family violence. We have enhanced frontline service responses for women and families experiencing domestic and family violence through an investment of \$20 million over four years from 2021-22. We have also delivered four new, one extended and five replacement crisis shelter assets for women and children experiencing domestic and family violence. We understand that women and children impacted by domestic and family violence are often in unsafe or unstable housing situations. That is why I work very closely with my colleague the Attorney-General and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence on our housing and domestic and family violence round table. Last year in South Brisbane I announced that the government will deliver a brand new, purpose-built complex for families with young children who have been experiencing or are at risk of homelessness. The 18-unit housing plus support complex, which includes additional space for support services, will provide stable homes for local families at a time when Queenslanders need it most.

The Palaszczuk government is strengthening our services to keep women safe and provide long-term stable and affordable housing options now and into the future. We know there is a connection between victims of domestic and family violence and an increased risk of homelessness. People fleeing domestic and family violence may find themselves at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness or in need of support services offered by special homelessness services, housing service centres, and neighbourhood and community centres. Through our funding for specialist homelessness services and housing services we are ensuring those at risk have a roof over their head and access to appropriate supports regardless of their situation. Our neighbourhood and community centre also provide vital services for people escaping domestic and family violence.


We have also announced the landmark Communities 2032 Strategy. One of the actions contained in the strategy's action plan is to strengthen the prevention of, and response to, domestic, family and sexual violence in Queensland. The communities area of my department also provides funding for a range of initiatives which support communities and individuals to live safe, happy, fulfilled and prosperous lives. While the department does not fund specialist DFV initiatives, many of our funded services do support people who have experienced DFV. Through our government's important initiatives such as financial resilience, neighbourhood and community centres, and community connect workers, individuals are able to seek support and connection to specialised services through a universal access pathway.

It is vital that in all the work we do we put First Nations first. The proposed bill will support the safety and wellbeing of First Nations peoples if passed. This issue is one that disproportionately affects First Nations people who are also over-represented in DFV cases. The bill includes provisions to accurately identify the person most in need of protection. This amendment will go a long way to address the cultural bias against First Nations women, often labelled as perpetrators. It is reported that 50 per cent of First Nations women who have been murdered by an intimate partner have been considered perpetrators of domestic and family violence. These provisions will protect and support all Queenslanders who are victims of DFV with a specific focus on First Nations peoples.

I want to again thank those who have advocated for this important change, including Hannah Clarke's parents, Sue and Lloyd, who have been incredible advocates for reform; and of course the many First Nations men and women, families and elders who have done exactly the same thing across our state: advocated incredibly hard to ensure these changes take effect. I want to acknowledge the Attorney-General for her commitment to consulting widely and engaging with those who have had lived experience. I want to thank also the women's safety sector and women's legal services who have supported the complex consideration which has led to this bill before the House today. Again I thank victim-survivors of DFV, particularly those who have experienced coercive control, for providing their insights and lived experience. As a state we have recognised we need to do better, and with this bill we will be working across government, the private sector and the community to protect Queenslanders.

Labor governments make a difference in the lives of all Queenslanders. We have delivered progressive reform across government since the election of the Palaszczuk government in 2015. Legislative change is just one part of a broader cultural change to protect the most vulnerable in our society. We must continue to: condemn violent behaviour, model respectful behaviours and support victims of abuse. We must make it clear we will not tolerate the behaviour of anyone who hurts another person within a relationship of intimacy and trust.

I am very pleased to be a member of this government that is delivering these vital reforms to protect vulnerable Queenslanders. By criminalising coercive control, we will create a safer state for all Queenslanders. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (4.05 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. As this House knows, I am very passionate about protecting our community's most vulnerable, the women and children who suffer at the hands of those close to them, those whom they trusted as family.

As a community, we have watched as dozens of women and too many children have lost their lives, killed by partners or ex-partners who cannot bear to lose control over their domestic realm. Fuelled by psychotic rage and inadequacies, they violently take out their frustrations on innocent women whom as a community we fail to protect. We know most of the men and women in blue who have had to attend these monstrous crimes are as appalled and saddened as we are. For those police, we must provide the tools, the legislative framework and then the training and education to ensure they can stop these monsters in their tracks.

We know many women suffer in silence in toxic relationships, aware that things are not right. They know the insidious, smothering tentacles of coercive control. They are not allowed to go out or make any phone calls without his knowledge and are completely reliant on him for money to feed and clothe children. Often their families, their parents and their friends know something is off. Their attempts to help are made all the more difficult by this controlling behaviour. This legislation seeks to provide law enforcement with the kit they need to stop this behaviour and perhaps save women from a murderous fate.

The bill was examined by the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, and I thank them for their work. The LNP members of the committee tabled a statement of reservation. I know they recognised the critical need for urgent reform to make women and children safe in Queensland. Like them, I agree this bill updates legislation in our justice system, but there may be unintended consequences if there is not careful attention.

Importantly, this is just the first step in a journey to make coercive control a standalone offence in the future, a move for which I have been calling for many years, as a summary offence. The bill refers to a pattern of behaviour to confirm that domestic violence includes behaviour that may occur over a period of time and takes into account the cumulative impact of threatening, coercive or abusive acts in the context of that relationship.

Many stakeholders raised the prospect of adequate support to allow some of these new offences to be prosecuted. For example, Legal Aid Queensland was concerned that the amendment of the Evidence Act 1977 to increase the class of protected witness who cannot be cross-examined by the defendant when they are not represented in court. This means a court can make an order for free legal assistance in this case, and we all know how stretched our legal aid and community legal centres are. As a result, a commitment from those opposite to provide adequate resourcing is welcomed, both people and funding, to ensure the legislation can be enacted in the manner in which it is intended. This should also include the need to fund the Robina My Community Legal, a volunteer legal centre for domestic violence victims that has survived on money from sausage sizzles.

Time after time we have asked the Palaszczuk Labor government to fund this important community group so that they can extend legal support and advice to vulnerable people in the city's south. I meet with women affected by domestic and sexual violence all the time and with those dedicated organisations who support them, and I hear tragic tales of how they have been let down by this government. They are forced to scramble for donations and other funding avenues because, quite simply, they do not have the means to support these families as they seek to leave violent homes. Again I urge the government to put their money where their mouth is and stump up to support this most vital group on the Gold Coast.

I know the strain that our domestic and family violence services are under. There are too many people in distress and not enough housing, money or housing options for those who are trying to flee. There were also concerns from stakeholders about the change of language relating to the sexual offence terminology. While we support the modernisation of language, there are still concerns about the government's choice of replacement. Some were concerned that the words chosen were threatening and distressing to the very people who are trying to have their voices heard by making a complaint. We also know that the criminal justice system in this state is stretched beyond belief. From the thin blue line to the prosecutors and court staff, there are simply not enough people to ensure justice is upheld in Queensland.

Again, I urge those opposite to cough up. They must provide the money to ensure our police can arrest and charge these DV perpetrators, and that they can be prosecuted and jailed where appropriate. It is not good enough to have women and children living in fear for months and even years on end while they wait for their tormentors to face justice. The delays must end.

This government has had close to 400 recommendations to prevent domestic violence and improve responses since 2015. They have had time to do more than make announcements and walk away as they do so often. The Queensland Audit Office report *Keeping people safe from domestic and family violence*, released earlier this month, found that the government does not assess and evaluate these measures—confirmation that they care more about how things look than about the substance.

I urge the government to provide the means for the bill's impact to be scrutinised once it is enacted. There must be sufficient resourcing to ensure the reforms are monitored early to identify any of these possible issues and to report back to ensure there can be changes if required. We must know that these measures are working in the way they are intended to protect our women and children. As I have said before, we must do all that we can to give domestic violence victims the framework they need as they seek to stand up for themselves—that applies to the police, as well. They must have the support to help these families. They must have the training and education to recognise, report and act on these insidious crimes.

The shame is that it has taken this Attorney-General so long to act on recommendations from the *Not now, not ever* report that was tabled seven years ago. The LNP has continually championed the need to introduce a new summary offence of domestic violence to make it really clear to both perpetrators and police that this is a crime—not hidden away in other statutes but a single offence. This offence would include coercive controlling behaviours, elder abuse and financial abuse.


Along with the police we know that there is a need for a domestic violence one-stop support network. We must make it easier for those fleeing violent homes. They must not be condemned to return because they cannot find the help they so desperately need. Those opposite must bear the responsibility for the ongoing suffering those families have felt as they have seen report after report and inquiry after inquiry hand down findings that they already know. Like me, they live with it. The control and intimidation is just one of the manifestations of domestic and family violence that the LNP has been trying to have recognised and dealt with for more than seven years.

Women and families should be able to access the records of previous offending against intimate partners so that they have a chance to escape. I have said the names of these women in this place before, and I will put them on record again. These are the women of the Gold Coast who make up a tragic list; a roll call of shame to those opposite. Tara Brown, bludgeoned to death. Teresa Bradford, stabbed by her husband. Larissa Beilby, bashed to death. Shelsea Schilling, suffocated. Melinda Horner, murdered. Karina Lock, gunned down. Fabiana Palhares, bludgeoned to death. Kym Cobby, in my own electorate, strangled to death.

I urge the government to adopt our policies, to make Tara's law a reality and to enable the disclosure of previous offending to intimate partners and families—that is what the parents of Tara Brown want.

Seven years ago, I told my story in this place. I was the middle daughter in a family of three living under the shadow of violence—sworn to secrecy, making up stories to explain the bruises and hiding the carving knife. I have cried with mothers who have lost their daughters; who knew that their partners were violent but had no way to stop them. I have marched with families saying 'enough is enough' and I have lit candles for those who were taken from us too soon. I know the lifelong impact family violence has; the memories and experiences that no child should have to bear or witness. That is why we, as lawmakers, must stand up for those who cannot.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): I will make a general comment. I think those cases were historical, but it is a good reminder for all members yet to participate in the debate that the sub judice rules may still apply if cases are before the criminal courts.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (4.15 pm): I rise to speak to the Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, and it is with a great sense of moment that I do so. The Attorney-General referred to this bill earlier as an 'historic moment', and it is. Not only because it is just so important to victims of coercive control and their loved ones, but also because this parliament—this government—has gone further than most other parliaments in the world to address the issue of coercive control.

We are determined to make it work, and it is tricky. It is tricky to make it work and to not put victims at potential disadvantage. It is tricky to be sure that cases of coercive control will stand up in court, which is why the work of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce has been so important. I congratulate the Premier and the Attorney-General for making that referral. I think every member in this House would agree that the work of the task force has been outstanding—although after hearing the contributions of the LNP I am not sure about those opposite.

The statistics on domestic and family violence are shocking. The most recent Our Watch statistics tell us that, on average, one woman a week is murdered by her current or former partner and that one in three women has experienced physical violence since the age of 15—and they are only the ones who have been reported. One in four women has experienced emotional abuse by a current or former partner since the age of 15 and, again, that is only what has been reported.

In this state, this government and this Premier have a long track record of taking leadership on domestic and family violence. She was the first premier to introduce paid domestic and family violence leave for the public sector. She was the first premier to call for a national approach on addressing domestic and family violence, and the very first national domestic and family violence summit was held in Queensland at the Premier's instigation. It was our Premier who committed to implementing the 140 recommendations of the *Not now, not ever* report that was delivered by Dame Quentin Bryce and funded it to the tune of over \$300 million. In fact, I believe it was close to \$600 million by the time all of the recommendations had been implemented. It is this government that has committed over \$1.3 billion since 2015 to work against domestic and family violence, including \$363 million to implement the recommendations of the first report of the task force.

As we speak of this bill, the story that is at the front of our minds is the horrific story of Hannah Clarke and her beautiful babies Aaliyah, Laianah and Trey. It was a story that shocked everyone and made us sick to our stomachs and, of course, none more so than her family and particularly her parents Sue and Lloyd. Sunday was the third anniversary of that terrible day and we all felt for Sue and Lloyd on that day, as we do every day, but anniversaries are just that bit tougher. Out of that horror, we saw those brave people decide that they were going to make sure that Hannah's life and her babies lives would matter. The work that they do through Small Steps 4 Hannah is outstanding, and it makes such an impact. We have seen them spend every single day doing everything that they can to stop the same thing from happening to others. This legislation that we are now debating does them proud.

That horror was possibly the first time that coercive control was given a name in the broader community. On hearing the pattern of behaviour that had been perpetrated against Hannah—the control, the isolation from friends and family, the intimidation, the gaslighting and so much else—people started saying, 'What they are talking about happens to me—that is actually wrong, that is domestic violence.' To hear the story of Hannah's life and death and to know that it was in a suburb—for my community—just a couple of suburbs away. It was a suburb that any of us could live in and to hear about their everyday life, on the surface it being just like any of our lives—it could happen to anyone, regardless of age, education, job, where they live, or any other factor. It was so important that domestic violence victims were empowered.

In fact, as the domestic violence minister when I was talking constantly about domestic violence I would have people saying to me before that day, 'That wouldn't happen in your patch, Di, because it's an affluent community with high levels of education generally,' as if that somehow inoculated people. After February 2020, I did not hear that comment so much. Although that concept was new for so many, I always remember talking to Vanessa Fowler, who is co-chair of the Premier's DV task force, head of the Allison Baden-Clay Foundation and sister of Alison, and her saying to me that if she and her family had known then what they know now about coercive control—the isolation, the put-downs, the control and so much else that was distressing to them—they would have acted differently, and there are so many thousands of similar stories. However, for the stakeholders who have been working with domestic violence for so long, it unfortunately was not a new concept at all. They knew it and they know it too well and they have known it for too many years.


Coercive control is a pattern of deliberate behaviours perpetrated against a person to create a climate of fear, isolation, intimidation and humiliation. It robs an individual of their identity, independence and ability to seek help. There are stories of women who had no access to their own bank accounts, including to money they had earned themselves, women who are controlled with what they were allowed to wear out, what friends or family they are allowed to see or visit or, more concerning, who they were allowed to contact. The list just goes on and all of that can be done without physical contact. I want to

thank all of the stakeholders who do this work. It is gut-wrenching and they are tireless and dedicated in what they do. They are literally helping to put people back together again. The work that they did with this task force in supporting people to come forward and tell their stories was absolutely amazing.

After Hannah and her babies were killed, there were cries across the state for coercive control legislation to be put in place straightaway. People justifiably wanted action, and they wanted it straightaway. However, we in government knew that if we did this we had to do it right. We knew that coercive control laws were in place in only a few jurisdictions across the world, that they were not all proven to be effective and that there was a real risk for misidentification of the primary aggressor in the experience of First Nations women and girls and for many women to be disadvantaged if the offence was not dealt with appropriately. We knew how hard it was to establish a pattern of behaviour, which is what coercive control is about, and how hard it is for anyone to identify, including police, and how hard it is to establish for the courts. This government committed to doing it properly, and that is what is happening right now. It is why this bill is a precursor to the actual legislation making coercive control an offence. The first report of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce by the Hon. Margaret McMurdo AC titled *Hear her voice* reviewed the need for a specific offence and found that simply making it an offence is not enough. They made that first lot of important recommendations for reforms to domestic and family violence service and justice systems that there be a standalone offence but that system-wide reform was needed first to ensure sufficient services and supports were in place.

I want to thank all of those brave people who came forward to say it out loud, and for them to relive those experiences was incredibly strong and incredibly brave. They are part of what is going to make a difference for other victims and survivors coming after them and we are absolutely linked to them in what we do today. I want to thank the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee. It must have been very traumatic to run that inquiry and to hear all of those stories. Even when you know about it in theory, to hear people speak of it and to read the evidence must have been very challenging and I want to thank them for their excellent work. The other important aspects of this bill are obviously the amendments around modernising and strengthening the offence of unlawful stalking and the particular work around sexual offence terminology. I want to acknowledge Grace Tame. I had several great conversations with her. I know this issue around replacing the term 'carnal knowledge' and an offence called 'maintaining a sexual relationship with a child', as if the child has somehow chosen it, is just so important.

I have to finish by saying how appalled I am by the LNP contributions today. They have literally, as always, never let the facts get in the way of a good story. This is really important legislation. It is time to honour the victims. It is time to honour the stakeholders and all of the people who submitted—the many hundreds and thousands of people who submitted. They did so and this is a reflection of their work. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (4.25 pm): I want to respond first of all to the honourable minister on behalf of people on this side who have been advocating ever since we brought in the *Not now, not ever* report by Dame Quentin Bryce when we were in government. Everyone understands that this is a particularly difficult area of policy, but to cloak yourself in the fact that we are doing something and it is inappropriate for anyone on this side to even question the pace or the rate at which it is happening is inappropriate is completely unseemly and unbecoming of the honourable minister. People on this side who have experienced these things are just as passionate. We have heard about the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee having to go through a traumatic committee report, but to try to say that this side can never question what the other side is doing in a difficult policy area like this I think is a reflection of what we saw today in terms of the backflip from the government about breach of bail. The ministers are frustrated because they know that this is a government going absolutely nowhere.

When it comes to the Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, I do empathise with the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee. As we have heard from others who have contributed today, it is a particularly difficult area of policy. We know that the bill before the House aims to give effect to legislative reform in recommendations 52 to 60 and 63 to 66 of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce report *Hear her voice* and modernises and updates sexual offence terminology in the Criminal Code, as well as amending several acts. The opposition supports actions to keep women and children safe. However, Queenslanders need more than announcements to see such meaningful change happen, and that is the point that I began with—that is, that we have had announcement after announcement, especially after traumatic incidents that have shocked the Queensland community, and we get platitudes from those opposite saying, 'We're not going to tolerate this anymore,' just as happened on that other issue that was mentioned earlier today in the parliament and I do not want to pre-empt that debate.

Queenslanders need the government to deliver on its promises for the sake of our state in both a timely and effective manner. As the shadow minister for multiculturalism and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs, the over-representation of First Nations people in both the civil domestic and family violence protection system and the criminal justice system is a concern. I note the report titled *A call for change: commission of inquiry into Queensland Police Service responses to domestic and family violence* which sheds light on the reasons behind these statistics. The report states—

The true rates of violence against First Nations peoples are difficult to establish due to:

- underreporting
- a lack of accurate recording of status by police and other service providers
- variations in police responses to reports of domestic and family violence
- misidentification by police of the person most in need of protection from domestic and family violence
- other limitations in obtaining and comparing data.

The commission acknowledges that the causes of domestic and family violence for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are complex and multifaceted where theories which blame or characterise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identity as inherently violent are incorrect and unhelpful. The commission of inquiry was long overdue and I am concerned there are no real KPIs, key performance indicators, which can be used to direct efforts towards changing the statistics surrounding the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the domestic violence system. I note that the Women's Legal Service Queensland supports the intention to modernise and broaden the definition of 'stalking' but however is concerned the new title to include 'intimidation, harassment or abuse' could lead to the QPS, Queensland Police Service, and courts inferring a lesser degree of seriousness in line with other behaviour examples such as loitering, watching and contacting a person.

While they are conceptually supportive of the inclusion of domestic and family violence history being admissible, they did raise concern with the impact on a victim where they had previously been misidentified as perpetrators, particularly in the case of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as victims.

Multicultural Australia's submissions were referenced in the committee report. Multicultural Australia supported the amendments that would include reference to a 'pattern of behaviour', but was of the view that to achieve the objectives of the bill it was critical to implement targeted early intervention strategies aimed at preventing the perpetration of coercive control. They expressed further concerns that the definitions of criminal history and domestic violence history were too broad and there was a risk that this would compromise the right to a fair hearing for the accused. The objective of the bill to 'modernise and update sexual offence terminology in the Criminal Code in response to advocacy that the language appropriately reflects criminal conduct' must be considered more seriously. It is critical that this bill is a vehicle for just outcomes for all of those involved in incidents of domestic violence.


The commission of inquiry notes that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are identified by police as an aggrieved person at significantly higher rates than non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women being vastly over-represented in this statistic. Research undertaken by Professor Heather Douglas and Associate Professor Robin Fitzgerald has also found that reduced access to culturally safe services or responses, including those by police, may leave Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to resort to the use of resistive violence to keep themselves and their children as safe as possible from the perpetrator of the violence.

The insights provided by both the commission of inquiry and Multicultural Australia provided valuable insight into the impact the implementation of this bill will have on victims and the community if the opposition's recommendations are not considered. Victims of domestic and family violence have heard the Premier, the police minister and the Attorney-General claim they are being heard. The opposition's shadow minister for police and corrective services, my colleague, the member for Burdekin, Dale Last, shared this sentiment in a recent media statement—

Nearly eight years ago the Palaszczuk government said the same thing when they received the *Not now, not ever* report. The commission of inquiry proves that the Palaszczuk government has failed to listen and definitively failed to act to protect victims. For that they must be held responsible.

The police minister has been the police minister for six years. Time and time again Queenslanders have seen him dodge responsibility for deep failings that have occurred on his watch. Along with all Queenslanders, the LNP hopes the release of the report is impetus for the Palaszczuk government to finally take action to keep Queenslanders safe from the scourge of domestic and family

violence. We hope that the domestic and family violence protection bill has the same effect. There is a dire need for the government to step up and make genuine progress toward making our state safer for those affected by domestic and family violence. It is all very well to talk about bipartisanship when you are forced into a policy position, but to constantly come in here and question whether this side is as willing to achieve outcomes in these particular policy areas shows how shallow those opposite are. The expectations of Queenslanders must be met before it is too late, more lives are lost and Queensland families mourn those who could have and should have been protected.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (4.34 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. This government has a keen and obvious interest in eliminating the scourge of domestic and family violence. It is, after all, something that we in the government strive for: a safer community for all Queenslanders. To borrow the words of the Attorney-General, this historic bill comes off the back of the landmark Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce first report, *Hear her voice*. I would like to acknowledge the ongoing work of the task force in this important policy space. I also wish to acknowledge the more than 500 submissions made by courageous victim-survivors. In speaking up, this government has listened and is continuing to deliver.

This bill lays the groundwork for further legislation to be introduced this year which will ultimately see coercive control recognised as a criminal offence. Under the Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, the wording of the offence 'unlawful stalking' will be broadened to include the terms 'intimidation, harassment or abuse'. Doing so will allow members of the Queensland Police Service to more easily charge and prosecute offenders who engage in predatory behaviours. It is our hope that by doing this we will transform the approach in dealing with domestic and family violence. These changes will see police officers continue to shift focus to patterns of behaviour rather than mere individual incidents of violence. Indeed, the Queensland Police Service has advised me that the Domestic, Family Violence and Vulnerable Persons Command has already commenced exploring further training schemes to implement these current amendments before the House.

In addition, under these amendments the Queensland Police Service will be required to provide a copy of both the respondent's criminal history and domestic violence history to the court in all protection order applications and variation proceedings and sentence hearings for domestic violence offences. This integral change will assist the courts with being able to more accurately assess the risk posed to the aggrieved and therefore take appropriate steps to ensure victim safety. I am advised also by the Queensland Police Service that proactive steps have already been undertaken to enhance information management and sharing procedures to facilitate the provision of this information.

I also want to take some time to address the matters raised in the submissions to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee on the consideration of the bill. In particular, I wish to address the Police Union's comments relating to appropriate resources being allocated in response to this legislation before the House which quite obviously expands the body of work that must be done by the Queensland Police Service. Let me assure the House and all Queenslanders that the government remains committed to ensuring that our frontline services, including the Police Service, are adequately funded to provide the best level of service to the people of Queensland. In fact, in addition to our historic investment of 2,025 additional police personnel over five years, as well as also record police budgets, in November last year the Premier announced an additional \$100 million reform package arising from the recommendations from the commission of inquiry into police responses to domestic violence. Among other things, this funding will see the rollout of an additional 70 police staff and 300 domestic and family violence support workers in Queensland police stations across Queensland—in addition to many other initiatives. These resourcing commitments are in addition to the more than 2,000 extra police personnel that the government is already funding and already delivering. After all, it is Labor governments that deliver the funding and resources needed for the Queensland Police Service to do its job of keeping the community safe.

I also want to highlight the good work that the Queensland Police Service is doing in rolling out the additional intensive training. Only last week I was in Cairns speaking to one of the police officers who is one of the domestic and family violence coordinators who had just completed—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr RYAN: Excuse me, Mr Deputy Speaker, did the member have something to say?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): You have the call, Minister.

Mr RYAN: I am talking about the good work of the Queensland Police Service and I am getting interjections from those opposite.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have the call, Minister.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Nanango will cease her interjections.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, no more interjections.

Mr RYAN: The sergeant that I was speaking to was telling me about the five-day intensive face-to-face training. She reinforced how important it was and how she was very pleased that the Police Service had taken the initiative to roll that out early. She was very impressed by the extra skills and affirmation that she got from that training around the work that she was doing. She saw the opportunity for other officers to get additional skills from that training.

Of course, that is another aspect of the good work that the Queensland Police Service is doing around building capacity and capability in respect of an officer's ability to engage with victim-survivors and to investigate quite complicated matters. Some of those matters are not clear-cut. There is complexity around domestic violence investigations. The officer told me that that additional training was very important to developing her skills and that she very much valued it.

That is a further example of the impressive work that the Queensland Police Service is doing to develop the experience and talent of its workforce in this space. I know police officers take this work very seriously. They want to make sure that people are protected. They want to make sure that offenders are apprehended and dealt with in accordance with the law. They want to ensure community safety. Anything that we can do to strengthen laws, to provide police with the powers that they need to conduct these investigations as effectively and efficiently as possible—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr RYAN: Excuse me?

Mrs Frecklington: I was talking to Ros.

Mr RYAN: I just heard laughing from the other side.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Member for Nanango, I have noticed that you are on a warning. I ask you to leave the chamber for an hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Nanango withdrew from the chamber at 4.40 pm.

Mr RYAN: Anything that we can do to build the capacity of the Queensland police and support them in the work that they do and the investigations that they undertake I know will also support their great commitment to community safety and, of course, will ensure that they are able to do everything they can to protect victim-survivors and hold offenders to account. The record of the Queensland Police Service on this is one that we should be proud of. They are committed to reform. They are committed to doing more. We should commend our commissioner, Katarina Carroll, for the leadership that she is showing on reforming the Police Service and ensuring that we have the best possible Police Service for Queenslanders. The Police Service will continue to shape its approaches to improving criminal justice interventions, to protecting and supporting victims and to ensuring that offenders are accountable for their actions.

This bill will further support community safety. It will further support responses to domestic and family violence. It will further support the work that the Queensland Police Service is doing to enhance community safety. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr DAMETTO (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (4.42 pm): I rise to give my contribution to the debate on the Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. From the outset I will say that the KAP will support the passing of this important legislation through the House. From what I have heard, both sides of the House will do the same. The Legal Affairs and Safety Committee considered the proposed legislation and recommended that the bill be passed. I believe there were 28 submissions to the bill and a number of people spoke during the hearings. I commend the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee for doing a good job in not only holding public hearings but also ensuring that they landed in the right spot with this legislation.

This is to be the first round of legislative reforms introduced into the parliament that are designed to strengthen Queensland's response to coercive control, which we know was a focus of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce, chaired by Margaret McMurdo. The KAP broadly supports the amendments to the Queensland domestic violence laws ensuring, of course, that they are workable and equitable for all Queenslanders so that domestic and family violence can be stamped out of every household.

It would be remiss of me to continue without acknowledging the loss of Hannah Clarke and her three children. We know that happened here in Queensland in an horrific example of domestic violence. That needs to be acknowledged today. We remember Hannah and her children as well as other domestic violence victims from across Queensland who have suffered at the hands of someone they trusted and likely loved. We also need to remember the males who have fallen victim to domestic violence in this state. I acknowledge Stanley Obi who was set on fire by his ex-partner in 2022 and Kerry Rooney who was murdered in a knife attack by his ex-partner. Those heinous crimes happened in Queensland—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Member for Hinchinbrook, can you assure me that those matters are not before the courts at the moment?

Mr DAMETTO: I cannot assure you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please move on and do not mention them again.

Mr DAMETTO: Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Speaker, for your guidance. I will take that on board.

Today we stand here to support the bill and the government's excellent efforts to stamp out domestic violence. However, I want to make sure that we look after all genders in this debate and when the legislation reaches fruition. I have heard language used like we need a 'gendered lens' on this sort of legislation. I take personal offence at that. There are plenty of males in the world—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DAMETTO: I am not taking interjections; I will continue. There are a number of men who also need protection so I hope, while the government continues with this—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Mudgeeraba, you need to be in your own seat to interject. The member for Pumicestone will cease her interjections.

Mr DAMETTO: Thank you very much for your protection, Mr Deputy Speaker. We males need protection in the House as well, by the sounds of things.

I will refer to some figures from 2021. Of the 105 people who lost their lives in a domestic violence situation, 61 were female and 44 were male. Although it tips the scales one way, both genders are affected by this and I think that needs to be acknowledged. Bureau statistics show that, when it comes to domestic and family violence, the vast majority of perpetrators against male victims are females. Men in same-sex relationships are just as likely as straight men to experience intimidation and violence from their partners. Males and females are just as likely to be affected by coercive control in relationships. The fact is that it happens and we need to make sure that that is acknowledged, especially as we refer it to the great people who work within our Police Service across Queensland.

That is why I reiterate the KAP's previous call for specifically trained DV police officers to operate in Queensland, not just working in task forces but working similarly to traffic officers. It has been said that police spend 40 per cent of their time dealing with domestic violence matters, although officers on the beat have told me that that figure is pretty low. Therefore, it stands to reason that having specifically trained officers performing those tasks would not be a far cry from what is necessary in this state.

A number of officers have spoken to us in relation to this legislation. We have heard about record numbers of people being recruited to the police force in this state. However, time and time again we hear that the police are understaffed and under-resourced. The figures do not lie. In Queensland, the number of operational serving police officers per capita has fallen by four per cent since 2013-14, from 296 per 100,000 people to 285 per 100,000 people. While that is not a huge drop in numbers, we are layering up legislation to protect Queenslanders so we need to make sure that our police officers are resourced and have the necessary numbers to undertake police enforcement tasks. It is already difficult to prove what has happened in a number of domestic violence scenarios. With this extra layer of

coercive control, which we do support, we will need specific people to help pull apart some of those domestic violence situations to understand who the actual perpetrator is. We know that in different instances the person who first reports an offence is not always the person against whom the offence has been committed.

Those who know anything about coercive control know that it can be a huge factor at play. Just because someone cried wolf first, it does not mean they are the victim. That is a fact. Coercive control will be understood as a pattern of behaviour that perpetrators use against a person to create a climate of fear, isolation, intimidation and humiliation. Moving forward, this will be an intrinsic part of domestic and family violence. As I said, we need to make sure that we are not looking at this through a gendered lens and ensure that all Queenslanders are protected by this legislation, which I believe will pass through this House. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr McCALLUM (Bundamba—ALP) (4.50 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, which continues the Palaszczuk government's commitment to acting on and preventing domestic and family violence across Queensland communities. Domestic and family violence is a scourge that still inflicts terrible tragedy and pain in far too many communities. This bill follows the *Hear her voice* report produced by the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce. After very careful and considered work and consultation under Her Honour Justice Margaret McMurdo, that report made 89 recommendations. Those 89 recommendations involved strengthening practical responses to respond to coercive control and domestic and family violence. The bill before the House seeks to give effect to recommendations 52 to 60 and 63 to 66 of the *Hear her voice* report. It includes immediate reforms that address the issue of coercive control.

Coercive control is a pattern of behaviour that can create a climate of fear, isolation, intimidation and humiliation that robs the victim of their identity, independence and ability to seek help. Coercive control deliberately isolates and disempowers. It is awful. It can be hard to detect. It is reprehensible. It can be hard to report and it can be hard to establish protection from; however, this bill will go a long way in addressing that. Coercive control can be exerted without any physical contact whatsoever. That is why we continue to listen to people who are survivors and who have experienced or are experiencing coercive control. We listen to them and to their stories. That has informed the bill that is currently before this House. That is why we are making these amendments: to protect and support them.

The bill contains amendments to the Criminal Code, the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act, the Evidence Act and the Penalties and Sentences Act alongside the Youth Justice Act. All combat coercive control by strengthening our current response and laying the groundwork to criminalise coercive control. We are also committed to introducing a second stage of legislative reform that will include coercive control offences. The bill amends the definitions of domestic violence, emotional or psychological abuse and economic abuse in the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act to include reference to a pattern of behaviour. In particular, the definition of 'domestic violence' is amended to make it clear that domestic violence includes behaviour that occurs over a period of time and includes individual acts that, when considered cumulatively, are abusive, threatening or coercive or cause fear.

The bill also widens the scope of conduct that constitutes unlawful stalking, intimidation, harassment or abuse. These reforms mean it will include contact in any way using any technology over any distance. In that way, it not only modernises our legislative framework in our ability to respond to these heinous acts and these offences but also updates our framework in line with the technologies and practices in society now. Telephone, mail, fax, SMS, email, an app on a computer or phone, online or via a social media network will all be examples.

It will also be illegal to monitor, track or surveil a person's movement without consent, also taking into account the technologies that exist today. This can include tracking devices and drones and checking the recorded history on someone's digital device such as a phone—reading SMSs and emails. Importantly, this bill seeks to make illegal the practice known as doxxing: threatening, humiliating or abusive acts such as publishing personal information online. The bill introduces a new circumstance of aggravation with up to seven years imprisonment for unlawful stalking, intimidation, harassment or abuse if a domestic relationship exists between the offender and the victim.

Today we announced an extra \$18.6 million in Legal Aid funding to help ensure that victims of domestic and family violence are not further targeted by their perpetrators in court. It means that a trained lawyer will conduct cross-examinations as we continue to build a justice framework that better supports victims of domestic and family violence. It will be backed by amendments to the Domestic and

Family Violence Prevention Act to require applications and cross-applications for protection orders to be heard together and additional amendments to allow the courts to award costs against an applicant if the court dismisses an application and determines that the applicant intentionally engaged in the behaviour or continued pattern of behaviour that is domestic violence towards the respondent.

In supporting this bill I want to acknowledge the wonderful work—the essential work—of the Women’s Safety and Justice Taskforce along with the ongoing advocacy of Sue and Lloyd Clarke. On Sunday we marked the third anniversary of their unimaginable loss as we remembered Hannah and her three beautiful children, Trey, Laianah and Aaliyah. The HALT campaign and 19 days of Handstands continue to raise awareness of domestic and family violence, particularly around the area of coercive control. To Sue, Lloyd and all of their supporters: thank you for your continued commitment to Small Steps 4 Hannah and all that it stands for and accomplishes.

Locally, people across Ipswich are supported by a number of organisations including the Domestic Violence Action Centre along with other community groups and not-for-profits. I sincerely thank all these workers and volunteers for their ongoing care and compassion at a time when people are vulnerable and they need it most. They are changing lives each and every day for the better.

As I said, domestic violence is a terrible scourge in our communities. It leaves the tragedy and misery of innocent people in its wake. Recently, our local community has been deeply impacted by a domestic violence related horrific tragedy that has shocked our community to its core. I am mindful of the standing orders and sub judice and I will not say anything more until it is appropriate in the future.

In conclusion, we all have a role to play in the elimination of domestic and family violence. Today, through this bill and these reforms, we are taking significant steps to support people across our state who are at risk of family and domestic violence, and I commend the bill to the House.



Mr POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (4.59 pm): I, too, rise to make a contribution to the Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. A number of other speakers—in fact, probably all other speakers—have talked about how there have now been a number of elements of legislative reform in this space. I think all have reflected that it is well and truly long overdue. It is welcome. There are certainly questions around whether it could have happened sooner. The fact that it is happening is important. The fact that it is happening is changing lives. The fact that it is happening is saving lives. I certainly want to add my support for all measures in this space. I think they are incredibly important. They are incredibly important in delivering community safety. They are incredibly important in delivering family safety.

I do reflect, as a minister in the LNP government between 2012 and 2015, that much of this would not have happened had we not commissioned the *Not now, not ever* report. I know that much time has passed since that initial report, that we are still implementing recommendations from that report, that there is a tonne of work for us as a parliament and as a community to continue to do in addressing domestic and family violence, but that report was instrumental in changing the discussion, changing the way it is perceived, changing the way we as a parliament are reacting, changing the way the Police Service is reacting and changing the way families are reacting to what was pretty much a hidden and unspoken about issue within our community.

I want to address the aspect of this bill around coercive control. It is in the title. It is deemed to be an important part of this legislation. I want to do so because, even as recently as three weeks ago, a constituent came to me—I will not name the constituent or address the matters the constituent raised with me, even though they pertain to someone known to this individual—saying, ‘I’m aware that criminalisation of coercive domestic violence is still not enacted, so I’m wanting to raise my concerns with you as no-one else appears to have any powers to act on this matter.’ They went on to say that they were aware of a DV situation where coercive DV continues to be used. The fact that, even as recently as three weeks ago, I had constituents coming to me with this concern shows just how important it is that we as a parliament address this and address it quickly.

Fortunately, I was able to go back to that constituent and say that the legislation was before the parliament and had been through the committee process. I was able to share the committee’s report and show that there was a strong level of bipartisan support for these changes, that the changes were going to address the concerns this constituent had and that it was just a matter of knowing when we as a parliament would actually get to debating this. I had an inkling that it would be quickly. I am pleased that it was quickly. I am pleased that it is one of the bills we are addressing this week and that I will be able to go back to the constituent at the end of this week and say that we have addressed the concerns they had. I hope that it makes a difference to the situation they shared with me. I really do.

The reason that I think perhaps it will is that, whilst coercive control was already in the legislation, there were really no definitions about what it meant. The amendments in this bill include a reference to a pattern of behaviour and make it clear that domestic violence includes behaviour that may occur over a period of time. It includes individual acts that, when considered cumulatively, are abusive, threatening, coercive or cause fear and must be considered in the context of the relationship as a whole. It is my true hope and belief that those changes will address many of the concerns of this constituent and, to be blunt, a number of constituents over the years. This was not clearly defined and therefore the courts were not able to act on this kind of behaviour.

A very dear friend of mine is Councillor Fiona Cunningham. I have known her for many years. I know what she has done since the tragic circumstances involving Hannah Clarke. I know how important these matters are to her. I hope and pray that in passing this legislation we are actually achieving an outcome that will mean we never see a repeat of that.

I do want to raise two concerns. They are not about the wording of the legislation but about how particularly the government—but even we as a parliament—makes certain that these laws are actually effective. I refer to the Queensland Audit Office's report *Keeping people safe from domestic and family violence*, released in November last year. It found that the government does very little assessment and evaluation of its measures, meaning it often does not know what is working and what resources are needed. We saw today in *Courier-Mail* articles released by victims of crime calling on the government, the opposition and crossbench to come clean with statistics, report them to the public, be clear on what we are seeking to implement and make sure we actually are implementing what we say we are implementing. That Audit Office report says the same. If we are going to make these changes, let's at least measure whether they are producing the results we desire.

I have heard members say that this will increase the number of police referrals and the amount of police action, but that is only one measure. We also need to measure whether, when these matters are brought before courts, these laws are creating better outcomes for those who are the victims of coercive control. We need to be sharing that information with Queenslanders so that they have confidence that the legislative reforms we have made are producing the results we hope they will produce.

I return to the matter of police resourcing, because that is also picked up but the Queensland Audit Office in terms of the government not knowing what is working and what resources are needed. I think the member of Scenic Rim talked about the fact that Ian Leavers, in his contribution to the committee hearing, said that one officer had come to him and said, 'We should stop being called general duties police; we should be called domestic violence police, because that's all we're doing for eight hours, each and every shift.' I can attest to the fact that, anecdotally, a lot of sworn police officers on the front line in the electorate of Glass House are reporting the same. On the one hand, I am ecstatic that that is the case. I am ecstatic that particularly women are coming forward and reporting instances of domestic and family violence and that police are taking them seriously and are investigating them. I think that is a fantastic outcome. The downside is that we simply do not have the police resources on the ground to not only address domestic and family violence but also do all of the other things we expect of our frontline police officers. I do not want to reflect on other legislation, but you do begin to wonder whether things like hooning, break and enters and vehicle theft are not able to be responded to as quickly as we would hope and the community would expect because all of our officers are rightly focusing on domestic and family violence. I do not want that to change, but I want to make sure that our stations are staffed with sufficient numbers of police officers to do not only that but also all of the other community safety roles that we expect and thank our police officers for doing, day in and day out.

They are my primary concerns around this piece of legislation. Having implemented them, we should make sure we have the measures to measure and report honestly back to the community on their success or otherwise. If they are not working, let's come back and change them again. If they are working, fantastic. The other aspect is that we resource the various aspects of the government, particularly the police, to implement these legislative changes.

On that note, I acknowledge my support for this bill. I hope that it does produce changes, particularly for individuals such as the one shared with me by one of my constituents. I hope that it produces a safer outcome for the individuals involved, particularly for the children involved, in that case and in any other cases.



Hon. ML FURNER (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (5.10 pm): There are moments in time when we stand in this House and move pieces of legislation that are fundamental to the benefit of Queenslanders. This

is one of those momentous moments when we as parliamentarians demonstrate today in a bipartisan way what is good for Queenslanders. Unfortunately, I can speak from personal experience about something that happened to someone very close to me and why this legislation is so important. I will try and compose myself, but it is difficult.

I want to commend the Attorney-General for bringing this legislation to this House. This is a momentous occasion not only for this parliament but this government and myself personally. I also want to thank the members of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee for their work on the bill, including the chair, the member for Toohey. This bill will rename, modernise and strengthen the offence of unlawful stalking in the Criminal Code. With this bill the Palaszczuk government is tackling insidious nonphysical forms of domestic and family violence. The Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce report made significant recommendations to prevent coercive control. That report was called *Hear her voice*. I read some of the voices in that report, and they are consistent with what I had to deal with as a father when one of my daughters had to deal with this insidious behaviour. I hope no-one ever has to go through that, because you have a situation where you grapple day-to-day with love and care for your families and you would never want to see that experienced by anyone else ever again.

The Palaszczuk government has certainly been listening and we have 'heard her voice'. I know these reforms are important to the people of my electorate, Ferny Grove. Domestic and family violence is a scourge on every community. That is clear when I speak to families and local police and it is clear from my own family's experience as well. While the organisation is no longer around, I still wear my white ribbon badge with pride because something that I fundamentally believe in is defending those people who are dealing with domestic and family violence and coercive control perpetrated by insidious males. I will not call them men; they are not men. Anyone who commits an offence against a woman—and males on most occasions are the perpetrators—is not a man. It is vital for men to speak up about the dangers of domestic and family violence as well, and that is what I do on many occasions. We should all be ambassadors when it comes to the safety of members of our community. So many victims of coercive control suffer in silence, and that is precisely what we cannot allow. We must make our voices heard across the entire Queensland community. Domestic and family violence is unacceptable in all of its forms. We must do everything in our power to protect women and their families.

Coercive control can happen to anyone, but the statistics and the stories do not lie: women and families suffer the most. This bill will remove grey areas in the act with regard to what coercive and controlling behaviours are. This bill will make it crystal clear so that the patterns of behaviour that constitute coercive control are correctly identified. These behaviours include things like: reading texts, harassing phone calls, controlling finances—patterns of behaviour that seek to take away a partner's rights. These amendments will enshrine in law the association between stalking and domestic and family violence. They will ensure that the maximum penalty for stalking in the context of a domestic relationship is increased. Unlawful stalking, intimidation, harassment or abuse will now carry a greater maximum sentence of seven years if a domestic relationship exists between the offender and victim. Likewise, the maximum penalty for contravening a restraining order will go up to three years. These vital amendments are further demonstrations of the Palaszczuk government's steadfast commitment to communities. We will make sure that convicted domestic abusers can be put behind bars for longer.


In the short time I have left I want to concentrate on my personal experiences with regard to this matter. It relates back to a time when I was a union official and I had to deal with the disturbing behaviour of a particular male supervisor who preyed on two young women in the workplace. In fact, it was a workplace up in Toowoomba where they approached the union office. Despite the fact that the women were only asking for a bit of assurance and an apology from the perpetrator, the matter ended up going through the Queensland Anti-Discrimination Commission. We achieved a reasonable compromise and outcome and some compensation for the women. It was good for the employer to recognise that it was not behaviour that was steadfast in the view of the company, and in the long run they dismissed the perpetrator. That certainly was not the outcome we were looking for but it was probably the right step in terms of that particular person.

The other matter concerns behaviour that my daughter had to deal with, and many things in this bill will address that. In that particular case her boyfriend affected her overall outlook on life and reduced her overall confidence in life. She had many friends in school, but the only person left was him. He told her what to wear in public. 'What's on your phone?' 'You're not going out tonight dressed like that.' 'Show me your phone; I want to see those text messages.' This is the sort of behaviour that is being recognised in the bill, and it has to come to an end because that sort of behaviour should not be accepted anywhere in society. This bill will address that behaviour.

That led to me becoming a white ribbon ambassador, which I did in 2008 upon entering the Senate. I have proudly continued the objectives and vision that the white ribbon and many of the other organisations that wish to eliminate domestic and family violence stand for. I want to commend the men and women in DAF with regard to their commitment to the white ribbon group and two people in particular, Wayne and Annette Hall. Just last week on Valentine's Day we conducted an online raffle. We raffled prizes that our stakeholders in agriculture provided to raise funds for a Western Queensland refuge. We will continue doing that, and it is important that it continues. I encourage everyone to get behind not only supporting this bill but also supporting people in your communities to battle the scourge of domestic and family violence. If you recall, two years ago myself, Ron Goodman and a number of other people in my office, including my director-general and Wayne, shaved our heads and raised \$68,000. Many of our stakeholders came along and had the joy of taking the shears to our heads to raise money for—

Mr Butcher interjected.

Mr FURNER: I will take that interjection. I am pleased it grew back. I knew it was going to grow back, but I also know that the scars of women who have had to deal with domestic and family violence will never heal. Those scars continue throughout their lives and the relationships they have, and that has been the outcome for my daughter. She is healing, but it is difficult when you see the effect such an insidious attack can have on an individual. I will never understand it because I have always believed in respecting the women in our lives. Everyone has a mother, some of us have wives, and if you are lucky some of us have daughters. It is very important that we respect the women in our lives and the women in our societies. This bill demonstrates our commitment as a parliament to rid our communities of this insidious disease. It is a wonderful display of bipartisan to stand in this chamber and see people supporting this bill. I commend this bill wholeheartedly to the House.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (5.19 pm): I rise to speak on the Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I do so with a heavy heart, knowing the sadness that has happened across Queensland over many, many years. In my experience as a police officer and as officer in charge from 2004, I oversaw many of these cases. As others in this House have said, there have been many changes to legislation. I was a serving police officer when there was not any domestic violence legislation and police had to use other means available to them. As a community, we have matured and there are tools and resources in place that can help women and children remain safe.

As others have said, this is a complex policy area. One of the things that many of the submitters grappled with was the definitions and coming to a consistent approach on them. I commend the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee for their inquiry and the work they did. I pay particular tribute to the members for Currumbin and Scenic Rim for their statement of reservations. I also appreciate the guidance from the shadow minister for her significant work in this space and in other inquiries, as well as from the member for Mudgeeraba who regularly speaks in a heartfelt way for domestic violence survivors and victims.

With the time I have remaining, I want to give a personal insight to a family that I grew up with and share the words of my father that he would wish to friends and family when they would visit us at home. They were simple words: be kind to each other. I find myself now wishing the same to other family and friends when they come and visit. If everyone in the world was kind to each other, we would not need this legislation. I am very fortunate to have grown up in a household where there was such great respect for mothers, grandmothers and sisters, but many in the domestic violence space are vulnerable people who do not have that love and support and do not have that set of values. Unfortunately, we need this coercive control and other domestic violence legislation.

I want to take the time to give a shout-out to our Queensland Police Service for the work they do in combating domestic violence. In Lockyer we have hardworking police officers in Gatton, Helidon, Laidley and Lowood. The work they do is very significant, and it is also supported by the Domestic Violence Action Centre out of Ipswich. They not only support victims of violence but provide some assistance to prepare for when an offender comes out of jail and goes back into the community and poses a high-risk threat to those people. As we heard through the inquiry, many of those high-risk domestic violence situations started off with coercive control, a much less standard of domestic violence.

I note the Queensland Police Union's submission to the inquiry and their demand for additional resources. Their calculations based on the hours required for police officers to attend to this legislation means we need an extra 500 officers. I have spoken on that in this place before. From the reports

submitted by this government to the Australian Bureau of Statistics from 2015 to 2021, we were already 265 police down based on the number of police per 100,000 people in Queensland back in 2015. We are well and truly starting behind the eight ball. I recognise that the police minister was trying to assure the House earlier that additional resources will be provided, and I know there will be, but I doubt whether it will be sufficient. It is for that reason that I welcome the changes in this bill to methods of service so the police will be able to serve things in a much more streamlined fashion. However, that will not be sufficient to overcome the resourcing needs.

As I said before, this is complex legislation so the police who are investigating this will find it complex to examine and uncover a sustained pattern of events. It will not only be the initial investigating police; there will also be a higher workload for forensic electronic experts in the Police Service to uncover and get the evidence. That is not even talking about the need for those officers to then go to court. I stress to the government that more work and more changes need to occur to assist police in the serving of documents and also managing the civil process they find themselves in in a domestic violence matter. Until it gets to a breach of domestic violence and the criminal offence occurs, while we are dealing with orders it is a full civil process.

I know the frustration that sworn police experience when they attend a domestic violence location. They conduct an investigation and they gather evidence on body worn cameras or through other means. They have the evidence of domestic violence but they then have to go through a whole process of applying to a court through a civil process, which takes them hours. I encourage members in this House to approach their police and get to understand that whole civil process because it takes them hours. If the government were serious, they would make changes similar to other states in Australia, particularly Tasmania, where officers can actually put orders in place straightaway under certain circumstances. I look forward to further policy development with regard to that.

With those sorts of changes, the police could get the evidence and within a few minutes put an order in place at the scene and actually have the job done so they are ready to go on to other offences. As we hear in budget estimates and as I have spoken about in this place many times before, the number of discretionary offences that police are able to get to has dropped significantly over the last number of years. That is simply because there are not enough police and they are expanding their range of work on other matters. They are important matters like this but they do not have the necessary resources. I appreciate there will be some extra resources for the police but it will not be enough.

As I mentioned before, the work of our police is outstanding. I have to give a shout-out to the Laidley Community Centre and the Lockyer Community Centre for the work they do in supporting vulnerable people who are subject to domestic violence. I mentioned before the wonderful work of the Domestic Violence Action Centre out at Ipswich. The department of housing and crisis care in Laidley is another area that provides emergency accommodation for some victims of domestic violence in my community. They are vital services, but again they simply do not have enough resources to cater to all of the needs.

I note the delay in bringing this important legislation into the House. I can finally say thank you on behalf of all of the victims who have suffered coercive control because at least this is progressing and we have finally got to this point. I would also like to stress in closing that this is not going to be an easy matter to address.

The government must put in place simple policies so that people, the police and the courts can understand it, because at the moment it is becoming more and more complex. With a little bit of simplicity and additional resources, then many more in our community will be kept safe. Finally in closing, be kind to each other.

Debate, on motion of Mr McDonald, adjourned.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN (INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES) AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 1 September 2021 (see p. 2361).

Second Reading



Mr KATTER (Traeger—KAP) (5.29 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

Here we are some 10 years after I first addressed the issue of the blue card, and this is the third time I have presented to the parliament on the Working with Children (Indigenous Communities) Amendment Bill. It has been voted down twice previously by both LNP and Labor. We are still here, for

a good reason. We have discussed this thoroughly as a priority for our party each election because we are about trying to solve issues in this place and trying to work with the parliament through the laws of the state to address the issues as they are presented to us in the electorate. Unquestionably, one of the great issues we are facing in the north at the moment is the struggle in our First Nations communities with social disruption, alcoholism and things that go with it. There are some terrible injustices there. Those are not my words, those are the words of the committee chair who I felt was quite accurate. I will read a paragraph from the chair's foreword, reflecting on the committee, saying—

We also heard how the chronic housing shortage in these remote communities and negative Blue Card notices are contributing to social displacement and impeding kinship care arrangements. Our inquiries revealed manifest disadvantage, including that negative notices impact not only individual families but the wider community by disconnecting young people from family, country, language and culture. This disconnect is a modern day injustice, with a haunting reminder of other times in our history when First Nations people were separated from family and country against their wishes. We have to do better.

Indeed. We have to do better as a parliament. As a crossbench, we should be doing better. I wish I had thought of better ways to push this bill, but we have to do better for these people. They are struggling in these communities.

I do not have a lot of answers, but this one was thrown in my lap. It was not my idea; it was presented to me by Mornington Island Justice Group. I can give you the names, but it was about 10 years ago. They said, 'We've just got a problem.' That was compounded. Members will probably find themselves that once you start talking about an issue and presenting it and people see that you can help them with it, you become a lightning rod for that, and you will have more and more. We have found through our offices that there is a revolving door of people who are not asking for but pleading for help. They are in a sea of misery. They are trying to climb out of this hole. The first thing we present to them when they are trying to tidy up their life and present to work is this bureaucratic hurdle. It is there for a reason, we acknowledge that; of course it is. There are many things we have encountered now and have introduced with the best intentions and they have played a role—they certainly have—but you have to look at things on balance.

There are many fables and stories about people becoming so safety conscious that the activity itself that you set out to help with discontinues to exist because you try to mitigate the risks so much that you make the whole activity invalid in the end, and that is what we are approaching here. The whole point of what you are setting out to do is to protect the kids. We would strongly argue that one of the best ways to protect the kids is to repair these family environments. One of the most critical elements in repairing a family environment is to address the chronic alcoholism and those types of habits through meaningful work. One of the greatest things you can offer men and women in those communities is hope and meaningful work. What comes through time and time again, through our interactions in these communities, is 'Give us an opportunity to work.'

I can scarcely say I have ever had anyone in Doomadgee or Mornington say, 'Hey, Rob, can you make sure I get more money in my pay? I want more cash to spend.' However, what I do get time and time again is, 'Rob, how come that fella there has got the job? How come us locals haven't got the job?' Usually there is a pretty good answer to that: they cannot get their blue card. You may ask, 'What is the problem, are they going for nursing jobs or schoolteacher jobs?' No, the sewerage worker at Kowanyama could not get a job because he could not get a blue card. He had trouble maintaining his job because he could not get a blue card. I spoke to a leader of Indigenous rangers the other day who shook his head and said, 'Don't talk to me about blue cards. I had two young blokes who we recruited, they were going well, but a critical part of our activities is fires and burning'—he had to get the rural fire certificate, I think it is called. Whatever it was required a blue card. Bang, they are out. That is another horror story. There are compounding issues of this one element. We will address further how this bill will impact and how we mitigate these perceived risks around the kids, but I am just trying to paint a picture of how pervasive this problem is.

The intent of the bill remains largely the same as before, but I think it has been a while, so we need to go over it again. The way it operates in those First Australian communities, we would argue, is that there is currently no mechanism to allow the local community to have adequate impact into the issuing of blue cards for that community. There is no mechanism that exists that recognises behavioural improvements from the positive impact of employment. There could be a provisional card given to someone who is going really well which is, I believe, how they approach it in the Northern Territory. There are positive impacts on the community if they do get it.

The current application process has no set time frame. The time frame for the issuing of a blue card is almost as big an issue in itself, and that creates a significant barrier to marrying it up with the employment time lines. The current application process does not allow an applicant to undertake work

during the application process. Even if it is determined—and this has happened so often—that the individual poses no risk eventually, often that job has gone, and they have moved on as well perhaps psychologically; they have moved onto another place which often is not positive.

Mr Dametto: Regressed.

Mr KATTER: Regressed, as the member for Hinchinbrook said. Some of the statistics that we should be mindful of which I do not believe have been highlighted throughout the committee process is that people who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders account for five per cent of total blue card applicants, but they make up 22 per cent of rejected applicants. Unemployment in these communities: Doomadgee, 17.6 per cent; Kowanyama, 40.6 per cent; Palm Island, around 10 per cent; Mornington Island, 13.5 per cent; and Yarrabah, 37 per cent. The Queensland average is 3.7 per cent. We are getting an idea here of the really high unemployment rates. Most of the services are saying, 'We are screaming out for someone to do the job. We are desperate to get a local to be the teacher's aide or to be the gardener at the school.' There is an obvious disconnect there. The average household income in these communities is around \$65,000 per year versus the state average of \$87,000 per year.

Most of these jobs you can think of in these communities require a blue card. You might be working for QBAS as a builder, but you have to invariably go on site at a school or hospital. We talked about the sewerage work, but there is scarcely a job in those communities where you will not end up being somewhere at schools or hospitals. There is very little private industry. There is now a mechanic in Doomadgee and a roadhouse a bit out of town, but outside of that there is no other private employment. It is all government type jobs. Very rarely do positions become available that do not require the blue card.

Let's face facts: they are very violent communities. There are a lot of offences which we do not like to think about or reflect on, but they are very violent communities. I was acting witness for one of my constituents who was applying for a blue card and he told me how he assaulted someone seven times on the right shoulder with a boomerang and a number of times on the other shoulder with a boomerang. They said, 'Shouldn't that scare you that this person should get a blue card?' My response was that that is difficult for me to say because a confrontation for me is an argument over the fence over a bloke running his mower at night or such, but in Doomadgee, an argument is akin to some pretty violent altercations. It is commonplace. It is a terrible thing to say and acknowledge, but it is. So when you have this one-size-fits-all approach to the blue card, of course it is going to discriminate in these communities. It is not fit for purpose. The numbers are saying that in spades and the people are telling you that, but we seem to be stubbornly sitting down here saying, 'It has to be the same,' and—

(Time expired)



Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (5.40 pm): I want to acknowledge the advocacy of the member for Traeger and the work he has done, particularly with the community justice group on Mornington Island, in introducing the Working with Children (Indigenous Communities) Amendment Bill. As the minister responsible, I absolutely believe we need to do more to work with our First Nations communities around blue cards. I thank the committee for their excellent recommendations and I am really pleased to have the opportunity to talk a bit about what we can do in this space.

I note that in their report the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee recommended the bill not be passed. Accordingly, I advise the House the government will be opposing the private member's bill, and I table the final government response to the committee report.

Tabled paper: Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 38, 57th Parliament—Working with Children (Indigenous Communities) Amendment Bill 2021, government response [\[173\]](#).

I can advise the member for Traeger that we are supporting all of the recommendations in the committee report. Again, I acknowledge that while very well-intentioned, this bill would lessen existing safeguards. As the member for Toohey said in his foreword in the committee report—

At its heart, this Bill recommends the creation of a two tiered system. ... The Bill, if passed, would create more problems than it seeks to solve.

If passed, the bill would mean issuing a restrictive clearance to someone who might be otherwise issued a negative notice, allowing them to work within a specific community, and that does go against the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and also the Queensland Family and Child Commission report *Keeping Queensland's children more than*

safe. However, as I said, we are committed to ensuring not only that our laws work to keep children safe but that we can support our First Nations community. We absolutely believe that more needs to be done to reduce barriers for First Nations people when dealing with government.

The committee made a total of seven recommendations highlighting this need for additional support for First Nations communities. These recommendations were informed by a wide-reaching, thorough inquiry with hearings held in Mount Isa, Yarrabah and Palm Island. Again, I want to thank all members of the committee for their work.

I also want to acknowledge everyone who made submissions and gave evidence at the hearings. These stories showed us the complex issues being experienced by First Nations people right across Queensland in dealing with the blue card system. The committee recommended trialling a program of dedicated people embedded within Indigenous communities to assist with blue card applications and processes, working directly with local community justice groups. I am pleased to advise that we will be piloting the blue card liaison officer project. Importantly, this pilot will be co-designed in consultation with community to ensure First Nations peoples have a genuine voice in how services are delivered. We know that we get the best results when services are locally based and local community members are at the centre of design.

The committee also recommended the government issues clear guidance to large employers, including government departments and the construction industry, about their requirements under the working with children act. Whether a person is required to hold a blue card to perform their job will often depend on a range of factors including where the work is performed and the type and frequency of the work. Blue Card Services already works with employers to better understand their obligations but, again, clearly much more needs to be done.

Throughout this year government departments will work with Blue Card Services to audit their policies which deal with blue card requirements including procurement and grant funding agreement provisions. This will mean that Blue Card Services can deliver tailored mechanisms and clear guidance to effectively address overcompliance. Again, much more can be done to address that. Beyond that, the committee recommended the government considers amendments to better allow information to be shared between departments, streamlining blue card and kinship care approvals. We want to better understand the interactions between the kinship care system and the blue card system.

There are two pieces of work already underway to help build this understanding. First, we will work with relevant departments to undertake targeted case reviews of people who went through both kinship care and blue card assessments to identify key issues and themes. Secondly, the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak has been engaged to research and analyse the impact of the blue card system on kinship care approval processes. QATSI CPP's work will be guided by consultation with urban, rural and remote First Nations communities.

Blue Card Services is also developing a suite of resources for kinship carers, including videos and easy language information for prospective carers. We have also committed to changing our legislation to allow genuine researchers to access data about the blue card system to support further analysis and research into the impacts.

Another of the committee's recommendations was around family related definitions in legislation and how they interact with First Nations cultural practices. It is vital that legislation is culturally relevant, and we will work towards harmonising the Child Protection Act and the working with children act in this regard.

The committee also identified that the government should accelerate delivery of a number of QFCC recommendations. The Palaszczuk government is committed to implementing the QFCC's report and the change that it calls for. We are prioritising reviewing the blue card decision-making framework so it is fit for purpose, considering options to provide greater cultural context to decision-making processes and reviewing how we communicate to make the process easier to understand and less legalistic.

The final recommendation of the committee is that the Queensland government reports back on its progress on the implementation of the committee's recommendations within 12 months, and the government response confirms our commitment to do this. Implementing these recommendations will build on reforms already implemented by the department since the launch of the Safe Children and Strong Communities Strategy and Action Plan in 2021. Blue Card Services is working to provide a more supportive system at each step of empowering First Nations people by embedding cultural capability in our system.

Blue Card Services has conducted extensive visits to regional and remote communities to help further understand the ongoing needs of our First Nations stakeholders. In February and March of last year Blue Card Services made a range of community visits. In the coming months Blue Card Services will visit communities including Bamaga, Cairns, Charleville, Cunnamulla, Charters Towers, Doomadgee, Ipswich, Kowanyama, Mount Isa, Palm Island, Pormpuraaw, Roma, St George, Townsville and Yarrabah.

Blue Card Services has increased the number of identified roles across its teams, provided cultural capability training for all its staff and targeted trauma informed training for staff whose role involves regular, direct contact with First Nations people but, as has been highlighted, more needs to be done. The challenges that First Nations people face when dealing with government are not new, but they are not simple. They will require work to resolve and the changes outlined in the government response are a small part of that. We know we have to do better to address the manifest disadvantages being experienced by the First Nations community. My commitment to the committee members, the member for Traeger and to every member in this House is that the Queensland government is committed to doing exactly that.



Mr NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (5.48 pm): Disadvantage and disempowerment of remote and Indigenous communities is a very real and significant issue in Queensland as it is, I am sure, in many other parts of Australia. I can well remember my first visit to Palm Island as a newly minted member of the then Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee, LCARC, back in 2007 after the 2006 election. That committee, of which I was then the deputy chair, had been dispatched to consider the somewhat esoteric investigation into the participation of Indigenous communities in the electoral process as part of an annual review—important no doubt to understand what motivated people in remote, Indigenous and far-flung communities to take part in the democratic process.

Along with Palm Island, we visited communities near Cairns and Mount Isa. We spent time in each, and we visited elders and community representatives. Each had its separate issues and difficulties, and there was no denying that. Certainly participation in voting was not top of the pops when it came to the issues that they were dealing with. There were issues about housing; there were issues about employment and unemployment; there were issues about education. There were issues in relation to domestic violence and violence in the communities themselves, which all rated far more highly than participation in the electoral process, because worrying about who you are going to vote for when you are going hungry, when you do not have a roof over your head, where you are not sure where your kids are and where your kids are not sure where home is, is far more important in those communities. It was on Palm Island that the challenges faced by Indigenous communities were most apparent on that journey.

I take people back to the time that we arrived on Palm Island in early 2007, which was a relatively short time after the 2004 events that occurred on that island. We have seen the results of that play out for over a decade and a half since then. On arrival, we drove to the recently rebuilt community centre, because the old community centre had been burnt down in November of 2004. While on that short trip from the airstrip to the community centre, we witnessed two men. Those two men were fighting and fighting hard. They were fighting for the better part of 40 minutes and the island closed down. While that was obviously disturbing enough, it was the sight of large number of the community, including school children from Palm Island State School, barracking for one or other of the combatants on the roadways and the open spaces near the state school that stuck in my mind since that visit and highlights the challenges in that community, and I expect in other communities.

We have just heard the member for Traeger talk about the challenges up in Doomadgee in his part of the world. After that fight eventually ended we, of course, did meet with the elders and community representatives and others about the challenges. The clear issue that arose was the lack of purpose, and the lack of employment opportunities on that island and in the community. Again, this is not unique to Palm Island, but it is what I remember from my visit there.

With that in mind, we are very conscious of the aims of the member for Traeger and what he seeks to achieve, but the LNP cannot support the bill before us in the form that it is. While we understand and share the frustration and the concern of the member for Traeger, we are not satisfied that this bill will solve the issue and we think it may well have unintended consequences. I have listened to the member for Traeger. I listened to his speech here today and I have read his previous speeches. The member for Traeger, you must be sick of saying it, but we have heard it, the story of workers not being able to work for QBAS and others in the sewerage works. The member has put that evidence before

the committee not just this time around, but in 2019 as well when he presented the bill previously. We acknowledge the passion and the perseverance that he brings. It is evident in the presentations he has given to the committee—not only for this bill, but in each of the previous two bills he has introduced over each of the last two parliaments.

He is representing a frustrated community where the current system is not working and the government is, once again, woefully slow to act. I listened to the Attorney-General who said, 'We need to do more and we need to do better.' I imagine the question that the member for Traeger has, and the members of his community have, is: but how much longer do we have to wait for you to do better? How much longer do we have to wait for you to do more, because this has been going on for far too long?

The report by the Queensland Family and Child Commission started in 2016 and reported out in June of 2017. Come this June, it will be six years. In April last year, when the committee was investigating this particular bill—if memory serves me—only 16 of the 81 recommendations of that report had been implemented in full. Some 16 out of 81 recommendations in a report that was made in 2017. In fact, the situation has become so bad that the committee—this is a committee across the parliament—in recommendation 6 calls on the government to accelerate implementation of the report *Keeping Queensland's children more than safe: review of the blue card system*.

In particular, government should urgently progress work on recommendations 41, 43, 46 and 54.

We had a government which we know—we have seen evidence of this in the last 48 hours—is woefully slow to react. Too slow, and who pays the price? The community pays the price. Realistically, we should not have gotten to this point. Comments in the report itself show the frustration of stakeholders. It paints a picture of a system that falls short of meeting the needs of people and the organisations that interact with it. Organisations need more support and practical assistance. Members of the community do not fully understand the role of the WWCC, the working with children checks, in the broader system. ATSI people experience significant disadvantage at every stage of the process. Many withdraw from the process when they may have been successful if they had the right support.

The report from the committee is a condemnation of this Labor government's inaction over the last six years and the update from the Attorney-General's department sent to the committee in April last year that I mentioned previously, tells us that five years on from that report only 16 of the 81 recommendations have been completed in full. In her contribution today, the Attorney-General does not enlighten us any further about any more recommendations except for further vague promises which have been heard far too many times before.

The review identified the issues to be fixed—it was 240 pages long. It is not a case of not knowing. It is not a case of not having the material before it; it is a case of the government simply needing to do the job that it is elected to do. To the member for Traeger I say: we understand your frustration, we share your frustration. We understand the very good intentions behind bringing this bill to parliament and representing your constituency and taking their suggestions.

Unfortunately, this piece of legislation will not achieve that outcome. It will have unintended consequences but, perhaps more difficult, it will have consequences that may be only too readily foreseeable and that is in creating different categories of blue card licence and putting in place limitations and geographical boundaries. Those have very real problems, together with not complying with, or not meeting the expectations of the *Royal commission into the institutional responses to child sexual abuse*. Given the paramount obligation to protect children and the clear problems that are outlined in the report, as tempting as it may be, that path cannot be followed. Member for Traeger while we cannot agree, we support your intention and thank you for bringing this to the House.



Mr RUSSO (Toohey—ALP) (5.58 pm): I rise to speak to the Working with Children (Indigenous Communities) Amendment Bill that was introduced into the Legislative Assembly by the member for Traeger and referred to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee on 1 September 2021.

The committee in its report No. 38 which was tabled in the assembly on 31 October has recommended to the assembly that this bill not be passed. The policy objectives of the bill were introduced by Mr Robbie Katter the member for Traeger, and referred on 1 September. The committee's task was to consider the policy to be achieved by legislation and the application of the fundamental legislative principles to consider whether the bill has sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals and to the institution of parliament. The committee also examined the bill for compatibility with human rights in accordance with the Human Rights Act.

As part of our inquiry, as has been stated earlier, we travelled to Mount Isa, Palm Island and Yarrabah to speak with community members and organisations about how the blue card system was operating within these communities. We also thankfully had the opportunity of talking to stakeholders from Mornington Island, Normanton, Doomadgee, Townsville and Brisbane. It is important to note at this juncture that, as we move towards self-determination and autonomy, treaty and truth-telling in Queensland, I heard many compelling stories which were each a reminder of how extremely important each of these goals are. The committee also heard that the process of applying for a blue card in these remote communities can be exhausting and retraumatising to Indigenous people due to many factors, including intergenerational trauma, language barriers and complexities around formal documentation as to identity. Added to that is the fact that blue card applicants in Indigenous communities, particularly in remote communities, face significant disadvantage when it comes to online applications. For example, a lack of facilities and issues with internet access and wi-fi on Palm Island severely limit applicants' ability to communicate with Blue Card Services, thus contributing to delay and inequity.

We also heard how the chronic housing shortage in these remote communities and negative blue card notices are contributing to social displacement and impeding kinship care arrangements. Our inquiries revealed manifest disadvantage, including that negative notices impact not only individual families but the wider community by disconnecting young people from family, country, language and culture. This disconnect is a modern-day injustice, with a haunting reminder of other times in our history when First Nations people were separated from family and country against their wishes. We have to do better. Additionally, we heard evidence that some employers were imposing a blue card requirement even where the work role involved no direct contact with children. This overly prescriptive approach by employers restrains, unnecessarily in my view, several employment opportunities for local Indigenous people in these remote communities and operates as a bias, whether it be conscious or unconscious, against First Nations people. At its heart, this bill recommends the creation of a two-tiered system and that is directly contrary to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The bill, if passed, would create more problems than it seeks to solve.

I was moved by much of the evidence given during the public hearings and feel privileged to have heard the experiences of those who shared their stories with us. On behalf of the committee, I thank those individuals and organisations who made submissions on the bill and spoke with the committee. I also thank our parliamentary staff and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. The proposal under the bill to alleviate the impact of the current blue card system on Indigenous communities is summarised in the explanatory notes—

This Bill creates a framework that overcomes these limitations ... to make a binding recommendation ... to issue a restricted working with children clearance to an individual for work within that community even if the individual would be issued a negative notice ...

This restricted clearance would allow a person to be employed or to carry on a child related business. Typically, a community justice group includes elders, traditional owners, respected persons and community members of good standing and there are currently close to 50 community justice groups operating across Queensland. The types of offences that could be considered under the new framework are limited. Additionally under the bill, none of the offences which can be assessed by the community justice group in making recommendations to issue a restricted working with children clearance can be sexually based.

The royal commission into institutional responses recommended that the outcome of a working with children check is either that a clearance is issued or it is not and there should be no conditional or different types of clearances. There is some consideration that the community justice groups' involvement in blue card decision-making may be beneficial to the community. It is noted, however, that the framework proposed in the bill runs contrary to the recommendations of both the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and the Queensland Family and Child Commission by introducing a conditional blue card limited in application to a certain community area and placing weight on situational factors. Neither the royal commission nor the QFCC supported conditional cards nor different types of clearances, noting the limits such an approach would impose on the probability of the cards and the challenges in monitoring enforcement compliance.

It is comforting to see that the government has committed to the recommendations that were made by the committee. Whilst it has been noted that there has been some delay in bringing these things forward, I hope to see an improvement in the future when the government reports back to the House. I want to thank the member for Traeger, Robbie Katter, for his perseverance with us in attending the committee hearings and contributing to the debate on this bill.



Ms CAMM (Whitsunday—LNP) (6.06 pm): I want to commend the member for Traeger. I was not a member of this House when the member introduced previous bills or spoke on this issue, but I did have the opportunity to speak one-on-one with him about this issue. I also thank the committee for its work. I had the opportunity to sit in and hear evidence at hearings from some incredible people across our state, in particular some incredible Indigenous leaders.

I want to outline from the opposition's perspective that, while our shadow Attorney-General has said that we will not be supporting the bill because of all of the issues that have been highlighted, in particular around unintended consequences, I think what this bill does do is highlight a number of issues. Issue No. 1 is when the government presents a policy position and then enacts legislation around enhancing, for example, kinship care but then does not look at its own systems and processes that in fact inhibit the ability to increase kinship care across this state. The government makes announcements about how it wants to commit to Indigenous communities and that it wants to see investment and that it wants to see empowerment of those communities, yet the government's own processes and systems do not recognise those communities and the challenges that those communities are facing.

I had the privilege to travel with my colleagues to Far North Queensland late last year and in conversations in the community of Mapoon speaking with the mayor we raised this issue and I asked these questions: is this real? How does it impact her community? How does it impact her local government, noting that across many remote and Indigenous communities local government is one of the major employers within that community? Without a doubt she could testify that it is a major impediment. It is a major impediment for young people in the community. It is a major impediment for anyone who wants to further improve their circumstances. There is other legislation before this House where we talk about the fact that there is an over-representation of Indigenous women, yet the systems and processes that have not been reviewed or enacted upon from a report that was sitting for seven years in terms of the recommendations are those same processes that are impeding the ability for Indigenous women to be able to secure employment.

I note the contribution made by the mayor of Mornington which moved to tears not just me but many in the committee, in particular the commitment that he wanted to make to his community to contribute back to his community by supporting youth groups to ensure that those who need to see leadership and to deter them from potentially a path of crime. His own challenge in being able to obtain a blue card was extraordinary. In fact, if he did not have independent legal representation he would not have received the outcome that he needed. When we hear tragic stories of leaders in communities who have reformed their own lives, who are wanting to contribute to reform other lives, yet government processes are setting them back in their ability to do that, I think that is a government that has checked out.

The member for Traeger highlights some very important points. I know the committee only had a certain amount of time in areas, and they certainly covered quite a lot given their significant recommendations, but what we do not see quantified is the cost-benefit analysis of a blue card system versus what the alternative could be and what has been put forward by the member for Traeger. I also recognise that justice groups across the state differ in the way they interact and in their make-up. While I think they are a critical and important group to engage with, I highlight that each community is different. At times in this large decentralised state we forget that processes that are built down here in Brisbane do not necessarily fit the purpose that they are aiming to achieve.

I receive complaints across my electorate, as I am sure many do, around the time frames in the blue card system and the impact that has on employment more generally. As this bill highlights, that is felt no more greater than in Indigenous and remote communities. While the Attorney has tabled a response from the government, it is upon the opposition to work with the crossbench to hold the government to account on all of those responses and the recommendations that after seven years we still have not seen implemented. I commit to doing that across the portfolios I hold for the opposition, in particular child protection, where we see a system that is designed to protect children is in fact limiting the ability for community to connect and to protect children. I thank the committee members, in particular the member for Traeger, for highlighting this issue. I can only imagine his frustration. I empathise and make the commitment that I will continue to take this issue up in this House until it is addressed.



Mr HUNT (Caloundra—ALP) (6.13 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the examination of the Working with Children (Indigenous Communities) Amendment Bill 2021. The Working with Children (Indigenous Communities) Amendment Bill 2021 was introduced into the Legislative Assembly by

Mr Robbie Katter, member for Traeger, and referred to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee on 1 September 2021. From the outset I make plain and put on record a very personal and sincere thank you to the member for Traeger for bringing this matter forward. In my own life I have had very limited contact with regional and remote First Nations communities and reading about their challenges is all well and good but talking to people in their communities, hearing their words while looking them in the eye, is quite another thing. I commend the member for Traeger for bringing this action to bear and putting the spotlight on this raft of issues.

This was also my first time in committee on the road, as it were. Once again it throws into sharp relief the work of the secretariat, which is onerous enough for a regular hearing, but increased tenfold by hearings of this magnitude. To all the staff involved, you have my gratitude and appreciation for all the hard work, including a masterpiece of improvisation when we completely lost power in Yarrabah during the hearing. A special thank you to my committee members, in this instance Peter Russo, the inexhaustible member for Toohey; Jonty Bush, the member for Cooper; Laura Gerber, the member for Currumbin; Jon Krause, the member for Scenic Rim; and Sandy Bolton, the member for Noosa. Each and every one of them displayed a level of empathy and understanding that I was very pleased to be associated with.

After hearing from the communities in Mount Isa, Palm Island and Yarrabah, the committee made seven recommendations. Recommendation 1: the committee recommends that the bill not be passed. Recommendation 2: the committee recommends that the Queensland government trials a program of dedicated persons available within Indigenous communities to assist with blue card applications and processes in collaboration with local community justice groups and councils. Recommendation 3: the committee recommends that the Queensland government issues clear guidance to large employers, including Queensland government departments and authorities and the construction industry, about their requirements under the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000. This guidance should be towards supporting organisations to develop child safe policies which do not unnecessarily rely on the positive issue of blue cards. Recommendation 4: the committee recommends that the Queensland government considers legislative amendments to allow for the disclosure of information between government departments to streamline and facilitate the timeliness of blue card and kinship care approvals. Recommendation 5: the committee recommends that the Queensland government considers reviewing family related definitions under the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 and their application in Indigenous communities. Recommendation 6: the committee recommends that the Queensland government accelerates the implementation of the Queensland Family and Child Commission's report *Keeping Queensland's children more than safe: review of the blue card system*. In particular, the government should urgently progress work on recommendations 41, 43, 46 and 54. Recommendation 7: the committee recommends that the Queensland government reports back on its progress on the implementation of the committee's recommendations within 12 months.

Although recommendation 1 speaks to not passing the bill, we should take note that recommendations 2 through to 7 indicate why the hearings and subsequent report have been so very worthwhile. So far as recommendation 1 is concerned, I would draw on the committee chair's own words—

At its heart, this Bill recommends the creation of a two tiered system. That is directly contrary to the recommendation of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sex Abuse. The Bill, if passed, would create more problems than it seeks to solve.

The royal commission recommended that the outcome of a working with children check is either that a clearance is issued or that it is not. There should be no conditional or different types of clearances. On the strength of that, the member for Traeger was absolutely correct to pursue these issues. It is simply that this bill is perhaps not the ideal mechanism.

Section 6 of the working with children act states that it is being administered under two principles: the welfare and best interests of a child are paramount and that every child is entitled to be cared for in a way that protects the child from harm and promotes the child's wellbeing. Every submitter recognised and acknowledged the primacy of these underpinning principles. However, these principles themselves were not the causes for concern raised by submitters. The QFCC commenced a review into the working with children act and its operation in 2016 and reported in 2017. The *Keeping Queensland's children more than safe: review of the blue card system* considered feedback from stakeholders about the impact of the blue card system on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The report made 81 recommendations about legislative policy and operational issues. The recommendations were in four

areas: overarching reforms, streamlining the system, strengthening the system, improving support and maintaining public confidence. The blue card review report recommended significant reforms to the blue card system, including specific recommendations on how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and applicants are supported.

An ongoing theme across community feedback was the application of blue cards and whether or not it was applicable in every circumstance, and again I refer to the sentiment of the committee chair when he states—

... we heard evidence that some employers were imposing a Blue Card requirement even where the work role involved no direct contact with children. This overly prescriptive approach by employers restrains, unnecessarily in my view, several employment opportunities for local Indigenous people in these remote communities, and operates as a bias, whether it be conscious or unconscious, against First Nations people.

That is precisely what the committee is referencing in its comment at 2.1.3, on page 17, when it states—

We consider that the blue card framework should be reviewed so historical offences of a non-serious nature and not involving children are not taken into account. The criminal justice system is premised on rehabilitation, yet blue cards have the potential to impose 'life sentences' on individuals who have already been punished for their prior crimes.

In its submission, the QFCC acknowledged the need for streamlined blue card system processes that allow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to engage in employment and kinship carer duties at the earliest possible time. I would encourage the QFCC to fast-track the streamlining process with the greatest possible urgency as, according to the Caxton Legal Centre, the review process for blue cards through QCAT can take at least 12 months while other submitters also noted lengthy time frames of up to 15 months and, in one anecdotal case, almost two years.

Recommendation 6 of the report specifically refers to the QFCC blue card review of 2017 and a number of key recommendations, many of which are relevant to Indigenous communities and the issues considered by the bill, in particular: recommendation 41, which involves a proposal to amend the working with children act to introduce a new decision-making framework, including a review of the list of serious offences; recommendation 43, which involves the appointment of a multidisciplinary panel, including an Aboriginal person and a Torres Strait Islander person with relevant experience to advise on complex cases and more generally; recommendation 46, which involves the review of communication material to make it easier to understand and less legalistic, and establishing a new process for requesting submissions; and recommendation 54, which involves considering whether or not officers could be authorised to exercise some or all of the working with children act enforcement powers.

In closing, I am delighted to be able to stand here and state that our government supports all of the recommendations, from 2 through to 7, of the report. To that end and in keeping with the sort of high-quality and decisive actions that we have come to expect from this minister, government responses will include: a commitment to trial a blue card liaison officer program to provide assistance in First Nations communities, which is very much in keeping with the submitters; an audit of all departmental policies that deal with blue card screening to effectively address overcompliance issues; a review of certain kinship care approval and blue card assessments to identify trends, themes and opportunities for reform; and the much needed prioritisation of certain QFCC recommendations, including the review of the blue card decision-making framework to ensure it is fit for purpose. These responses go directly to some of the key issues raised by submitters in the communities we visited and, as such, I am very pleased to recommend the report to the House.



Mrs GERBER (Currumbin—LNP) (6.22 pm): From traveling throughout Queensland and talking with community about the blue card system, there is no doubt that the current blue card system needs improvement. The committee process certainly made that clear as did the submitters who claim it is no longer fit for purpose and requires a significant overhaul. Throughout the committee process we heard that the overwhelming criticism of the blue card system is that the application process is unable to distinguish between recent and historical criminal offences or effectively identify offences that pose no risk to children.

The member for Traeger has the right intent with this bill in trying to improve the government's failing blue card system. However, there are a number of issues with the bill including, at its core, that it proposes to amend the working with children act to enable a local community justice group to make a binding recommendation to the chief executive to issue a new class of blue card for individuals for work within that specific community. It is essentially this new class of blue card that poses the greatest difficulty with the bill. The proposal is a direct contradiction to recommendation 28 in the Royal

Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse because it introduces a conditional or different type of working with children check.

Recommendation 28 of the royal commission states that the outcome of a working with children check is that either a blue card is issued or it is not. The recommendation states that there should be no conditional or different type of clearance. That is one aspect of the bill, whilst well intended, that just does not get it right. Ultimately, despite the best of intentions—and I commend the member for Traeger for continuing to raise this issue—it became increasingly clear throughout the committee process that the proposed legislation would not achieve its desired aim. Unfortunately, we are not able to support the bill. However, I want to make it clear: we absolutely support the intent of the bill. As a committee, we have made recommendations to try to improve the state Labor government's mess of the blue card system, but we cannot support the changes in this bill as they stand.

I will provide an explanation of the committee's recommendations. This is the third edition of this legislation from the member for Traeger. The first edition was reviewed by the Queensland Family and Child Commission in 2016 and reported on in July 2017. That report is called *Keeping Queensland's children more than safe: review of the blue card system*. In July 2017, the QFCC made 81 recommendations. During the committee process we discovered that the state government has implemented in full only 16 of those 81 recommendations. In five years—it will be coming up to six years in July—only 16 of the 81 recommendations have been implemented in full.

I listened to the Attorney-General's contribution to the debate and I heard her say that more needs to be done. I ask: what has the state government been doing for the past five and coming up to six years? They have the report. They know what needs to be done. They know the work they need to do. They have just been sitting on their hands and not doing it. Given that, the committee has recommended that the Queensland government accelerates the implementation of the QFCC's report and urgently progresses work on recommendations 41, 43, 46 and 54 of the QFCC report and report back to parliament on their progress within 12 months.

I want to go into the recommendations in the QFCC report. Bear in mind that this report was done in 2017. The recommendations include a proposal to amend the working with children act to introduce a new decision-making framework, including a review of the list of serious offences; the appointment of a multidisciplinary panel, including an Aboriginal person and a Torres Strait Islander person with relevant expertise to advise both generally and on complex cases; a review of communication material to make it easier to understand and less legalistic and the establishment of a new process for requesting submissions, including giving applicants advice and details of the types of information required and the ability for applicants to make oral submissions; and consideration of whether officers could be authorised to exercise some or all of the working with children act enforcement powers.

It was all very apparent to the committee that these existing recommendations, from back in July 2017, would address many of the concerns raised during the committee process. I note the evidence during the committee process of the Queensland Family and Child Commission which suggested that the implementation of the recommendations would go a long way towards addressing many of the issues currently affecting Indigenous communities in regards to the blue cards. What have those opposite been doing for five and coming up to six years? I point out the fact that our committee recommending that the government report back to show they are making progress is, quite frankly, a damning indictment on the lack of action from this state government for the past five and coming on for six years. We made that recommendation because, based on the state government's progress so far and how far behind they are in fully implementing the QFCC's recommendations, we do not have confidence that the state Labor government can take the action required.

Throughout the committee hearings, we heard from remote and Indigenous communities about the amount of time it takes for QCAT to make an assessment and provide an individual with a blue card is a major problem. We heard that that is costing jobs for people in Aboriginal communities. The mayor of the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council told us—

... this issue is important in terms of economic engagement and participation. Blue cards play a part in that as well in terms of getting our people off welfare and engaging in the real economy.

Another common concern raised during the committee process was that the system treats Queenslanders as one homogenous group with an approach that simply does not work, particularly for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In this regard, I also note the committee's recommendation of a trial of dedicated blue card liaison officers for Indigenous communities. I wish to highlight the

committee's recommendation to consider legislative amendments to allow for the disclosure of information between government departments, streamlining and facilitating the timeliness of blue card approvals. This is particularly relevant for kinship care arrangements.

The impact the blue card system is having on the ability for kinship care proves to be a major failing, impacting not only individual families but also the wider community by disconnecting young people from family, country, language and culture. Essentially, the issue is that all of the adults in a family that has kinship care of a child are required to hold a blue card in order for the kinship care arrangement to continue. When a child in that family turns 18, if they are not granted a blue card or if it takes a significant amount of time for the card to be issued, this leads to the forcible removal of children in kinship care from that family.


We heard the story of a household where child services had deemed the family suitable for kinship care but Blue Card rejected one household member for a blue card when that household member turned 18. The family had to choose between giving up kinship care for a child or kicking their own family member out of the household. To put into perspective how prevalent kinship care is within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Queensland, as at June 2019, 55.1 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were placed with kin, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carers or residential care services.

I want to share one particular distressing case that the committee heard about whilst touring the remote Indigenous communities in Queensland. On 12 September last year at the public hearing the committee heard evidence from Nikita Sellin, CEO of the Aboriginal Law Justice & Governance Association on Mornington Island. During that evidence Ms Sellin told us—

Unfortunately, we have just had some sad news this morning that a 15-year-old girl who was removed off the island because families could not care for her due to the blue card situation—they moved her to Mount Isa and unfortunately she committed suicide last night.

We are talking about a vulnerable 15-year-old girl taking her own life. The blue card system is failing these communities, and this is the most horrific and tragic result. Minors and vulnerable communities in this state deserve a government that can work to protect them and is taking action to protect them, but this state government is failing to evaluate and implement recommendations from five years ago—coming up to six years in July this year. Its lack of action in this space is endangering the lives of the most vulnerable in our community. The testimony of Nikita Sellin, CEO of the Aboriginal Law Justice & Governance Association, tells us all we need to know about the cost of this state government's inaction in this space. It has the report. It knows what needs to be done. It has had 5½ years to take action and it is failing to do it.

While the LNP cannot support this bill in its current form, I want to make it really clear that we support the intent of the bill and we urge the state government to do its job. Fix the blue card system. Implement in full the 81 recommendations of the report that was handed down in July 2017. The inaction from this tired, third-term state government is costing these remote Indigenous communities and the toll is too high.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (6.32 pm): I rise also to speak to the Working with Children (Indigenous Communities) Amendment Bill. The bill was introduced into the Assembly by the member for Traeger, Robbie Katter, and referred to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee in September 2021. In summary, the private member's bill, if passed, is intended to reduce the range of criminal charges and convictions that would be considered as part of a working with children check for a person who applies for a blue card for use in a discrete Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community. The bill would enable the community justice group for the community to make a binding recommendation about a community member's application for that blue card. The committee's task was to consider the policy to be achieved by the legislation, the application of fundamental legislative principles and compatibility with the Human Rights Act.

After examination of the bill, including consideration of those policy objectives, stakeholders' views—of course, we travelled throughout Queensland speaking with discrete communities—and information provided by the member for Traeger and from the department, the committee did recommend that the bill not be passed. The committee did give regard to a number of recent review recommendations designed to reduce the risk of harm to Queensland's children including those contained in the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in 2015; the Queensland Family and Child Commission blue card review in 2017; the policy intentions behind the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) and Other Legislation Amendment Act,

passed by Queensland parliament in 2019; and the Child Protection Reform and Other Legislation Amendment Act, passed by Queensland parliament in 2022. Many of the elements in this private member's bill were in contrast to those review recommendations and policy objectives.

The committee, however, recognises the intention behind the private member's bill. There is dignity in work and ensuring that Queensland's First Nations peoples strive for, apply for and gain employment in the same sectors at the same rate as non-Indigenous people. It is critically important, and that is reflected in Queensland's Closing the Gap targets.

I would like to read part of the oral submission that was provided to our committee by Mr Kyle Yanner, the mayor of Mornington Shire Council, who said in terms of negative notices and blue cards—

It stops us from getting jobs. It stops us from building our knowledge, building our skills, building our capacity to live out our dream, to run this island—from the CEO to the cleaner, from the principal down to their cleaners. We want black sergeants, black doctors and black nurses. I guess Blue Card is saying it might be a bit too late, but it is not too late. Anyone can become a doctor. You can start uni at any age. Like I said, it holds us down. We cannot get a job. It knocks the fire out of our bellies when you get knocked back like that ...

I think this statement really sums up the importance of ensuring that those who do not present a risk to children should be assisted to obtain a blue card. Accordingly, the committee considered and identified alternative ways to achieve the intent of the bill to address some of the difficulties experienced by people in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities within the blue card system.

The committee heard that, while the department had progressed a number of recommendations contained in the QFCC blue card review, expediting a focused number of outstanding recommendations would have a substantial positive impact on First Nations people applying for a blue card. Therefore, the committee recommended that the Queensland government accelerates implementation of the blue card recommendations, in particular recommendations 41, 43, 46 and 54.


The committee heard both from communities and from the department that many employers are requesting prospective employees have positive blue cards, not because the position requires one but from this abundance of caution from the employer. The committee believes that the Queensland government needs to address this by issuing clear guidance to large employers, in particular employers in the construction industry, who are some of the largest employers in regional and remote locations, about their requirements under the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act.

Following the public hearings, the committee was particularly concerned about the impact that negative blue card notices were having on kinship carers within the child protection system. We know that being placed with family is the best way to keep Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children safe in the child protection system. Being placed with kin better promotes connection to family, country, language and culture. While the committee was not inclined to recommend legislative reforms that might unintentionally result in reducing that threshold for keeping children safe, the committee did see value in recommending that the Queensland government consider legislative amendments to allow for the disclosure of information between government departments to streamline and facilitate the timeliness of blue card and kinship care approvals. These recommendations have been intended to have that positive impact on both First Nations applicants and prospective non-Indigenous blue card holders; however, the committee did recognise the unique challenges facing those living in discrete Indigenous communities.

Submitters from some of those communities shared with the committee their unique challenges in applying for a blue card when based in a remote location. Intermittent access to reliable technology, the inability to reach out to departmental officers, and challenges with understanding and navigating that complex administrative request by the department were really common themes. The committee believes that trialling a program of dedicated officers based in Indigenous communities will assist and has made such a recommendation. It was great to hear today from the Attorney-General that a pilot of blue card liaison officers will commence. I think that will make a substantial difference in those communities. The committee has recommended that the Queensland government report back on its progress on implementation within 12 months.

On behalf of the committee I would like to thank those individuals and organisations who did make submissions to the bill. I think it is important to acknowledge that it was not an easy issue for people to talk about. There can be a real sense of shame for people to talk about receiving a negative notice. I really want to say how very grateful I was for the people who did share their stories—who came out, who made the effort, who sat there, who went through quite a formal process to share that with us in a public setting. It really was those stories that helped to illustrate the opportunities to do things differently.

I would like to thank the member for Traeger, Robbie Katter, for bringing this to the parliament and for his attendance and contribution at the committee hearings. It was really worthwhile. While I cannot support the member's bill, I am really encouraged that the government has accepted all of the committee's recommendations. I really do believe that these recommendations will make a material difference to the lives of people who have struggled to get a blue card not because they necessarily present a risk to children but because, for them, navigating that system is just too overwhelming and impossible to break through. I think this will impact on the employment prospects for people and it was great to be a part of that process.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (6.40 pm): I fully support the Working with Children (Indigenous Communities) Amendment Bill, otherwise known as the blue card bill, which has been introduced three times by the member for Traeger. I find it incredibly disingenuous for our government to promote Voice and treaty while at the same time voting against real solutions that would have a life-changing positive impact on Indigenous communities. What is confusing is that the member for Toohey and chair of the committee, in his own foreword to the committee report, even agreed that a negative blue card notice issued for minor or nonviolent convictions separated families and impeded kinship care in remote communities. The member went on to say—

Our inquiries revealed manifest disadvantage, including that negative notices impact not only individual families but the wider community by disconnecting young people from family, country, language and culture. This disconnect is a modern day injustice, with a haunting reminder of other times in our history when First Nations people were separated from family and country against their wishes. We have to do better.

However, as the chair of the committee, he then recommended the bill not be passed. If he showed these words to the people living in Indigenous communities that are very passionate about this blue card issue, they would say, 'Surely the government would vote for and pass this bill.'

This is the third time this bill has been tabled in more than a decade, and I commend the member for Traeger for his passion to help First Nations people. The member for Traeger raised this more than 10 years ago with the Newman government. He was very passionate about the need to resolve the issues—we heard about them in the committee report—of crime, suicide and family breakup. The sad part about it is that ministers and government constantly rejected it, so he introduced his own private members' bills. He has now introduced three private members' bills.

The government and the opposition have the opportunity to move amendments to a private member's bill, as has happened in the past. The KAP has introduced bills to which both the government and the opposition have moved amendments and that amended bill has been passed through the parliament. We continually hear in this House, 'It has merit. We understand, but we are not going to support it.' Why has this taken 10 years? Will we be here in another 10 years and hear the same spiel that has been given here tonight?

The current blue card system contains significant limitations in the way it applies to the unique circumstances of Indigenous communities. This is resulting in missed opportunities for social and economic development. Employers are insisting that people have a blue card, even if the job does not involve working with children. This is all a starting point in addressing youth crime, by giving parents better access to employment opportunities. For all of us, including Indigenous people in communities, a job gives us a sense of pride and the ability to better care for our families; however, the opposite happens if this is taken away. It leaves people ashamed, and they can easily slide into drugs and alcohol abuse, which is a real issue in these communities, leading to a breakdown in family structure. That is what the committee heard time and time again.

It is very clear that this bill is not advocating for any relaxation to the rules surrounding sexual predators or serious crime. Instead, the bill creates a framework which strengthens the process by enabling the community justice groups to consult with the police and the relevant authorities on whether an individual should be issued with a blue card. This is in the bill right now. The decision would not be made by Brisbane bureaucrats, who would not have a clue what is going on outside Brisbane. This will be a better system, as a person who secures a job with children in the community may not have a record but may be known to the community as a person not to be trusted. It would be far more beneficial for a community to help make the decisions, rather than a person sitting in power a thousand kilometres away.

I want to finish with words from the mayor of Palm Island, Mislam Sam, and the mayor of Yarrabah, Ross Andrews, which perfectly describe why this bill should be passed. These are not the words of the members for Hill, Hinchinbrook or Traeger; they are the words of the mayors of Palm Island


and Yarrabah. Palm Island mayor Mislam Sam said that the bill has his support. Those opposite are all saying that it does not have support, but the mayor of Palm Island said that it does have his support. He estimated that there were between 50 and 100 people on the island currently jobless, directly due to being unable to secure a blue card. This has been going on for 10 years, since the member for Traeger introduced the first bill because he could see this was a problem. The mayor also stated—

There is 80 per cent unemployment, but there are a lot of jobs there. No-one can fill these roles. The Police Service has been looking for PLOs for the last two years—\$65,000 a year, four positions, cannot fill them. The education department is crying out for local staff as teacher aides. They cannot fill them. Selectability is crying out for local staff. They cannot fill those positions because they cannot find people with a blue card or yellow card—simple little things.

Yarrabah mayor Ross Andrews said that blue cards posed a significant barrier to employment in his communities. He said—

Blue cards play a part in that as well in terms of getting our people off welfare and engaging in the real economy. There are challenges within the rules of government and how they play out, but there are also opportunities for our people to move forward on many other challenges.

The government is so committed to talking about reconciliation or treaty or the Voice, but when it comes to taking real action it shows a complete lack of wanting to actually fix issues faced by First Nations people. If it did, it would have this fixed right now. Those living in Indigenous communities who overwhelmingly support this bill will find out shortly whether the government is serious or again just paying lip-service to our First Nations people. This bill is about improving quality of life and providing opportunities for Indigenous communities. I ask everyone to support this bill. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (6.48 pm): I rise to speak against the Working with Children (Indigenous Communities) Amendment Bill in respect of my portfolio areas of children, youth justice and multicultural affairs. From the outset I would like to thank the member for Traeger for his briefing on this bill last year and also thank the committee for its examination of the bill and recommendations. I also thank those who appeared as witnesses as part of the committee's inquiry, including in Mount Isa, Yarrabah and Palm Island. Those are some of the same communities that were consulted on the 2019 bill that the member for Traeger previously introduced, and that was an inquiry that I then chaired.

I do want to acknowledge the long period of time the member for Traeger has been raising these issues and wanting to have this conversation and the participation of those communities in this conversation. I note that the committee made seven recommendations, including that the bill not be passed. We are supporting all of those recommendations.

The purpose of the bill is to provide a new blue card framework that empowers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to make decisions that best serve their interests in relation to child protection and the employment of community members. This is certainly a purpose that we support and one that we continue to work alongside communities to achieve, whether through the Our Way Strategy, our work in respect of delegated authority, intensive family services, community partnership innovation grants, and the reforms that will come about following the committee's recommendations with regard to this bill.

The bill has implications for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families who are disproportionately represented in the child protection and youth justice systems. Young people who are transitioning from care may require a blue card for a number of reasons, including for education, employment and post-care accommodation. The bill also has implications for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families who provide kinship care for family members under the Child Protection Act. For a kinship carer to be approved not only does the primary carer need a blue card but also all adult members of the household. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households this may require a larger number of people in the family or kinship group to be assessed for a blue card.

Kinship care has many benefits for vulnerable children. It provides stability and safety as well as the ability to maintain family connections and cultural traditions. It is something we are incredibly committed to, incredibly committed to growing, and we have seen growth in that respect here in Queensland. I take this opportunity to thank the many kinship carers across Queensland for the wonderful work they are doing to keep children safe and supported in culture and community.

It is extremely important that legislation is culturally relevant, and I acknowledge that further work is required to ensure that the blue card system does not create unnecessary barriers for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in employment and kinship care households; however, while well

intentioned, this bill would lessen existing safeguards and is inconsistent with our No Card, No Start reforms—Queensland’s strong working with children laws. They should be strong; we are talking about children. We are talking often about a particularly vulnerable cohort. I refer to the comments I made in 2019: a two-tiered system does not serve that purpose. My comments remain the same. Though well intentioned as the bill is, it does not serve the best interests of children and the safety of children.

What I do fully support is the committee’s recommendations, and in particular I note the committee’s comment that the implementation of the recommendations in the QFCC’s blue card review report would go a long way to solving many of the issues existing in Indigenous communities regarding blue cards. I support the Attorney-General’s comments with regard to ensuring those recommendations are being instituted in communities. With the clear intersection between the child protection and blue card frameworks, my department is actively working with Blue Card Services to develop culturally responsive processes and respond to the committee’s recommendations. My department is undertaking consultation with peak bodies and other representative organisations regarding options to support the implementation of the child-safe standards in Queensland as another way to guarantee safe environments for children.

The views of stakeholders will inform further work to determine the best way forward for implementing child-safe standards in Queensland. My department is partnering with the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and the QFCC on a project which aims to better understand the similarities and differences between kinship care and blue card assessments. This work will build a stronger evidence base to improve interactions between the two systems. My department has also been collaborating with the Department of Justice and Attorney-General to further consider the issues raised by the inquiry, including considering how the Child Protection Act and the Working with Children (Risk Management Screening) Act work together in relation to some family related definitions and their application in Indigenous communities.

The department is also directly working with the Department of Justice and Attorney-General on *Safe children and strong communities: a strategy and action plan for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and organisations accessing the blue card system 2021-2025* report. This strategy and action plan is about empowering First Nations communities and organisations by providing a more supportive system through each step of the blue card process. The department is committed to this work and actively supports Blue Card Services as they work through the strategy and action plan. It goes to the heart of some of the key issues the member for Traeger raised, his concerns and the reason for bringing the bill—I appreciate not in regard to employment, but about families and family kinship care arrangements—but also those picked up by the committee in their comments in the bill. We have heard some of those here today.

In closing, I want to reiterate my thanks to committee members and the secretariat for their work in considering this bill, for their travel and for ensuring that they went to community to hear the voices of community. I acknowledge that the member for Traeger’s efforts, though well intentioned, would lessen the safeguards. For this reason, I cannot support the bill. We will, however, continue to pursue practical reforms with respect to blue cards and the empowerment of local Indigenous communities in that process.



Mr DAMETTO (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (6.55 pm): I rise to give my contribution to the Working with Children (Indigenous Communities) Amendment Bill 2021. From the outset I commend the hard work of the member for Traeger not only in this term to ensure this bill has its absolute best opportunity to find passage through this House but also for the work he has done over 10 years. For over 10 years the member for Traeger has advocated strongly for Indigenous communities within his electorate to try and bring meaningful change within this House, to change a system that is not working for those remote Indigenous communities, to create something which will bring economic stimulus to the area but also economic prosperity for those families that seek to live, stay and raise a family in those remote Indigenous communities. That is pretty special.

People from Mornington Island approached the member for Traeger because they thought he would be the best person to carry their voice into this House—the best person, their local member, to create meaningful change in their community. They trusted him with that. They put the legislation together, and he brought it in here to speak to every single one of these members of parliament who should be on the edge of their seats. Members that represent south-east corner seats do not get an opportunity to go all the way up into the northern ‘never lands’ of Queensland electorates. To find out about and hear what the member for Traeger wants on behalf of his community is what everyone in this House should be sitting on the edge of their seats for.

This goes off the back of the hard work that the member for Traeger's father, the member for Kennedy, did years earlier listening to communities. Bob Katter, the member for Kennedy, was arguably one of the best Indigenous affairs ministers this state has ever seen. His whole family has worked to increase the viability of remote Indigenous communities, and this bill does exactly that. This bill seeks to create a mechanism so that local communities can have a say on who gets to work with their children and who gets to work in their community with their children. The problem is that in these communities most of the work available is through local and state government agencies and you need a blue card. To even volunteer at the rural fire brigade you need a blue card. It is borderline racism that people can go up there and say, 'Why aren't these people working?' 'What are all these people doing sitting around?' If over 80 per cent of the employment up there is through local and state governments and you need a blue card, there is your answer.

Until you can open up some passageway to meaningful employment for these people you do not have an opportunity to rebuild the family unit, address youth crime, address intergenerational unemployment and address alcohol and drug dependency within the community. As the member for Traeger has said a number of times, he never goes into one of these communities where an Indigenous person comes up to him and says, 'I want you to make sure my unemployment benefits go up.' Not one. They are looking for an opportunity to have economic prosperity for their own family.

I heard a number of people raise in the House that this will lessen safeguards for children in the community. The reality is that there are children living in houses where there are 15 or so people who cannot obtain a blue card, but the same people in that house cannot get a janitor role at the local school after dropping off a couple of those children at the school. We already have a two-tier system in this state. We have got alcohol bans in this state. We passed legislation last year that allows Child Safety to leave children in high-risk families longer because they are Indigenous. We already have a two-tiered system.

Debate, on motion of Mr Dametto, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Ninderry Electorate, Survey



Mr PURDIE (Ninderry—LNP) (7.00 pm): I would like to share with the House the results of a survey that I sent out to my electorate late last year. In that survey, I asked my community for their top three local issues. The results were not necessarily surprising but they are concerning. Given recent statistics which revealed the poor performance of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital and Nambour Hospital, I was not surprised to learn that the health crisis is still the top local issue in my electorate. Recent performance data showed that both of these hospitals were amongst the worst in the state for both urgent and non-urgent surgeries—failing to meet all wait time thresholds. Despite the best efforts of our local hardworking medical professionals, Sunshine Coast residents are concerned with delays in receiving timely treatment at our public hospitals, combined with some of the worst ramping rates in the country.


The issue that came in next was cost of living. If the rising costs of groceries, fuel, housing and electricity were not bad enough, the Palaszczuk Labor government has hit Queenslanders with no fewer than eight new taxes. Despite their promise of no new taxes, we know this government have form when it comes to money. When they run out, they come after yours—just like we have seen with their recent attempts to tax renters and patients—and there is still no cost-of-living relief for the thousands of residents in my electorate who are struggling to make ends meet.

The third biggest issue is the condition of our roads. While we have secured initial funding to bust congestion and improve road safety in Coolumb, our local road network has been ignored over three successive terms of this Labor government. Investment in roads has not kept pace with population growth on the Sunshine Coast, and in my electorate of Ninderry there are a number of major arterial roads in desperate need of an upgrade. These include Old Maroochydore Road, which was recently listed in RACQ's list of top 10 worst roads, along with the western section of the Yandina Coolumb Road and the Eumundi Noosa Road.

As we have heard in the chamber today, this government has failed Queenslanders when it comes to law and order, but let us not forget the other victims of this government's incompetence. Patients left to live in agony while they wait for urgent surgery and families struggling to keep a roof

over their heads are also victims of this tired third-term Labor government who have given up on listening. Those families forced to live in their car because they can no longer afford to pay their rent are also victims. The thousands of motorists on our roads who waste time and money being stuck in the gridlock of our failing road network deserve better. I will never trivialise the pain and suffering of any victim, especially victims of crime, but it is clear that residents in my electorate and across our state are not receiving the basic services they expect and rightly deserve.

Waterford Electorate, 2022 Logan Floods

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (7.03 pm): This week marks one year since Logan was inundated with floodwater—the worst flooding event that the community had seen in almost 50 years. I saw firsthand how hard the floods hit residents across the south side. Logan residents were left without power and were completely cut off for days at a time. With Major General Jake Ellwood, I met with people who were struggling with mental health issues because of the natural disaster and with mountains of insurance paperwork.


The floods were a difficult time for thousands of families and I know that for many the recovery is not over yet. However, just as we did in 2011, 2013 and 2017, I am so proud that Logan banded together as a community and day by day overcame this monumental challenge. In the weeks and months after the flooding, we saw an enormous outpouring of support and assistance for those in need. Organisations like Lighthouse Community Care, Everything Suarve, Domino's Logan, Patino Lawyers, HelloFresh, Woolworths Meadowbrook and Bunnings Browns Plains all donated food, water and other essential items for those who needed it most.

It was not just businesses and community groups who were pitching in. Regular everyday residents in my community were arriving at my electorate office asking where they could drop off pallets of water bottles, warm blankets and bags of groceries. At times we were struggling to find places to store all the donated items and work out the logistics to get it to those most in need. That is how much support there was. The generosity and community spirit displayed by the people of Logan was nothing short of a miracle. I know I said it last year but I will say it again: thank you to each and every one of the Waterford and Logan community members who reached out to help where they could.

I also want to extend my thanks to the Deputy Premier whom I joined to announce the \$741 million Resilient Homes Fund last year. It was the largest program of its kind to ever be delivered in this country, and it is helping to make our communities' homes more flood resilient so that families do not have to keep going through this process every time our rivers rise. Through repairs, retrofitting, raising and in some cases voluntary buybacks, our government is ensuring that residents along the Logan River and right across Queensland can have peace of mind.

While the last 12 months have been hard, I know that we will always come back stronger because that is what makes Logan so special. In times of adversity we come together, we lend a hand and we look out for those in our community who need it. I often say I am proud to represent the people of Waterford, but as I stand here reflecting on the 12 months since those devastating floods I must say I have never been prouder.

Johnson OAM, Mr V; McLellan, Mr A; Kavanagh, Mr G

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (7.06 pm): I am deeply saddened to rise tonight to mark the passing of three outstanding and loved community leaders in Gregory. Many will be aware of the recent passing of the former member for Gregory, Vaughan Johnson OAM. I hope to have more to say about Vaughan's enormous contributions to Western Queensland when this House marks his passing with a formal condolence motion. The outpouring of gratitude and affection for Vaughan across Gregory shows he was well loved not only in Gregory but throughout Queensland and in this place as well.


Sadly, on Australia Day Western Queensland also lost highly respected banker Angus 'Gus' McLellan. Quite simply, Gus was Rabobank in Longreach. Throughout the 10-year-long drought, Gus focused intently on getting all his clients through it. His loyalty was renowned. His loyalty to his clients, to Western Queensland and to his work colleagues was legendary.

Angus started in the ag industry back in 1974 as a cadet livestock agent with Winchcombe Carson, moving on to work for Elders and then later Dalgety. This experience gave him deep knowledge of Western Queensland's agricultural industries and a substantial network of key operators in those

industries. In 2002 he moved to Rabobank, and his dedication to his clients' welfare throughout the drought made a huge difference. Gus was 67 when we lost him to cancer. He had put off his retirement until the drought broke and I am sad to say that he did not get to enjoy that retirement. He was a much-loved husband, father, uncle and community member. I extend my deepest condolences to his wife Karen and his children Angus, Tom and Annabelle.

The Central Highlands has also suffered a great loss with the passing of Geoffrey Kavanagh after a battle with brain cancer. Geoffrey was a truly loved member of the agricultural and irrigators community in the Nogoia Mackenzie and Fitzroy Basin. Geoffrey had a deep knowledge of the hydrology of the basin and I would go so far as to say he had almost a sixth sense about water flows from rainfall events. In 2008, when Emerald experienced historic floods, we faced it with the Bureau of Metrology having withdrawn services from the district. The council, the state government and the community turned to Geoffrey, who was able to predict with almost uncanny accuracy what the flood flows would be and when they would arrive. I still retain the invaluable charts he developed linking flood heights with local landmarks. Of course, Emerald's 2008 flood was just the prelude to Queensland's summer of sorrow in 2010. Once again, Geoffrey's expertise was fundamental in managing the second flood in 2010. We owe him a great debt and I extend my heartfelt condolences to his wife Julie and children Kaydee and Brynn. He will be greatly missed not just for his knowledge but for his contributions to the community and to agribusiness. I will miss all of those gentlemen very much.

Greater Springfield

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (7.09 pm): In late November, our government announced that biopharmaceuticals company, Aegros, would build a new \$352 million manufacturing facility in Greater Springfield thanks to support from the Palaszczuk government's Invested in Queensland program. Aegros, currently based in Sydney, will establish its global headquarters and a new advanced production facility at BioPark Australia, bringing more highly skilled jobs to our state. Aegros estimates that its facility will create 348 long-term jobs across its first four years of operation. The company aims to use its unique advanced technology to develop and manufacture lifesaving therapeutic blood products. Therapies produced from the plasma in blood can help fight infection or disease such as lupus and type 1 diabetes, promote blood clotting, prevent shock and assist with post-surgical recovery. The Springfield facility will have the capacity to process one million litres of human plasma per year. Australia currently imports almost half of the essential plasma and blood products used to develop biopharmaceuticals, so this new facility will position Aegros to meet the needs of the domestic market. Aegros also aims to capture some of the \$19 billion global export market for therapeutic plasma products. I recently met with the proponents about their plans and look forward to supporting their project being progressed in Springfield.


This is not the only company seeing the potential of 'health city' in Greater Springfield. In the last few months, I have had the privilege of helping to open not one but three new medical health businesses in our community. It was an absolute pleasure to help officially open the new premises for Neta Care Holistic Medical Services in Brookwater. CEO Emeka Edwin-Nweze and his team bring an incredible and refreshing approach by offering a holistic approach to health care in our community. Neta Care not only offers medical services but also offers NDIS, DVA, aged-care, rehabilitation and child and youth services.

I was also pleased to attend and assist in the opening of Australian Veteran Health Services. AVHS is providing vital services that assist our veterans in that most important period—their transition from military life to civilian life. With such a large and growing defence and veteran community, I am very grateful to Dr Andrew Cronin, Dr Steven Smith and Dr Harsharan Singh, who all share a lived experience of being veterans themselves, for establishing their growing and much needed practice in our region.

Finally, congratulations to Dr Sundhar Narayan and family on the establishment of the Elite Cutis cosmetic clinic in Springfield Central. I was honoured to cut the ribbon on their new and beautiful clinic. 'Elite cutis' means 'rich skin' which is the aim of Dr Narayan's work and I am confident he will have plenty of new clients seeking his expertise, potentially me included.

The decision of each of these companies to establish their headquarters and clinics in Greater Springfield is not only a real vote of confidence in our region but also the beginning of more highly skilled jobs for young people in my community in the growing health and biomedical industries.

Burdekin Electorate, School Leaders


 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (7.12 pm): John F Kennedy said, 'Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.' Although the former president spoke these words decades ago in another land, his words have proven to be true in schools throughout the Burdekin electorate. In recent weeks, I have been honoured to attend several investiture ceremonies and last week I was able to spend time with school leaders in the western part of my electorate. Meeting these young leaders is both a privilege and an inspiration, and I would like to acknowledge Casey and Blake from Moranbah State High School, Angela and Heidi from Clermont State High School, and Karissa and Morris from Dysart State High School. In coming weeks, I will be meeting with school leaders from other schools throughout the electorate and I look forward to hearing their thoughts and plans for the year ahead.

Centres like Clermont, Dysart and Moranbah are major contributors to Queensland's economy. We only have to cast our minds back to the last budget where the Treasurer spoke of the increased mining royalties and said, 'All of that \$1.2 billion and more will be going into regional Queensland.' It is time for the Treasurer to start delivering on those words. As it stands today, we have teacher shortages, a school without a guidance officer, a multimillion-dollar facility that has produced award-winning apprentices in Moranbah sitting idle and, believe it or not, a school library in Central Queensland where the air conditioning has been out of action for more than 12 months. Planning for the future is also at a standstill with the learning centre, which the Minister for Education said would be completed for the start of the 2024 school year, still in the design phase.

It is not only about facilities. After meeting with the school leaders, I will be more than happy to provide the minister with a long list of projects that the students themselves believe would benefit them and their communities. In Dysart, for example, health is an issue for that school. Given the fact that Dysart is serviced by only one doctor, the suggestion of a school nurse who would be accessible to both students and staff makes a lot of sense. Like the wider community, the school leaders in Burdekin electorate are practical and realistic. They are not asking for more than their fair share; they are simply asking this government to deliver what was promised.

When you travel around those particular schools in the western part of my electorate, you get a sense of the resilience that those students have built into their schools and their communities and the hurdles and obstacles that they face—a senior student at Glenden is completing six of his seven subjects by School of Distance Education. They are the challenges that our students face in some of these more remote areas. If we are going to encourage families to move to rural and regional Queensland, then we need to provide them with all of the same services and facilities that their city cousins enjoy.

Redlands Electorate

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (7.15 pm): Across the Redlands there are more hard hats out on site than you can poke a stick at. Over the last five years, we have delivered some fantastic projects. We have a whole heap underway at the moment and more planned. I have had the opportunity to visit a number of sites over the last month.

At Victoria Point State High School we have completed the library refurbishment, the hall expansion, with security fencing all around, and at the moment we have an \$11 million STEM and hospitality building that is under construction which will provide an awesome experience for our students in the STEM and VET space. That is really exciting news for our high school students.

On Cleveland-Redland Bay Road we have the duplication underway. We completed the Anita Street intersection. Stage 2 planning works for the duplication are underway and we have stage 3 to go. I am looking forward to seeing that road duplicated. It will be fantastic for our community.

For our bay islands, we have just opened the Russell Island new jetty terminal and there are still three more to come. There has been over \$44 million worth of investment in the four Southern Moreton Bay Islands. The first one switched over for our Russell Island community. They look amazing, providing a fantastic arrival and departure experience for locals and people who come to visit our community.

Over Christmas we installed a new kindergarten building and prep building for our Russell Island State School. It is fantastic to be delivering a kindy in the state school setting over there in a school that has about 180 students. It is fantastic news.

Mr Tantari: You have been working hard.

Ms RICHARDS: I know! Working hard, I can tell you! It is fantastic news for our island community. There is so much happening over there. Our Skilling Queenslanders for Work program is about to launch over there—again, another fantastic Palaszczuk government program. I am proud of the work we have been delivering and continue to deliver over there.

I went through the satellite hospital with Hutchinson Builders. I want to give a shout-out to all of the builders because the humidity and heat over the last few weeks has been absolutely testing for all of them. I was at the satellite hospital on the most humid day in the world when the site had to shut down. It was a really hot day. They are about to go into the defects liability phase. That project is going to deliver health care closer to home for my island community and for the growing southern Redlands.

When we talk about planning and delivering infrastructure where we have growing communities, you see it in the Redlands at the moment. I am absolutely proud of that facility. Building on what we are doing at the Redland Hospital, the seven-level, multi-storey car park is due to open there. It will unlock the land there and enable us to keep growing that hospital for our Redlands community.

In the heart of Shoreline at the deep end of southern Redland Bay, we have our new \$60 million primary school, under construction. ADCO is on site and the heavy gear is there. As I said, there are more hard hats down there probably than anywhere else in Queensland. I cannot talk about cranes, but there are definitely hard hats. I am so proud of the work that our Palaszczuk government is delivering for my Redlands community.

Maiwar Electorate, Schools



Mr BERKMAN (Maiwar—Grn) (7.18 pm): It is more than 2½ years now since the Minister for Education announced funding for a new primary school in Brisbane's inner west. Believe me, I was as excited as anyone when this funding commitment was made. On the minister's initial time estimates, the school should have already opened on day one this school year. Since then the department has proposed just two locations for the new school, neither of which had community support. Co-location with Indooroopilly State High School would have worsened the existing traffic nightmare and would have been terrible for a popular and growing school. The Toowong Bowlo site we all know is flood-prone public land next to a protected flying fox colony. When the minister told me last year they would be reconsidering the location and the school would be delayed again, I told her we would support that so we could take the time to find a better site.

I also made it very clear that we still urgently need a new school in the inner west and she agreed. Now, six months later, there is radio silence from the government—no news on an amended time line or possible alternative sites, no sign of the report from the second round of consultation, no response to my recent letter requesting a meeting with the minister about this.

Meanwhile, Indooroopilly State School is absolutely chockers, with around 1,400 students enrolled this year. Despite the construction of a fantastic new building recently, Toowong State School is essentially back to full capacity and in the same situation it endured in 2019 when half the school oval was taken over by demountables for three years. I understand student numbers at Indooroopilly State High School are about 700 beyond its built capacity. It seems the response is, once again, to spend—about \$3 million this time—to put six demountables on the school oval, never mind that the kids need that space to play or that junior science classes are having limited laboratory time or that the student support space has to be used as a classroom now. This is a direct result of a failure to plan ahead.

I have lost count of how many times I have urged the government to just make the investment in necessary school infrastructure in my area, to bite the bullet and acquire new land for the new school in the most appropriate area. I have suggested options in Taringa like a smaller school at the TriCare development site or purchasing the blocks that are up for sale around the Taringa train station, but they apparently just do not want to acquire new land. The government is only too happy to spend billions demolishing and rebuilding the Gabba and, no less, taking out a heritage-listed state school along the way, but they will not stump up the cash for the new school they promised my community years ago.

It is time to get real. There is clearly no suitable state owned land in the area. It is not like finding a bonus fiver in your jacket pocket when you put it on. The minister has not missed the perfect site somewhere in state owned land within Maiwar. If they are really worried about paying for it, why not introduce a windfall gains tax on developers so that the families living in the countless new apartments in my electorate have a place to send their kids to school?

Stretton Electorate, Lunar New Year



Mr MARTIN (Stretton—ALP) (7.21 pm): Lunar New Year is always a very busy time in the Stretton electorate. We are so fortunate to have such a diverse and vibrant community that is home to people from all over the world. There are many spectacular celebrations that take place throughout the year in my community, and Lunar New Year is no doubt one of the best. It is a time for family reunions, delicious food and traditional rituals that reflect deep respect for ancestors and heritage. It is also an occasion for communities to come together and celebrate their shared culture and traditions.

This year we are celebrating the Year of the Rabbit, which is said to bring peace, prosperity and longevity. Those born in the Year of the Rabbit are believed to be vigilant, witty, quick-minded and ingenious, which are all qualities clearly evident in the good member for Rockhampton who himself was born in the Year of the Rabbit.

The member for Toohey and I have had the pleasure of attending numerous Lunar New Year dinners hosted by outstanding community organisations on the south side. I must say that whilst the cuisine is delicious, I have had so much that I do not think I can look at any more yum cha or dumplings at the moment. I have had to work a lot harder at the gym in recent weeks to work off all of the delicious food.

I would like to thank the Hakka Association of Queensland, World Arts and Multi-Culture Inc., Queensland Chinese Forum, the Chung Tian Temple, the Lions Club of Brisbane Chinese, the Queensland Dongbei Association, the Shandong Association, the Queensland Federation of Taiwanese Associations, the Henan Association, the Hanfu Association and the Chinese Culture Association for their contributions to our community and their amazing hospitality throughout the celebrations. I also give a special mention to all the kung fu schools and lion dance schools, in particular the Hong Teck Dance Sports Association, for their death-defying lion dance performances at Warrigal Square and Calamvale Marketplace chasing away evil spirits and bringing good luck for 2023.

I was also pleased to carry on a Stretton tradition of handing out red packets filled with gold coins to locals for Lunar New Year—chocolate coins, that is—as a good luck blessing. Special thanks goes to my electorate officer, Adam Chappell, for putting on the rabbit suit and touring the electorate with me. It is not in the job description, but he went above and beyond. He certainly makes a very good rabbit.

One of the highlights of the celebration each year is the fireworks on top of Sunnybank Plaza which are always very well attended by the community. It was fantastic to see so many families of different ethnicities celebrating out there on the rooftop car park. I also look forward to the Premier's Lunar New Year reception next week where we will be joined by many community leaders.

I would like to wish all members of the House and all the people of Stretton a happy and prosperous Lunar New Year. May the Year of the Rabbit bring you all courage, strength and good fortune.

Domestic and Family Violence; Forensic and Scientific Services; Mackay Regional Citizen of the Year




Ms CAMM (Whitsunday—LNP) (7.24 pm): On 9 February it was 10 years since 23-year-old Shandee Blackburn walked from her place of work and was tragically murdered. To Vicki, her mother, Shannah, her sister, and all of her family and friends and supporters, we acknowledge your diligence, your tenacity, your courage and your ongoing commitment to justice. I had the absolute privilege to spend time with them recently at the 10-year commemoration where we acknowledged the hard work and effort by people like Dr Kirsty Wright, who brought to light the failings of Queensland's forensics lab; Hedley Thomas, the Walkley Award winning journalist who, through his podcast *Shandee's Story*, told not only Shandee's story but also the story of many victims of crime across this state; community group Justice for Shandee, which came together at Harrup Park along with the many community leaders who spoke, including the Leader of the Opposition, David Crisafulli, Mayor Williamson and me. On sunset we all released bubbles into the air as *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* played. Shandee's death has not been in vain, for that justice that we are yet to see for her will certainly be seen for many victims of crime across our state.

It is an absolute privilege and pleasure to congratulate Sergeant Nigel Dalton, who became Mackay Regional Citizen of the Year. He has big shoes to fill after Frank Cowell, who commenced International Men's Day in my community. As a local constituent, he stood down from the fabulous role he has played over the 12 months. Nigel is a coordinator and a volunteer. He is passionate about the

community work he does in our community. He is also one of my local constituents in the Northern Beaches of Mackay. From online safety programs to visiting over 8,000 school students a year as the coordinator for the Crime Prevention Unit, Safety Circus, facilitating Shed Happens along with many community members, as well as street chaplaincy, Nigel is a true champion of our community. He is committed to young people and I certainly know he connects with them. Recently we hosted marathon swimmer Chloe McCardel to share her message not only of swimming the English Channel a record-breaking 44 times but also as a victim of domestic violence. She has toured my electorate of Whitsunday and Mackay as well as that of my colleague in Burdekin and she has also travelled to schools in the Bowen Basin.

My colleague and I certainly congratulate Nigel on his ongoing contribution to our community. We are proud that he chose to move with his family to Australia in 2003 to now be a local Mackay person.

Waitangi Day

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (7.27 pm): In the wonderful multicultural communities that are the Woodridge electorate and the city of Logan, there are groups from many nations who share deep bonds with their neighbours. Perhaps none of those bonds are as close as the ones that stretch across 'the ditch' between Australia and New Zealand—bonds forged on the beaches of the Dardanelles over a century ago. These are bonds that remain strong and enduring today: our love of sport; our love of the wilderness and the bush; our commitment to fairness, equality, democracy and a fair go.

That is why I was so pleased to join with our local Maori and New Zealand community to celebrate Waitangi Day at the Kingston Butter Factory earlier this month. In the 235 years since European arrival on this continent, our nation has not been able to come close to the treaty of 1840, and Australia is the poorer for that. That is why the Queensland government has started the Path to Treaty process for our state.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who made the recent Waitangi Day celebrations in Kingston such a success: Mary Johnston, founder and president of Te Korowai Aroha, Tamihana Johnston, Tina Harris, Cilla Haenga, Dean Harawira, Dion Taumata, Alison Manuel, Tu Thompson, Maureen Wilson, Lucy Morgan, John Morgan, Tom Henare, Brett Woodward, Willy James, Andre Ahipene and Gaylene Ahipene.

As our community reflects on the past, we also reflect on our future and how we can make our future a healthy one for all local citizens. In 2017, as the then Queensland health minister, I was pleased to launch the Logan Community Health Action Plan. Supported by an investment \$10 million, it was a plan designed to improve the health and wellbeing of local residents.

The Africare physical health activity program is one of many examples of positive programs and initiatives supported under that plan, and I was honoured to attend its launch last week. Metro South Health and Africare have engaged culturally appropriate facilitators to deliver physical activity programs for people who are living with disability and seniors in our community. This initiative has been so successful thanks to the incredible work of a number of community leaders including Africare director Blaise Mukendi, office manager Carolyn Mukendi, physical activity coaches Norma Escabno Gayoso and Magdolna Spinda, trainer Kado Athumani, community coordinator Say Say Eh Lar, community connectors Htoo Htoo Eh Lar and Fredy Ngori, nurse Lynda Chebet Kerich and physical activity assistants Dea Yodjai and Jane Gatchalian. I would also like to thank the staff of Metro South Health and Queensland Health for their leadership and support for this important program.

The House adjourned at 7.30 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Head, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly, King A, King S, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, MacMahon, Madden, Mander, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting