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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, 15 March 2023

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WEDNESDAY, 15 MARCH 2023


The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

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

PRIVILEGE


Comments by Member for Thuringowa, Apology

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (9.31 am): Yesterday during the second reading debate on the Strengthening Community Safety Bill I inadvertently said words during the contribution of the Leader of the Opposition that may have been taken as an interjection. It was not my intention to make an interjection at that time; nor did I intend to reflect on the chair. I apologise to the House unreservedly.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you for that explanation, member for Thuringowa.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT


Public Release of Committee Documents

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, today, in accordance with standing order 20, the Legislative Assembly will undertake its fifth annual release to the public of unpublished committee minutes that have been in the custody of the Clerk of the Parliament for over 30 years—while not necessarily this Clerk of the Parliament, not far off it. The 77 sets of minutes being released today are primarily from 1992 and detail the business of those committees, with the exception of the Parliamentary Criminal Justice Committee, which, in accordance with standing orders, is exempt from disclosing its records for at least 100 years.


In 1992 committee inquiries resulted in a wide range of recommendations that have left a lasting impact on Queensland including the public registration of political donations, the public funding of election campaigns, codes of conduct for public officials, whistleblower protections and the introduction of speed cameras. Significantly, in 1992 the Electoral and Administrative Review Commission reported to the PEARC on its Review of Parliamentary Committees. Spanning two volumes and 14 chapters, that report made numerous recommendations that shaped the evolution of Queensland's parliamentary committee system. The Queensland parliament continues to uphold one of the cornerstone values of a democratic society—that is, accountability with transparent committee scrutiny of government administration. The committee minutes released today and information about the parliament's publication scheme are available on the parliament's website.

SPEAKER'S RULINGS

Same Question Rule


 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, further to my ruling yesterday I have considered the application of the same question rule to the Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023 and amendments approved for circulation by the member for Hinchinbrook yesterday afternoon. The member for Hinchinbrook's amendment No. 5 is essentially the same as an amendment moved by the member for Traeger to a previous bill that was negatived, thus enlivening the same question rule in standing orders 87 and 150. The member's amendment No. 5 is ruled out of order.

Tabled Paper, Redaction

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, during the adjournment the member for Surfers Paradise tabled a document. Upon review, the document contains unparliamentary language. I have ordered the document to be redacted.

MINISTERIAL PAPER


Ministerial Expenses

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.34 am): I lay upon the table of the House the public report of ministerial expenses for the period 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022.

Tabled paper: Public Report of Ministerial Expenses for the period 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022 [\[297\]](#).


MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Economy

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.34 am): Our government is delivering on our economic recovery plan, just as we promised at the last election. Since the 2020 election more than 220,000 jobs have been created and there are now over 480,000 more jobs in Queensland than when we came to government in 2015. In the last year alone, thousands of new jobs have been created in the regions including: 9,500 more jobs in Cairns; 10,600 more jobs in Townsville; 5,200 more jobs in the Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday region; 7,700 more jobs in Central Queensland; 8,100 more jobs in Wide Bay; and 2,900 more jobs in Toowoomba. On job creation we are continuing to lead the nation out of the pandemic, just as we promised.

More jobs are not just good for our economy; they provide the dignity of work and a living for Queenslanders. Our economic plan now has Queensland's economy outpacing the nation with growth of 4.4 per cent last financial year. Don't just take my word for it: as CommSec recently said, 'Queensland is Australia's top-performing economy.' Our focus on growing our export markets has provided the Queensland economy with a huge advantage: a diverse economy that now leads the nation. The value of Queensland's exports of goods has more than doubled since the election to \$136.6 billion. The strength of our economy provides Queensland with the budget capacity to support Queenslanders with the cost of living.

Electricity Prices

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.35 am): Today I can confirm that our government will be delivering another rebate on household power bills next financial year. We are committed to providing more support to households to help with the impacts of global inflation. The federal government will be announcing power rebates to support some households and small businesses in the May federal budget, with support from our government. Once those rebates are locked in and we see the final energy prices in May, our government will go further.

Today I can announce that we will extend a power rebate to all households and our cost-of-living relief will be higher than the \$175 rebate we provided last year. The final rebate will be determined based on the federal government's support and the final power prices. In total, our government has already delivered power rebates of \$575 over four years, or more than \$1 billion, which has gone back to Queenslanders. That is the most significant cost-of-living relief on energy bills over that period in the nation. The Australian Bureau of Statistics has recognised that our \$175 rebate last year reduced the inflationary impact of electricity prices by 14 per cent in the December quarter.

We have supported the federal government's price caps that are placing downward pressure on prices. According to the Australian Energy Regulator—


Contract prices have now fallen by approximately 50% since the end of October.

The draft reports out today highlight just how important our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan is in placing downward pressure on power prices. The Queensland Competition Authority said that the main cause for higher power prices has been 'higher gas and coal prices ... primarily due to the war in Ukraine and energy sanctions imposed on Russia'. The Australian Energy Regulator said—

Energy prices are not immune from the significant challenges in the global economy right now.


Today the Australian Energy Regulator said that the downward pressure on prices from renewables coming online has been outweighed by higher coal and gas prices and the closure of the Liddell Power Station in New South Wales. That is why it is so important that we invest in more solar and wind farms as we work towards 70 per cent renewable energy by 2032. Our government is only able to provide cost-of-living support to households and to deliver on the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan because Queenslanders own our power assets. No other state on the east coast of Australia can do that.

Food Rescue Grant Program

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.38 am): It is no secret that cost-of-living pressures have an impact on the household budget, and that includes at the dinner table. Another way we are helping Queenslanders in need, while also helping the environment, is through our Food Rescue Grant Program. Each year more than three million tonnes of edible good food—food that could better go to vulnerable Queenslanders—is sent to the tip. We want to support organisations that are helping to rescue that food for Queenslanders in need.

Today I can announce nearly \$3 million in funding, under the program's second round, to 10 food rescue projects. Organisations receiving the grants include: SecondBite at Morningside, nearly \$500,000; Twin Rivers Community Care at Logan, \$486,000; Foodbank Queensland at Morningside, more than \$400,000; OzHarvest at South Brisbane and Townsville, more than \$400,000; FareShare Australia at Morningside, \$360,000; Tony's Community Kitchen in Toowoomba, more than \$260,000; Fishers of Men at Logan, more than \$200,000; the Mount Gravatt Community Centre's food pantry, more than \$100,000; the Lighthouse Centre Deception Bay, more than \$100,000; and The Rock Family & Community Support Inc. at Redlands, nearly \$80,000. This funding will provide close to six million meals for people in need while diverting nearly 3,000 tonnes of food from landfill. I thank the environment minister, who is overseeing this program and who will have more to say on this later today.

Regional Community Forums

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.40 am): Our regions are critical to the success of Queensland. They are home to thriving communities, providing essential jobs and services for our great state of Queensland. Our government recognises the value in listening to people in the regions, giving them a voice in deciding how their communities look into the future. That is why our government holds regional community forums. Since October 2019 we have delivered 12 rounds of the forums. In early 2022 we appointed 140 forum members in seven regions to drive an extensive program of work over two years.


Each forum has its own action plan to address priorities across each region. For example, in Far North Queensland, we are supporting the development of a new regional plan. We are looking at ways to expand training and employment pathways unique to each region, like the development of a workforce toolkit in the Wide Bay-Burnett-Fraser Coast region. In Central Queensland we are supporting domestic and family violence prevention programs. We are also addressing the attraction and retention of critical staff in the regions.

As we know, our regions are also home to many First Nations people. As the House knows, I introduced the Path to Treaty Bill 2023 during the last sitting week to provide a framework for treaty in Queensland. That is why I am pleased to say that this round of regional community forums will include opportunities to learn more about First Nations culture to support truth-telling. There is also a focus on education, training and employment.

Next Monday forums will be held in Gordonvale—you will be happy about that, Mr Speaker—Ingham, Mackay, Emerald, St George, Blackall and Cherbourg. Following on from the community cabinet meeting on Thursday Island last year, a cost-of-living summit will be held there on Monday as well to directly address the priorities, opportunities and community feedback from our cabinet meeting. It will be co-chaired by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Mark Bailey, alongside local community champion and member for Cook, Cynthia Lui. It will explore key cost-of-living issues raised by the community such as freight services to the region, marine and transport infrastructure, remote

energy, food security and housing availability and affordability. Reflecting the Torres Strait's unique and complex challenges, the summit has drawn a wide cross-section from the community and businesses, with support from government agencies and service providers. I look forward to hearing the results of that summit, a key initiative following our successful cabinet meeting when we went back up to Thursday Island and visited the Torres Strait.

North-West Queensland Floods, Recovery; CopperString 2.0; Renewable Energy


 **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) (9.42 am): Our thoughts are with the people of Burke shire as they grapple with the devastating flood currently affecting that region. The Queensland Reconstruction Authority's new CEO, Major General Jake Ellwood, started work this week and he is on the ground in Mount Isa today to get a firsthand look at the recovery efforts for the gulf and north-west flooding. Today Jake will meet with the district disaster coordinator and the Mount Isa mayor as well as visit the recovery hub to offer our government's full support to the community.

North Queensland is an economic powerhouse. The \$5 billion CopperString power transmission project the Premier announced while cabinet was in Townsville last week will open up new supply chains from Mount Isa through to Townsville. Eight hundred direct jobs will be supported during six years of construction, and there will be another 50 ongoing operations and maintenance jobs. We are not willing to settle for just the jobs in construction; we want to create jobs in the supply chain, too. There will be 1,900 transmission towers required for this project. We want to manufacture those towers in Queensland, multiplying the economic dividend for Queenslanders out of this \$5 billion investment, creating a new manufacturing industry for Queensland. At the beginning of the year I visited TEI Services, a local Townsville company working on a Powerlink transmission line project. They told me they were able to employ 10 apprentices thanks to the constant investment from the Palaszczuk government into the region—and that was before we announced CopperString.

Queensland has the sun and the wind to power our statewide SuperGrid. Soon we will have Queensland-made vanadium flow batteries to store this renewable energy. Thanks to support from the Palaszczuk government's Industry Partnership Program, Townsville will soon have Australia's first commercial-scale vanadium flow battery electrolyte manufacturing facility. Commercial-scale batteries are an essential part of decarbonising our electricity network. Vanadium flow batteries are proven, grid-scale energy storage solutions with advantages including a long lifespan, lengthy storage capability and non-flammability. Vecco Group's facility will produce nine megalitres of electrolyte annually—that equates to an energy storage capacity of 175 megawatt hours—with plans to double the output to 350 megawatt hours. The facility is expected to start production later this year, providing jobs for 21 people. The facility will support the development of Vecco Group's Debella critical minerals mine near Julia Creek. The creation of a North Queensland battery industry supply chain is a key part of the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. We will mine critical minerals, process them and make batteries, including vanadium flow batteries, right here in Queensland. Vecco is just one of the companies recognising the potential of Queensland's renewable energy future.

Last week the Premier also announced the Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct had been declared a prescribed project. Lansdown is set to be Northern Australia's first environmentally sustainable industrial hub. Six companies have already signed on to be part of the precinct including renewable hydrogen and advanced battery manufacturing. The precinct will deliver a local jobs boom—5,000 during construction and an estimated 1,600 direct and 9,100 indirect jobs once projects located there are up and running. Lansdown is jointly funded by the Australian government and the Palaszczuk government in partnership with the Townsville City Council.

Economy

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.46 am): National data continues to show that Queensland's economic performance leads the nation. National accounts data shows that Queensland's state final demand has grown 10.6 per cent since March 2020, higher than the rest of Australia at 9.2 per cent. This superior economic performance has also been reflected in our labour market. ABS labour force data shows that 4,900 more Queenslanders were in jobs in January 2023 than in the month before, with both full-time and part-time employment rising.


In the year to January 2023, employment in Queensland rose 3.1 per cent. There are now 224,000 more Queenslanders in work than there were before the depths of COVID in March 2020. That is an increase of 8.7 per cent. This is the strongest percentage growth of any state or territory since

March 2020. Queensland has also recorded a larger increase in the number of new jobs than either Victoria or New South Wales, despite their larger populations, and most of the jobs gained in Queensland over that period—191,800 jobs—have been full-time positions.

The strength in Queensland's labour market extends across the state. In Cairns, unemployment is now just 4.1 per cent. In Central Queensland, unemployment is 3.3 per cent. In Townsville, unemployment is 2.3 per cent. In Mackay, unemployment is just 2.2 per cent. Our strong labour market is also beginning to translate into wage rises for workers. Queensland's wage price index rose 0.8 per cent in the December quarter, with annual growth at 3.4 per cent. That is the fastest pace in over a decade, after the long-term suppression of wage growth by the previous Morrison LNP federal government—something the Morrison government boasted about as being 'a deliberate design feature of our economic architecture'. It is much welcomed news, given the ongoing cost-of-living challenges faced by many Queensland households. So many of those jobs in regional Queensland are underpinned by exports.

As we heard from the Premier today, Queensland's exporters continue to lead the way. ABS trade data shows that Queensland's merchandise exports totalled \$136.6 billion in the year ending January 2023. That was up 58.5 per cent from a year earlier. Our strong health response continues to drive Queensland's strong economic recovery, and with an uncertain global outlook ahead Queensland is well positioned to face whatever comes next.

School Infrastructure

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.49 am): The Palaszczuk government is continuing to deliver good jobs and better services for Queensland's fastest growing communities under our \$3 billion Building Future Schools program, with 25 new schools open since 2015 and more to come. This year we opened four new schools at Yarrabilba in Logan, Ripley in Ipswich, Augustine Heights in Jordan and Palmview in Buderim. This \$330 million investment supported 900 good, secure jobs for Queenslanders throughout construction. What a pleasure it was to join the member for Logan at South Rock State School on day 1 of this term.

Good governments constantly review what needs to be done and where. It has become clear that some of our new schools will not be needed as quickly as predicted a few years ago. Stabilising enrolments in some areas as well as curveballs from unprecedented flooding and changes to federal koala protection laws mean that other schools initially planned for 2024 will now not be needed until 2025 and beyond. Today I can update the House. Two new schools will open in 2024: Redland Bay primary in Redlands and Bellbird Park primary in Bundamba. Together, these schools are an investment of \$160 million and will support 80 local jobs. In 2025 six new schools will open in our fastest growing areas. Five primary schools will welcome students in Park Ridge, Caboolture West, Caloundra South, Ripley Valley and Greater Flagstone. Also in 2024 a new secondary school will open in Collingwood Park and there will be additional new classrooms and facilities for Springfield Central State High School.

Changes to federal laws protecting koalas means that land earmarked for a new secondary school in Park Ridge can no longer be built on, and my department is in the process of selecting a new site. Unprecedented flooding and further community consultation means that the former Toowong Bowls Club site has been deemed no longer suitable for a new primary school in Brisbane's inner west. The original pre-COVID 2019 business case for the new primary school will now be reviewed and updated, and I will continue to work with the local member. Stabilising enrolments mean that we can now take the time to secure more suitable sites.

Ms Simpson: What a surprise.

Ms GRACE: I take the interjection from the member for Maroochydore. We build schools and open them; we do not sell them!

Honourable members interjected.


Ms GRACE: I will take that interjection: 50 schools earmarked to be closed!

Ms Simpson interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Maroochydore, your interjections are not being helpful. Minister, your taking of that interjection and slinging it back was also not helpful for the House.

Ms GRACE: Stabilising enrolments means we can now take the time to secure more suitable sites in the inner west and Park Ridge, safe in the knowledge that with upgrades to existing schools, some of which are already taking place, we have the capacity to accommodate students in the meantime. The Palaszczuk government is committed to, and has a proud record of, delivering new and enhanced education infrastructure wherever and whenever it is needed.


Health Infrastructure

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.53 am): Earlier this year I was thrilled to announce that 12 major construction companies have been selected for the shortlist to build the Palaszczuk government's three new hospitals and nine of our major hospital expansions. Queensland Health has now called for tender submissions for these projects, which total more than \$8 billion. These projects will deliver 1,980 additional beds across Queensland over the next six years, with the Palaszczuk government delivering a total of more than 3,300 additional beds over this period.

In the south-east, works include the new hospital at Coomera and six major expansions at the Redcliffe, Ipswich, Logan, QEII, Princess Alexandra and Prince Charles hospitals. In regional Queensland, works include new hospitals in Bundaberg and Toowoomba and major expansions of the Townsville, Cairns and Mackay hospitals. I was delighted to visit the site of the new Toowoomba Hospital just a few weeks ago for the commencement of early works onsite by Hutchinson Builders. I am pleased that the shortlisted companies have already demonstrated their commitment to partnering with the government and are absolutely ready for this multibillion dollar challenge. The construction of these three new hospitals and nine major hospital expansions will also provide a significant economic boost and support local businesses, creating more than 19,900 construction jobs. I and everyone on this side of the House look forward to the successful tenderers being announced from April onwards into the following months.

I am also pleased to inform the House that this year has kicked off with a bang for health infrastructure projects on the Gold Coast with the awarding of tenders for more than \$210 million worth of projects. I would like to once again congratulate the successful tenderers: Watpac Constructions will build a \$122.7 million secure mental health rehabilitation unit with 40 beds at the Gold Coast University Hospital; Broad Construction will build the \$72 million expansion of the Gold Coast University Hospital's 70 additional subacute beds; and Alder Constructions will build the \$16.5 million Robina Hospital emergency department expansion with 20 extra treatment spaces. The Palaszczuk government's health infrastructure projects for the Gold Coast also include: the \$1.3 billion new Coomera Hospital with 404 beds; the 114-bed expansion of Robina Hospital; and the new Tugun Satellite Hospital. Queenslanders can always rely on the Palaszczuk government to deliver the health infrastructure projects we need to continue delivering our world-class health services.

Electricity Prices

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (9.55 am): I am proud to be part of a Palaszczuk government with a strong track record of supporting families through circumstances outside of their control, whether that is through the devastating impacts of natural disasters like bushfires, cyclones or the record floods we saw last year or by providing a safe and strong response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, which continues to impact the global health sector, and now protecting Queenslanders from global power prices caused by the ongoing and illegal war in Ukraine.

This morning the Australian Energy Regulator released their draft default market offer determination. It showed the very real impact the ongoing war in Ukraine is having. The regulator's draft shows a 19.8 per cent increase in Queensland, but this is around half of what was forecast and shows that the actions we are taking to provide real relief to Queensland households are working. Official figures show that since November those actions have avoided \$344 in increases. As the Premier announced this morning, we will avoid even more than that with a new cost-of-living rebate to be considered by government. The same cannot be said for New South Wales though, where privatisation has ripped the heart out of their energy grid. Their increases are up to 22.2 per cent higher.


In Queensland, energy will always be more affordable under Labor. The Palaszczuk government has a strong track record of providing financial support to Queenslanders. We have returned \$575 to Queensland households off their power bills over the last five years. Last year's \$175 cost-of-living rebate gave Queenslanders amongst the lowest priced electricity in the nation. If you are one of the

640,000 regional Queensland households, every year you have your bill reduced automatically to be on par with South-East Queensland. Why is that? Because we kept our energy assets in the hands of Queenslanders and out of the LNP's Strong Choices sell-off. Here is a fact check: what was the record under the Liberal National Party while they were in government?

Ms Pease: Sell, sell, sell!

Mr de BRENNI: I take the interjection. Their plan to sell meant that between 2012-13 and 2014-15 there were no asset ownership dividends and no cost-of-living rebates. In fact, I can confirm for the House that under the LNP Queenslanders were up to \$600 worse off on their electricity bills. Under the Palaszczuk government, by contrast, since 2015 Queenslanders are now up to \$800 better off. That is a very real \$1,400 cost-of-living difference between Labor and the LNP for many Queensland households. By providing relief through bill rebates, renewable energy that is cheaper and cleaner, and retaining public ownership of our energy system, energy will always be more affordable under Labor.


North-West Queensland Floods

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (9.59 am): I rise to speak on the devastating floods that are impacting the north-west region of our state, particularly the hardship faced by our primary producers. The death of livestock and damage to property caused by weather events like these is confronting and it is a threat to the livelihoods of our primary producers. The images we are currently seeing in the media reminded me of the monsoonal event that affected the Flinders area west of Townsville in 2019.

The Palaszczuk government stands with our rural communities, particularly in times like these. My department is contacting farmers directly and putting call-outs on social media for primary producers to let us know what they need. We are coordinating emergency fodder drops, and my department is contacting farmers to let them know how they can have it dropped to them. I am pleased to announce that the Albanese and Palaszczuk governments have activated category B disaster funding arrangements. Primary producers and small businesses in the local government areas of Burke, Carpentaria, Cloncurry, Doomadgee, Mornington Island and Mount Isa can now apply for concessional loans of up to \$250,000 to repair or replace damaged buildings, plant, equipment or livestock. They can also apply for up to \$100,000 for working capital to keep business going as they recover. Further assessments are underway to determine whether higher levels of disaster assistance funding will be made available.

I would like to thank the federal minister for emergency management, Murray Watt, his department and my department for the swift work undertaken to get these arrangements in place. Category B funding is being administered by the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority. I encourage all affected primary producers in the north-west region to visit the QRIDA website or call 1800623946. Furthermore, affected primary producers can also access freight subsidies of up to \$5,000. Freight subsidies are administered by my department, and anyone who would like more information can contact 132523. The Palaszczuk government will continue to support all Queensland farmers, as we always do. I intend to visit the north-west region soon to speak directly with primary producers affected by this flooding event.

Food Rescue Grant Program

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (10.01 am): Foodbank's latest *Hunger Report* found that severe food insecurity has affected 21 per cent of households over the last 12 months. As the Premier mentioned, at the same time more than three million tonnes of edible food in Queensland is sent to the tip every year. We want to change that, which is why this government established the Food Rescue Grant Program. Today, I am pleased to join the Premier in announcing an additional \$2.9 million to help food rescue organisations divert 2,993 tonnes of good food from landfill.

As the Premier announced, 10 organisations—many of which this chamber is familiar with—will receive critical funding, including SecondBite in Morningside which will receive funding to upgrade their freezer infrastructure and purchase a 14-pallet truck to increase the distribution of meals in South-East Queensland. The organisation estimates that by June next year around 1,701 tonnes of food will be saved from landfill because of this funding.

Groups like OzHarvest, Tony's Community Kitchen and Foodbank will also purchase new trucks through this funding, while Twin Rivers Community Care in Logan will now be able to expand their space at Eagleby. Another group in the electorate of Bulimba, FareShare Australia, will receive funding to produce foods with an increased shelf life for distribution to South-East Queensland and regional Queensland. It is also good news for many other groups like: Fishers of Men in Logan, which will now be able to buy a new food van with a pie warmer; the Mount Gravatt Community Centre's food pantry; Lighthouse Centre Deception Bay, which will increase its food rescue by up 50 per cent, stopping more than 343 tonnes of food from going to landfill; and The Rock Family & Community Support in the Redlands. I visited that particular facility with the member for Capalaba recently.

All of this is part of our plan to halve the amount of food waste generated in Queensland, divert 80 per cent of food-related organic material from landfill, and achieve a minimum organics recycling rate of 70 per cent by 2030. Today's announcement puts us one step closer to that. Importantly, it provides support to local charities, Queenslanders and even businesses who will be engaged to deliver new equipment. SecondBite acting CEO Lucy Coward said—


One in five Aussies are affected by food insecurity.

We know this can badly affect their physical, emotional and social wellbeing.

Our partners use the rescued food for nourishing meals, emergency relief packages, community pantries and much more.

Cost-of-living pressures are being felt across the world, including in Queensland, and these grants will make sure that we are not only providing good meals but also tackling some of the harmful emissions from food waste.

Housing


 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Alger—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (10.04 am): As the Premier mentioned yesterday, later this month the Premier's Housing Roundtable will be held as we continue our effort to address the housing pressures facing Queenslanders. The roundtable will further build on the successful outcomes already achieved through our Housing Summit held late last year. Since the Housing Summit, we have already provided an extra \$5.8 million to help Queenslanders sustain their tenancies. Through the immediate housing response for families package, we have supported more than 3,500 families with over 35,000 nights of accommodation. As a result of the summit, we have earmarked an extra \$5 million for this vital initiative, bringing our total investment in the package to \$26 million. Make no mistake, these additional funds are helping many Queenslanders keep a roof over their head.

The housing pressures we face are not unique to Queensland. They are occurring in all parts of Australia. Rising house prices and ultralow rental vacancy rates have been impacting all jurisdictions. What is unique is Queensland's innovative approach to tackling these pressures. As a government, we are continuing our work with the private sector, community housing organisations and the housing and homelessness sector to find real solutions and deliver on the actions of our 10-year housing and homelessness strategy. Our strategy and action plans are being implemented following close consultation with the sector, including peak bodies, who have played an important role in developing and delivering the Queensland government's comprehensive plan to meet these challenges.

We are now implementing the second action plan arising from the strategy, as well as delivering important outcomes from the Premier's Housing Summit, and this is delivering results, including: \$10 million to expand private rental assistance to help households in rental stress stay in their home; over \$11 million to expand tenancy support to sustain current tenancies of vulnerable Queenslanders; more temporary emergency accommodation with onsite support faster by using underutilised accommodation; additional support of \$8.5 million for after-hours outreach in five priority locations; and the doubling of emergency relief for vulnerable Queenslanders in partnership with a network of 86 NGO providers statewide.

We have a strong record on social housing. Since 2015 the Palaszczuk government has commenced more than 5,200 social housing dwellings, and that number will increase to more than 13,000 by 2027 because of our record investment. It is because of our strong economic management that we can invest a record \$3.9 billion in social and affordable housing through the state budget. I look forward to unlocking further opportunities for social housing investment at the Premier's Housing Roundtable later this month.

Tourism, Queensland is Calling


 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (10.07 am): We know the cost of living is hitting home. After what we have been through with the pandemic and now the efforts to put the inflation genie back in the bottle, we could all do with a world-class Queensland holiday. Tomorrow, any one of the many millions of phones ringing in Australia or New Zealand could be Queensland calling. That call from Queensland could be good news for stretched family budgets. Tourism and Events Queensland's holiday partners are giving away five cost-of-living easing Queensland getaways. This is part of the Palaszczuk government's \$5 million Queensland is Calling tourism campaign. We are encouraging visitors to head north for the Southern Hemisphere's best autumn and winter visitor experiences in Queensland.

Yesterday, Queensland brightened the morning commute of weary Melbournians. The first to successfully answer a ringing kerbside public phone discovered it was Queensland calling with a free Queensland holiday. We have also Queensland branded phone booths in central Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane to remind holidaymakers to register at Queensland.com to join the call list.

Whether it is hot springs in the outback, First Nations culture in the Torres Strait or southern Queensland wineries, there is a lot to explore in Queensland. When interstate and New Zealand visitors share Queensland's great lifestyle, they support more good Queensland jobs. Accommodation and hospitality providers, small businesses like restaurants and cafes, transport businesses, retailers and tourism operators will all benefit when holidaymakers visit Queensland.

After a record-breaking \$4 billion summer, the Towards Tourism 2032 road map has a laser-like focus on maximising this golden decade of tourism opportunity to the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Tourism and Events Queensland predicts that by the end of June, Queensland is Calling will have delivered almost 38 million visitor nights and a \$9 billion boost for the visitor economy. We do not want you to miss the call when Queensland is calling.

Scams

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.09 am): We want to make sure Queenslanders know how to be smart consumers. Today is World Consumer Rights Day and it is a timely reminder for Queensland shoppers to be on the lookout for scammers and, importantly, to know what to do if you think you have been scammed. We know scams are becoming more sophisticated. The statistics show Queenslanders are losing more money to consumer scams.

Opposition members interjected.


Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, please cease your interjections.

Ms FENTIMAN: Alarmingly, Australians reported losses of more than \$4 million to buying and selling scams in January alone—this is up from \$3.5 million in January last year—and Queenslanders have reportedly lost more than \$481,000 to scams. It is a 20 per cent increase since last year.

With many Queenslanders feeling the pressure from the rising cost of living, we want consumers to be smart with their money. It is not just scammers they have to be aware of. It pays to know your consumer rights. Queenslanders need to know that they deserve to get what they pay for and consumer laws apply regardless of whether an item is on sale, if it was purchased in-store or online. My tip to Queenslanders is: do your research. Whether you are buying goods or engaging the services of a trader, it is so important to check reviews online. Ensure online payments are secure by checking that the website is secure or uses a secure payment service. While we are talking about payments, always be cautious if you are asked to pay up-front for a service before the job is complete.

However, my biggest piece of advice is: if the offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is. I would encourage all members of the community to continue to talk to their friends, family and neighbours about being savvy consumers. We need people sharing their stories and raising awareness about scams to remove the shame of being a victim of a scam. One simple conversation could stop a friend, family member, neighbour or even yourself falling victim to a scam.

Water Infrastructure, Toowoomba to Warwick Pipeline

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (10.11 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government has a long, proud record of delivering water infrastructure and planning right across Queensland—a record to the tune of more than

\$4.5 billion since we have been in government. This means that our government's support of game-changing water projects has created 2,940 good jobs in construction, and even more in those operational phases. The Palaszczuk Labor government's latest infrastructure project is the Toowoomba to Warwick Pipeline.

We started in 2023 with the announcement that the Palaszczuk Labor government has officially signed off on more than \$300 million to fund the Toowoomba to Warwick Pipeline. We know how hard the Southern Downs was hit by drought. I have seen Storm King Dam dry and Leslie Dam down to four per cent. We have water in the dams now, but we know we cannot always rely on the rain. That is why the Palaszczuk Labor government committed to delivering the Toowoomba to Warwick Pipeline. This vital piece of water infrastructure will be critical for the region's future water security for a long time, and it will also mean more than 400 good, local, regional jobs.

While negotiations have been taking place, preconstruction activities, including progressing the necessary environmental and native title approvals, have been continuing. The next stage of early works will include geotechnical works, final route determination, landowner engagement and the final detailed design. This project again demonstrates how the Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering vital water infrastructure right across Queensland.


On top of the pipeline, the Palaszczuk Labor government is also funding upgrades to the Wivenhoe pump station to boost its capacity, constructing new water treatment facilities along the pipeline route and installing network monitoring to reduce losses in the Southern Downs region. This project means Toowoomba's satellite communities of Cambooya, Greenmount, Nobby and Clifton will have access to treated water, which they have not had before, via the pipeline.

I know how important the pipeline is for both councils, and I want to thank the Toowoomba and the Southern Downs regional councils for the work they have been doing together with us on this project, which will be critical for the region's future water security.

The Palaszczuk Labor government will continue to deliver water infrastructure across Queensland. Delivering infrastructure supports regional development, and it creates good, secure jobs right across Queensland.

PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE


Crime and Corruption Commission, Documents

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (10.14 am): As chair of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee, I lay upon the table of the House a certified copy of the *Register of reports and recommendations to the Minister for Police*, ministerial directions and tabled ministerial reasons 2022 and related correspondence. This register reflects that no communications were made which qualify for recording in the register in 2022. The register was furnished from the chairperson of the Crime and Corruption Commission to the committee. The committee received the register on 17 February 2023 and is tabling the register within 14 sitting days of receipt as required.

Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption Commission: Certified copy of the Register of Reports and Recommendations to the Minister for Police, Ministerial Directions and Tabled Ministerial Reasons 2022, pursuant to section 4.7 of the Police Service Administration Act 1990 [\[298\]](#).

NOTICE OF MOTION

Gabba Redevelopment


 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.15 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House:

- (a) notes that the Gabba redevelopment cost has blown out from \$1 billion to \$2.7 billion;
- (b) notes the statement by the Auditor-General, Mr Worrall, to the State Development and Regional Industries Committee on 13 March 2023 that he doesn't 'think there ever was a business case supporting the billion dollars. I think you'll find the source of that was from a press release.';
- (c) calls on the government to release the results of all business cases, studies, reviews, assessments or similar work relating to the cost of any redevelopment of the Gabba; and
- (d) calls on the government to table these documents no later than 5 pm on Thursday, 30 March 2023.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT


School Group Tours

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, before going to question time, I advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Redeemer Lutheran Primary School, Biloela, in the electorate of Callide, and Carmichael College in the electorate of Morayfield.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude today at 11.16 am.

Cost of Living, Infrastructure Costs

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.16 am): My question is to the Premier. Is the Labor government's billions of dollars in infrastructure cost blowouts impacting Queenslanders' cost of living?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for that question. Obviously the Leader of the Opposition was not listening to my ministerial statement today. Our infrastructure plan is delivering a record number of jobs in this state. The best thing you can do to help people put food on the table, to pay their rents and to look after their children is to actually have a roof over their heads—

Ms Simpson interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member of Maroochydore, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK:—to give them the dignity of a good job. Hundreds of thousands of jobs—

Mr Bleijie: \$120 million worth of jobs at Wellcamp.

Ms Grace: Just like your boot camp.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Minister for Education, you can cease your interjections. Member for Kawana, you can cease your interjections.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will not be lectured by anyone who advocated pink jumpsuits or came into the parliament with a fluffy toy animal for company. The biggest liability for the opposition is the member for Kawana. That is the biggest liability. When he was in the Newman government, they put him in witness protection for six months because the public could not see him! That is their asset. Put him out every day. We love it; we absolutely love it.

An honourable member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am happy to talk about cost of living because we are providing over \$6 billion in concessions. As I was saying earlier, the best thing we can do is give Queenslanders a job. In regional Queensland, the unemployment rate is the lowest it has been because of our capital spend. Our Works for Queensland is pumping into those regional economies. Let me say this—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: Those opposite are always whingeing and they are always whining. There is never a plan, there is never a policy. They are the laziest opposition ever. Let me say this. We will continue to diversify our economy, to back Queenslanders and to back the growth of this economy because we honestly believe that Queensland's best days are ahead of us unlike those opposite, whose track record is to cut, sack and sell. They cut the jobs from regional communities, they decimated regional communities and they would do it again.

Ms King interjected.

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

Cost of Living, Household Bills

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Premier. It is harder for Queenslanders to pay their bills now than in 2015. What responsibility does the Premier take for the cost-of-living crisis?

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I said previously—and let me say it again—the best thing a government can do to help people is to help them to get a job. That is the best thing. We have created over 400,000 jobs. When we came into office the unemployment rate left by those opposite was high.

Mr Dick: It was out of control.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It was out of control because there was no capital program. There were no ideas. All they were busy doing was sitting around that cabinet table looking at the electricity assets and wanting to sell them off.

A government member: Strong Choices.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. The members for Pine Rivers, Thuringowa and Bonney are warned under the standing orders. The volume of interjection is too loud from both sides.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I have said this in the House and I will say it time and time again. I remember going to Townsville where youth unemployment and unemployment generally was at record high levels. Then their old mate came in and shut the nickel refinery. They also cut the jobs. They cut the health jobs in Townsville and decimated that community. The member for Broadwater is an absolute testament to what happened in Townsville because he lost his job. He lost his job as the member because of what he was a part of.

A government member: He cut and run.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right; he cut and run and went off down to the Gold Coast. Our Works for Queensland program is also delivering jobs right across rural and regional Queensland.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: Perhaps the member for Broadwater should go and speak to the mayors in rural and regional communities because they still remember those savage cuts. Every time I meet with the mayors they are happy to tell me of the cuts that were made by the Newman government. The architect is still there, the member for Clayfield, as well as the member for Kawana, the member for Broadwater and the member for Everton. The member for Glass House was a part of that cabinet as well. There is no clearer evidence than when people come up to me and tell me what it was like to lose their job—14,000 jobs were cut. Over 4,000 jobs were cut in the Department of Transport and Main Roads. That is right, they could not build the roads because they cut the staff.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Go back to your little—

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

(Time expired)

Cost of Living, Relief

Ms PEASE: My question is of the Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Will the Premier please update the House on what measures the state government is taking to deliver cost-of-living relief, and is the Premier aware of any other alternatives?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, I have consistently asked the House to be silent while questions are being asked. That is the last warning I will give today.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Lytton. Of course, the member for Lytton knows that vulnerable Queenslanders are doing it tough at the moment. They are finding it difficult to make ends meet and families are finding it very difficult with the rising interest rates. We all know that. We all acknowledge that. As I said, the best thing we can do is to make sure that people are in work and they have a job. That is why I have said time and time again there is over \$6 billion in concessional rebates available to Queenslanders and this continues to grow.

As I said earlier today with that draft determination coming out, we will absolutely ensure that Queensland households get more than that \$175 rebate. This is absolutely critical that we have been able to provide these rebates to Queenslanders time and time again to help with their energy prices because we own the energy assets. We still have not heard from those opposite whether they plan to sell off the energy assets at the next election. We know they say one thing before an election and they do something else.

We know they had a choice they were offering to Queenslanders: they wanted those assets sold. Queenslanders would not have received the \$575 rebate if the assets had been sold off to the highest bidder. We would not have been able to announce our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, supporting over 100,000 jobs, if it was not for the fact that we own our energy assets. We will always stand up for Queenslanders in owning our assets and keeping them in public hands.

The Leader of the Opposition comes in here and talks about concessions when he sat around the cabinet table and cut pensioner concessions. Then Campbell Newman had to come in and overturn the decisions made by the member for Clayfield. I have here an article headed 'Treasurer denies he was 'directed' to back down on pensioner concessions' and another one headed 'Qld budget 2014: Seniors, pensioners face concession cuts; state assets sales on agenda'. Queenslanders would love to see those cabinet documents to see exactly what they did when it came to making those decisions.

We will continue to provide that energy rebate to Queenslanders. Of course, we have the federal budget coming up. We will see what their concessions are, how they match our state government contribution and then we will provide an additional rebate to help households across Queensland.

(Time expired)

Land Supply

Mr MANDER: My question is to the Premier. Since 2015 residential lot leases have fallen 27 per cent year on year. Has the Labor government's failure to plan for the release of new land for development contributed to the ballooning rental cost Queenslanders are struggling to pay?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. The Deputy Premier has been very clear here that he wants to see more councils opening up more lots.

Mr Dick: Absolutely.

Ms PALASZCZUK: He has been absolutely clear on this.

Mr Dick: What's Schrunner done about it?

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is correct; it is the council. There is a little education 101. What is the Lord Mayor of Brisbane doing to increase the lots? It is a council issue. Where councils are doing that, we are prepared to assist, which is exactly what we are doing. I was recently in Cooktown speaking to the mayor there who was showing me how he is working collaboratively with the state government to put in place more lots and the infrastructure—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Everton.

Mr Dick: Who's been in charge of council for eight years?

Mr SPEAKER: Treasurer, you will cease your interjections.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take the interjection.

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Mermaid Beach will cease his interjections.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Perhaps the member for Everton might want to talk to his colleague in Brisbane City Council to find out why.

Mr Dick: And the local LNP councillor.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right—and the local ones. In relation to housing supply, the Deputy Premier is meeting with the councils and the LGAQ. There is another meeting on Friday. We have declared 34 priority development areas across Queensland. That is another thing the Deputy Premier is doing. There are accelerated and coordinated developments, including Caloundra South—and what a great local member we have up there. What a great local member we have on the Sunshine Coast. Do not worry: we are going to have some great candidates on the Sunshine Coast at the next election, especially in Glass House. There is also Greater Flagstone, Ripley Valley and Yarrabilba. These developments will deliver 140,000 dwellings for more than 340,000 people.

We are also investing \$200 million to help unlock new land for housing through the \$50 million Growth Acceleration Fund and the \$150 million Catalyst Infrastructure Fund. Of course, we have the largest amount of funding ever invested in housing from our government to address these issues—unlike those opposite, who backed their old counterpart, former prime minister Scott Morrison, who cut the funding for Indigenous land housing. That is the track record. As for the member for Everton laughing, he wanted to sell off all the social housing.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I will caution you about the level of interjection. I need to hear the answer and so does Hansard. That goes for all members of the House.

Satellite Hospitals

Ms RICHARDS: My question is of the Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Will the Premier please update the House on the benefits of the Queensland Satellite Hospitals Program, and is the Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Redlands for her question. I am very proud of our Satellite Hospitals Program, the first of its kind in Australia. We will deliver seven satellite hospitals across the south-east, including at the Redlands, Caboolture, Bribie Island, Ripley, Eight Mile Plains, Kallangur and Tugun. In fact, we will be able to open some of these satellite hospitals at the end of this year. That is a great thing for the local community. I want to see more of these built, because it is about receiving better care closer to where people live. Will the opposition commit to keeping them or will they cut them? What are their plans? They have no plans and no idea. That is right: the shadow health minister—

Mr Mander interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK:—attacked regional health workers and called them ‘duds’. That is the shadow health minister’s plan. We know the Leader of the Opposition’s plan: to cut nurses and midwives. They come in here and talk about maternity services, but they cut midwives. That is what they do. I am proud that whether you have fractured your arm, you have come down with a bad flu or your child has an infection you will be able to get free care on demand closer to home. The shadow health minister made some further comments last week. She said that—

Ms Bates interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am losing my voice trying to shout over this rabble. Last week, the shadow health minister said that hospital and health services need to be unshackled to ensure there was greater private sector involvement in the delivery of health care in Queensland—‘unshackled’. ‘Unshackled’ is another fancy word for privatisation.

Mr Dick interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right: private groups like Ramsay Health Care donated \$300,000 to the federal Liberal Party and \$10,000 to the LNP between 2011 and 2013. We know their record. What is more, we know their record when it comes to health care. ‘Health care’ means cuts to services. We do not have a plan from those opposite about healthcare services—

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier’s time has expired.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Currumbin—

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier’s time has expired.

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier will resume her seat.

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier will resume her seat! I appreciate that you may not be able to hear some of my directions, Premier, but your time had expired several seconds earlier. You must resume your seat.

Electricity Prices

Mr WEIR: My question is to the Premier. The Auditor-General said that Callide power station being down is a primary factor in driving up electricity prices. Has the Labor government’s failure to maintain energy assets led to the 162 per cent price increase that is making it harder for Queenslanders to pay their ballooning power bills?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Condamine for his question. I say to the member for Condamine: if the assets had been sold off, who knows what we would be paying?

Dr Miles: We couldn’t have fixed it. We wouldn’t have owned it!

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right: we would not have been able to give the rebates back.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, member for Buderim.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I think you have been set up, member for Condamine.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: You have been set up by those opposite—probably by the member for Kawana, the master of strategy over there—

Mr Saunders interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: We own the assets. Let me say it again: we own the assets. That is why we were able to give back a dividend.

Mr Dick: A billion dollars.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right: over \$1 billion.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am happy to keep repeating this: over \$1 billion has been given back to Queenslanders because we kept the power assets in public hands. Do members remember the campaign to stop the sale? We stopped the sale of the assets. Those opposite wanted to sell it off.

Perhaps the member for Condamine could have a cup of tea with the member for Clayfield. The member for Clayfield could go back through the history and go through the Strong Choices document. Now it is all coming back to me. Before the last election they promised to lower electricity prices but they went up 43 per cent. I am so glad the member asked me this question.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member for Chatsworth is warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The federal budget will be handed down in May. The federal budget will be announcing—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I ask you to resume your seat for a moment. This is a general warning to the House. This is not an opportunity to shout over the person speaking and it is not an opportunity to try to out-interject each other. I have been clear that the level of interjection is too high. From this point on, I will stop giving any warnings under the standing orders and I will start asking members to leave the chamber. I want a robust question time, but it is getting very difficult to hear the person on their feet.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We have given back \$575. As I said, the federal budget will come down in May. We are partnering with the federal government to ease cost-of-living pressures when it comes to electricity rebates. In our budget in June the Treasurer will be announcing further measures to provide an increase to the rebate—more than \$175. I will be very pleased to tell all of Queensland about that. People will hear that in the budget. I say once again that the only way we are able to do that is because we own the assets. We are giving that dividend directly back to Queensland households.

Townsville, Manufacturing

Mr WALKER: My question is of the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure. Will the Deputy Premier outline how the Palaszczuk government is working with industry in Townsville to bring manufacturing home, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any other approaches?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Mundingburra for his question. I know he saw just how happy the Townsville business community was with the Premier's big announcement last week that we will take over and build and own CopperString 2032. The Palaszczuk government is bringing manufacturing home to Queensland and all of Queensland will benefit, but Townsville in particular will benefit. Let us never forget how Townsville was decimated by the double whammy of the LNP's cuts and the closure of the Queensland Nickel refinery. It has taken an incredible effort to bring the Townsville economy back from those dark days of 2015 and we will continue to build on that record—record low unemployment now and we will continue to build on that with the \$5 billion CopperString 2032 project, locking in prosperity for the state's north for decades to come allowing us to decarbonise the northern

economy, allowing us to mine the critical minerals of the north-west that the world will need so it can decarbonise its economies, allowing us to process those minerals right there in Townsville to use in Queensland, to feed into our manufacturing supply chain and to export to the world. CopperString will bring power to the Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct where we will make batteries and hydrogen and all of the other equipment that we need for that decarbonisation effort.

We can only build CopperString 2032 because we own our transmission assets because we stopped those opposite from selling them off. We could not publicly own CopperString if we did not publicly own the electricity network. We could not publicly own the SuperGrid if we did not own the existing grid. It is no surprise to hear today that the Leader of the Opposition would cut CopperString because those opposite only know how to cut and they know only how to privatise—

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe the Deputy Premier is misleading the House and I will be writing to you in that regard.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you. You know that there is a process to go through, member. If it is a matter of privilege suddenly arising, then I will wait to hear from you.

Dr MILES: I table the Leader of the Opposition's list of cuts that he tweeted today that includes CopperString 2032.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, regarding a list of opposition cuts including CopperString 2.0 [299].

On this side of the House we build. On this side of the House we believe in public ownership. On that side of the House all they know how to do is to cut, sack, sell. They stand for privatisation. We stand for jobs for manufacturing and for public ownership of our assets.

Cost of Living, Water Prices

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question is to the Premier. The average annual South-East Queensland bulk water charge was \$363 in 2015. Now it is \$528. Is it harder for Queenslanders to pay their ballooning water bills under the Palaszczuk government?

Ms PALASZCZUK: We have given a rebate as well for water of around \$55. Not only that, eligible pensioners can also get additional water rebates through concessions.

Exports

Ms LUI: My question is of the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. Will the Treasurer tell the House how the Palaszczuk government is supporting exporters in Far North Queensland, and is the Treasurer aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Cook for her question. As the member for Cook knows, her electorate is home to some of the finest agricultural produce in Queensland. The Torres Strait produces some of the finest seafood and around Mareeba some of the finest agricultural produce. That food is highly sought after by our neighbours in the north in Asia and now it can get there faster and in better condition. That is why I was very pleased to be able to join the member for Cairns last week to open the Cairns Regional Trade Distribution Centre. There has been no greater champion of that centre than the member for Cairns. He has been an outstanding champion of it all the way through COVID and I want to recognise his contribution to that along with the member for Cook and the member for Barron River and yourself, Mr Speaker, as the member for one of those electorates up there.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DICK: Mulgrave; thank you, Mr Speaker. That temperature controlled facility means not just coral trout, lobsters and avocados but Mungalli Creek dairy products from Millaa Millaa and Wharf Street gin from Cairns are all on their way to our northern neighbours through that centre. This is a building program where we doubled expenditure. We doubled it from \$10 million to \$20 million. We doubled investment in this infrastructure so more Queenslanders could benefit and more exporters could benefit, with one in Cairns and another one in Toowoomba. Thank you members on the Southern Downs for your support. We increased investment in these projects like we increased investment in Browne Park in Rockhampton, in the Townsville Stadium and in the Goondiwindi Hospital. These are all projects where the Leader of the Opposition is whinging and whining about increased investment—all of them. The Leader of the Opposition pretends to represent the bush and regional Queensland, but he attacks increased spending in regional Queensland and in the bush.

What would the Leader of the Opposition do? Cut jobs? Cut funding to construction workers and their pay? Take three bags of cement out of every span of every bridge? Leave the Goondiwindi Hospital without air conditioning? That is on his hit list. I know it is not his style, but I reckon I would give Lawrence a call about that one. Who could forget that in its horror budget in 2012 the LNP said that the capital program will be smaller to restore the state's financial position? We have seen the LNP release its hit list. That is what it has done today—release its hit list of what it is going to cut, and that will not be the end. The LNP is the best funded opposition in Queensland but also the laziest, but it is not lazy about cuts. We know what it is going to cut. It wants to cut \$10 billion from infrastructure and that would mean 30,000 Queenslanders would lose their jobs. It is about time the Leader of the Opposition told the truth to Queenslanders and told Queenslanders what infrastructure and building projects he will cut.

Cost of Living, Car Registration

Mr MINNIKIN: My question is to the Premier. In 2015 the registration component on a four-cylinder car was \$280. Today it costs \$348. Is it harder for Queenslanders to pay their ballooning rego bills under the Palaszczuk government?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. My understanding is that our registration costs are, in most cases, similar to that in other states. Let me say this once again—

Dr Miles: And it funds roads.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right: it goes back into our roads and road safety. Let me say once again that our government chooses to help with cost-of-living pressures by giving electricity rebates to households. That is our choice because Queenslanders own those assets. Those opposite need to be very clear with the people of this state: are they going to sell off our assets at the next election? They need to be very clear.

Mr MINNIKIN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question was specifically about four-cylinder car registration.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, the question is relatively specific and I will ask you to come back to the issue at hand.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Mr Speaker, I said it is comparable to other states and we choose to give our rebates back through electricity.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Thank you, Treasurer. If I was not inclined to give a warning before, I may be now.

Work Health and Safety

Ms BOYD: My question is to the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Can the minister advise the House on the outcomes of the recent Work Health and Safety Ministers' Meeting and advise if the minister is aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member. I know she has a passion for occupational health and safety and I know that the member for Pine Rivers appreciates the serious discussion we are having particularly around the issue of silicosis and, based upon that, the issue of industrial manslaughter. I am very happy to say that during the peak period from 2018 to 2020 when silicosis was becoming a real issue in the workplace, I wrote—I cannot remember how many times, but I think in all I wrote six times—to the previous Morrison government and in two years not one meeting was held nationally when I called for a national response to this very serious issue.

At no time did those opposite ever raise any concerns about issues like occupational health and safety and silicosis in relation to workers in this state. It was us acting alone that led the nation in our response to silicosis. What a difference a change of government makes. When I travelled to Canberra last month in relation to this issue, silicosis was top of the agenda for the Albanese Labor government—it is absolutely unbelievable—plus the issue of industrial manslaughter.

I am pleased to advise that the workplace health and safety ministers have agreed to implement stronger national regulation. We are implementing national awareness and education campaigns. Guess where they are taking their lead from? Queensland! Finally we are exploring an importation ban on engineered stone, which is something that I raised with the federal government in 2018. We are looking at a national licencing scheme for products that may not be subject to a ban or legacy products.

This is a step in the right direction. I have publicly stated my in-principle support that on the hierarchy of control of hazards in the workplace, if an importation ban is what we need to do—as is in place with asbestos containing materials—I support it 100 per cent. What a difference. Finally we have a government that takes the issue seriously. Finally we have a government that is supporting exploring this.

We are also looking at model laws for industrial manslaughter. Those opposite had a chance to vote for industrial manslaughter and they voted against it. They stripped away the rights of occupational health and safety representatives in this state. They stripped away common law rights. This is one of the foundation stones of workers compensation in this state. It was stripped away by the worst Attorney-General in history. Those opposite voted against industrial manslaughter and voted against labour hire licencing laws.

Cost of Living, Household Bills

Mr BLEIJIE: My question is to the Premier. With cost blowouts in the billions of dollars, will the Premier explain to Queenslanders how her government will fix their ballooning bills when she cannot control her government's budget blowouts?

Ms GRACE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I think there are imputations in there regarding budget blowouts.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left, I will hear the point of order in silence.

Ms GRACE: I think that under the standing orders there are imputations in that question trying to state a fact that is not necessarily—

Mr SPEAKER: This is not about debating the point, member.

Ms GRACE: I am just saying, imputations based on what was said during that question.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, it is not about debating the point. I have heard the question. I will allow the question, but I will give the Premier some latitude.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I always love a question from the member for Kawana. What we know now is that the opposition has a plan and that plan is the \$10 billion hit list on projects. That is their plan.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms PALASZCZUK: That would mean 30,000 jobs.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I have given you a really wide berth today. You continue to interject. You are warned under the standing orders. You will cease your interjections.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We have the largest hospital build ever. What projects are they going to cut? Are they going to cut the regional hospital expansion? Are they going to cut the Toowoomba Hospital, the Coomera Hospital, the Cairns expansion? This is their secret plan. Now we know their secret plan: \$10 billion in cuts. They like quoting the Auditor-General and I am happy to quote the Auditor-General. This week the Auditor-General said that global supply chain impacts and labour availability are issues happening around Australia and the world. According to Infrastructure Australia, the cost increases in just one year have been over 40 per cent for reinforcing steel and structural timber. Infrastructure Australia states—we will give those opposite a little—

Ms Pease: Education.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you—so they know, that construction costs have surged over the last 12 months, with steep price rises for globally produced commodities, such as steel, timber and oil products, heightened global transport and logistics costs, plus supply chain disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. There are the facts. They do not like the facts. Here is a little graph from Infrastructure Australia. We can table that so they can have a look at that where it shows very clearly reinforcing steel has increased; structural timber, steel products, steel beams, plywood and board, just to name a few, have massively gone up in price.

We get on with the job with over \$60 billion of forward capital investments supporting tens of thousands of jobs. We say to those opposite: what do you plan to cut? Be honest with Queenslanders today. Be up-front and honest and tell Queenslanders what you plan to cut.

Energy Assets

Mr SMITH: My question is to the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement. Can the minister please advise the House on what benefits flow to Queenslanders from their ownership of our energy system and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for Bundaberg because he has been a fighter for his community, a community that has worked hard and fought hard to protect a publicly owned energy system, one that has delivered forecasts that show that regional Queensland will now have some of the lowest retail electricity prices in the National Electricity Market. As the member for Bundaberg said to me earlier, public ownership means clean energy delivered by government workers in high-visibility work wear. He said that is good for his community, that is good for locals, good for farmers and good for jobs. There are 10,000 good, decent secure jobs in the publicly owned energy system in Queensland.

This week we have learned about the LNP's secret plans for the energy system. We have learned that the 494 jobs at the Ergon Garbutt depot in the electorate of Townsville would be cut under the LNP. The power stations in the electorates of Mirani, Nanango and Callide, where there are 779 Queenslanders employed, would be sold. In Gladstone, where we are building the SuperGrid training and transmission centre that will train 500 energy workers every year with 90 permanent staff, under their secret plan those jobs would go.

Under our Energy and Jobs Plan we will see local battery manufacturing creating a new industry. In Maryborough we will see ESI gearing up to support 500 decent, secure manufacturing jobs. In the electorate of Macalister, EcoJoule Energy will be making batteries for Energex, supporting even more jobs. In the electorate of Springwood that I represent, a partnership between publicly owned Energex and publicly owned Powerlink is delivering emergency response equipment for the State Emergency Service. It is all about jobs for the future. There are 560 apprentices and trainees coming through the publicly owned energy system, many of them on their way to the Wide Bay and the electorate of Bundaberg. Best of all, the Premier has delivered dividends and rebates that help with cost of living to Queensland households.

What was the Liberal National's plan during their term? Under those opposite retail electricity prices went up 43 per cent while they fattened them up to sell them off. That is their secret plan now. Queensland households would be \$600 worse off under those opposite.

Mr Watts interjected.

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

Mr de BRENNI: Not a single asset ownership dividend—not one! Zero! Not a single ounce of cost-of-living rebate from those opposite. The question those opposite must now answer is: what are they hiding in their secret energy plan. We know the answer to that; it is cut, sack and sell.

Weapons Licensing

Mr KNUTH: My question is to the Minister for Police and Corrective Services. The Weapons Licensing division has recently objected to applicants having legal representation at QCAT hearings while their officers are extremely well versed in matters that are beyond the understanding of everyday Queenslanders. Will the minister instruct Weapons Licensing to drop its objection to QCAT to allow applicants natural justice and a fair hearing?

Mr RYAN: When it comes to any matter involving the Queensland Police Service, operational or legal decision-making, no, I will not instruct them. Those are important decisions that they make in accordance with law. If police ministers started instructing police officers about who to arrest or who not to arrest or who to—

Mr Lister: Who they're allowed to meet or not meet.

Mr RYAN: Excuse me?

Mr Lister: Who they're allowed to meet or not meet.

Mr RYAN: Excuse me!

Mr Lister interjected.

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

Mr RYAN: These are very important decisions and there is, correctly, a separation between the role of government and the role of the Queensland Police Service. When it comes to matters that may be in court for whatever reason, whether they are criminal matters or appeals against administrative decisions, they are conducted by the Queensland Police Service in accordance with law. The Queensland Police Service follows the law when it comes to these matters. If people have objections then they have the right to pursue those objections through the appeal process.

The weapons licensing system is an important community safety framework. The Queensland Police Service and, in particular, the Weapons Licensing branch takes these matters very seriously because ultimately it is about community safety. There is clear legislation around the weapons licensing framework and there are very well trained people within the Weapons Licensing branch who assess applications very thoroughly because they know that that thorough assessment is connected to community safety outcomes.

Mr Dametto interjected.

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

Mr RYAN: The government has recognised that the Weapons Licensing branch works very hard and, in recent times, we have supported additional resources for the branch. In fact, just last month the additional boost of 50 extra staff for the Weapons Licensing branch was extended for a further 12 months. There is a restructure happening at the Weapons Licensing branch and additional staff are being supported in that group to streamline processes and ensure the efficient but effective assessment of applications to promote community safety outcomes.

The other aspect that the government has supported is an investment in a new weapons licensing management system. That work is currently going through its design phase. I commend the Weapons Licensing branch for the outstanding work that they do. Their decisions are directly connected to community safety. I commend them for their thorough consideration of these matters.

Hospitals, Emergency Departments

Mr HARPER: My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Can the minister inform the House of what the Palaszczuk government is doing to ease pressures on our emergency departments and advise if she is aware of any alternative approaches?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for Thuringowa for his question. He knows about the importance of investing in our health services and he understands the complexity of the challenges that public hospitals face in this state. I am very proud of the work that we are doing. We know that the lack of access to GPs, availability and affordability are putting pressure on our emergency departments because people are deferring their care and coming in with more complex and chronic illnesses. That means that the solution is not just more paramedics, doctors, nurses, hospital beds and capital infrastructure, which we are committing to.

This is also about partnering with the Albanese Labor government to support urgent care clinics. While nine were announced during the election, 11 are now being built. The Palaszczuk government put up an argument that there needed to be an additional two, one in Townsville and one in Toowoomba. Those on the other side have been very quiet about the announcement that we will build one of those units in Toowoomba but, then again, they have been pretty quiet about any plans that they have for capital investment in health if they were to get into government. All we have heard about is the hit list that they have announced around \$10 billion.

The Leader of the Opposition has specifically stated that he wants to cut waste in health. If they want to find \$10 billion worth of cuts to the budget, that is the entire Health and Hospitals Plan. Three new hospitals and 11 expansions—gone. We know they sack health workers although not just health workers. If they had been elected in 2020, we would have 3,270 fewer nurses and midwives. How do you deliver maternity services without midwives? We would have 750 fewer doctors, 860 fewer allied health professionals and, at the very least, 155 fewer paramedics. Of course, we are also building satellite hospitals to take pressure off our EDs.

What would those opposite do? The shadow health spokesperson, the member for Mudgeeraba, said we should unshackle the private sector. We know what that means. It means privatise the lot. Either you have to pay for it with private health insurance, which we know is at its lowest right now, or you push the public services out. Of course you are going to push the public services out to the private sector because you would have thousands fewer doctors, nurses, midwives, allied health professionals and paramedics. We would not have the staff to provide health care in our public hospital system so

people would have to go to the private sector. They want to unshackle it because they love privatisation. It is in their DNA. We know that, at all levels, that is what the LNP is about. When Peter Dutton says to cut the NDIS to fund subs you know they have hit a real low.

Gladstone Hospital, Maternity Services

Ms BATES: My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. In 2018 Gladstone private obstetrician Dr Adam Bush pleaded with Queensland Health officials to let their service continue from the Gladstone Hospital. The requests were denied and the obstetrician left town. Was this decision the catalyst of Gladstone Hospital's maternity bypass?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for her question. I say again, if those opposite were in charge we would have 3,200 fewer nurses and midwives and 750 fewer doctors. When there is a global and a national shortage of health workers, what sort of impact would those sorts of cuts have led to? It is the investment of the Palaszczuk government in rebuilding the health system, re-employing the 4,400 health workers the opposition sacked and employing thousands more that put us in the best position, nationally and globally, to see through COVID and protect this community, which we did better than any other jurisdiction in this country.

Those on the opposite side want to talk about Gladstone and decisions. It was the opposition, including the Leader of the Opposition, who said, 'We're going to put doctors, nurses and health boards in charge.' However, when they make decisions they then say, 'You should override them. You should make the decisions for them. It should be the minister of the day who makes these decisions.' It is the clinicians who make those decisions. The model of care outlined in the 2019 maternity task force report was designed by clinicians and midwives. They decided what the model of care should be in this state.

You have to make sure that the services are delivered safely. Those on the other side say, 'You should just reopen them. It doesn't matter whether you have enough doctors and nurses. Just reopen the service.' That would put mothers and babies at risk. You must take the advice of the doctors and the nurses, who are the ones leading this work, as to what the minimum FTEs should be to open those services safely. We are doing this in a staged way to keep mothers and babies safe. You do not provide a safe service—

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b). The question was about the services offered by Dr Bush.

Mr SPEAKER: It did go to a wider systemic concern regarding the Gladstone region, as I heard the question. I will allow the minister to continue.

Mrs D'ATH: They are talking about clinical decisions. Are they saying that the minister should override clinical decisions and decide how services should be run? Should I reach in and control the mix of clinicians and midwives and how those services are delivered? It is a very mixed position of: 'Put them in charge but don't listen to them'; 'Override them'; 'It's your responsibility'; 'No, it shouldn't be your responsibility but we'll hold you responsible'.

The opposition have no idea. They have nothing to offer this state. They have put up nothing—no doctors, no nurses, no dollars, no beds. Their only plan is to privatise. When the federal leader of the LNP, who wants to be prime minister of this country, says, 'I know how you can find savings to fund submarines: NDIS cuts'—

(Time expired)

Biosecurity Queensland

Ms LAUGA: My question is of the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities. With emergency animal diseases and other pests and diseases becoming an increasing threat to Australia, how is Biosecurity Queensland assisting to work with our neighbours?

Mr FURNER: I thank the member for Keppel for her question. I know that, along with the member for Rockhampton, she has a passion about the beef capital of the world, Rockhampton, but that she also understands the importance of biosecurity, as do our primary producers and many other members in this chamber, in terms of the threat of pest and animal disease incursions.

I acknowledge the good work being done by our neighbours on biosecurity along our northern shores in dealing with foot-and-mouth disease and lumpy skin disease. They are doing an amazing job up there. I acknowledge the work they are doing. They are doing it with Australians. I acknowledge the

foundations and also the investment the Palaszczuk government put into emergency animal disease preparedness, announced in August last year—millions of dollars in addressing our preparedness in respect of these particular threats.

In Queensland we are watching events closely because, as any producer will tell you, whether it is livestock, agriculture or aquaculture, an animal disease, a plant disease or a pest, if undetected, can be disastrous and can create havoc on farm and also in our communities. It can break the chain and the things we take for granted such as food security, secure and good jobs in the regions, and the security of knowing that farmers will always supply us. It will hit them hard. Havoc and disasters break the economy and the people when we see these disasters unfold. Being prepared prevents the chain breaking and secures our producers' livestock, plants or food chain, our economy and jobs.

The Palaszczuk government takes collaborative approaches to biosecurity. We work with our neighbours. Biosecurity in Australia would not be strong without our neighbours and interstate colleagues. Recently Biosecurity Queensland hosted the Australian Animal Disease Spread Model training workshop. The workshop was hosted by Biosecurity Queensland in February. Participants included Biosecurity Queensland, New South Wales, the Western Australian department of primary industries, the South Australian Department of Primary Industries and Regions and the federal Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

How refreshing is it to have a new federal government, along with a new federal agriculture minister, that understands the importance of agriculture and biosecurity risks? That is why we are working shoulder to shoulder with them. I digress a bit in referring to the minister as 'Minister Morrison'. We know that it was then minister Littleproud who did little for Queensland and little for biosecurity threats in Queensland. The previous LNP government cut 26 per cent of Biosecurity staff. The Leader of the Opposition was sitting around the cabinet table, making those decisions to cut. As part of the more than 14,000 public servants sacked, some 26 per cent of our hardworking Biosecurity officers were cut, along with many of the 600 agriculture workers who work in the primary industries sector. They were cut by the previous LNP government. This government will not stand by and allow cuts in that area.

(Time expired)

Regional Queensland, Maternity Services

Mr HEAD: My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. This week the Biloela maternity unit will have been on bypass for 200 days, while Gladstone's bypass racks up 250 days today. When will these towns have full local maternity services restored?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for his question. As the member knows, there have been issues around locum doctors and anaesthetist shortages as well as shortages of obstetricians in the area. This is something I have talked about at length in this chamber and out in the community. The shortage is across not just the women's health workforce but also the health workforce generally in this country. I thank all of the stakeholders who came out a week or so ago, who have worked with us on how we build that pipeline of a women's health workforce going forward, not just around maternity but also around sexual health, termination of pregnancies—all of those services. We know that we need this workforce. First and foremost, it has to be about the workforce and it has to be led by clinicians and midwives telling us what is the safest way to do this, what the model of care should be and how best to deliver this. A lot of ideas were discussed and workshopped. We are developing strategies for that.

I am sure that the member for Callide is not suggesting that we should just open these services without having the safe number of staff available. How would we have the safe number of staff available if we were cutting the workforce by 4,400, like those opposite did last time they were in government? If they had been elected, I wonder how the member for Callide would explain to his community that they had 750 fewer doctors in Queensland and 3,270 fewer nurses and midwives. Those on the opposite side, who constantly talk down our health system, should be saying, 'But, hey, it could be so much worse if we were in government.' That is the reality. LNP members should be saying, 'We're fortunate we have the Palaszczuk Labor government, because it would be far worse if we were in government.' That is the fact of it—

Mr HEAD: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b). The question was specifically about when these services would be restored.

Mr SPEAKER: I believe that the minister has another 51 seconds to round out her answer to that effect.

Mrs D'ATH: Again I say to the member that we will restore them when it is safe to do so and the clinicians say it is safe to do so. When people talk down hospitals and you are trying to attract clinicians, they do not want to apply. Let me repeat that: people talk down hospitals, but when they are trying to attract clinicians people do not want to apply. They are not my words but the words of Lawrence Springborg. If you keep talking down our hospital system when we are trying to attract and retain clinicians, they will not want to come. That is on the LNP. That is on everyone sitting on the opposite side for talking down our health system.


Mr SPEAKER: Thankfully, the period for question time has expired. Before members leave the chamber, I understand that it may be the member for Hervey Bay's birthday today. Happy birthday! You did well to not get a warning!

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY SAFETY BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 14 March (see p. 388), on motion of Mr Ryan—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (11.17 am): I rise to speak to the Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023. This bill amends the Bail Act 1980, the Criminal Code Act 1899, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 and the Youth Justice Act 1992. The bill will work with repeat youth offenders, address the very complex issue of youth crime and invest in community safety. I begin by thanking my community, our hardworking and committed Queensland Police Service officers, our youth workers, our teachers, our PCYC as well as our Brisbane City Council workers who work in the youth space and my team from BABI. I thank them for their ongoing support and dedication to helping the young people in my community.

As we know, young people, specifically teenagers, respond positively to clear and defined, firm and psychological boundaries. They respond best when they understand the consequences of their actions. They are hindered in their decision-making by a range of factors external to their control. These factors may include but are not limited to a lack of adult or parental supervision, neglect, fetal alcohol syndrome, substance abuse and addiction, learning difficulties, cognitive impairment, sexual abuse, their chronological age and cognitive development. These are issues that are confronting our young people. We need to make sure that these young people are looked after. We also need to make sure that our community feels safe.

As I have already thanked my community, I would like to remind everyone that our community is the backbone of supporting each other and families. Members of my community support each other each and every day. I am really heartened to see the genuine commitment by locals to support everyone, whether it be victims of crime or young people.

I acknowledge the ministers who have been involved in this important piece of work—Minister Ryan, Minister Linard and Minister Grace—and thank them very much for listening to me when I have spoken to them about my concerns and the issues that are important to my community. I put out a community survey after this bill was introduced. I have had positive feedback and heartening and encouraging support for the legislation and also for those members of our community who need support. We are a supportive and kind community and we look out for each other. We want to ensure that we are safe in our own homes and that our young people are given the support they need. This bill will do that.

The bill amends the Bail Act to make breaching bail a criminal offence for young offenders, strengthens conditional release orders and creates a new declaration of serious repeat offenders. It will increase penalties for stolen vehicles. It enables criminal history to be taken into account. It also extends the GPS electronic tracking to include 15-year-olds and will be expanded to Cairns, Toowoomba and Mount Isa.

The bill will also expand intensive case management and youth co-responder teams and early action groups. There is a further investment of \$4 million in On Country programs and more investment in early intervention. We will also extend the Youth Crime Taskforce with high-visibility police patrols, expanded joint flying squads and support for seniors to secure their homes. Vehicle immobilisers will be trialled in Cairns, Townsville and Mount Isa. As I have said, I acknowledge the great work of my community in supporting each other. I commend the bill to the House.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Before I call the next member, I will run through the list of members who are already on warnings. They are the members for Maroochydore, Nanango, Pumicestone, Pine Rivers, Thuringowa, Bonney, Kawana, Everton, Mudgeeraba, Buderim, Maryborough, Chatsworth, Broadwater, Toowoomba North, Southern Downs and Hinchinbrook.

Ms BATES (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (11.21 am): I rise to make a contribution to the Strengthening Community Safety Bill on behalf of my community, the people of Mudgeeraba, because they are very concerned about safety, and particularly about the security of their neighbourhoods, which is at a perilous point due to the lack of action and soft-on-crime approach of those opposite. Oh yes, they talk a good game—tough on crime they say; we will fix this with legislation they cry in the media. Instead, what do we see? We see the same tired, trite, third-term marketing phrases they toss around without any real commitment to making our community safer or addressing the root causes of the issues driving young people into a life of crime.

Now that she has finally turned up for work, we can see the Premier's plan. It is not what she told Queenslanders. Time and time again she ridiculed the opposition's plan for breach of bail as an offence. Then at the 11th hour there is a backflip. Perhaps the Premier is getting in some gymnastic training ahead of the Olympics. Consistently we heard those opposite decrying the LNP's breach of bail policy. They blocked the LNP from moving an amendment to introduce breach of bail as an offence and now we see the government's proposal—an identical copy of the previous amendment. Do not worry, we are used to the government handing in our homework.

This week, in an extraordinary development, we have seen the Palaszczuk Labor government's youth crime laws crumble on the floor of this parliament. Labor have finally revealed the bombshell that the Palaszczuk government cannot deliver their laws as promised to Queenslanders. The Palaszczuk Labor government deliberately did not tell Queenslanders their 10-point plan will not override basic sentencing provisions in the Youth Justice Act, severely watering down Labor's tough laws.

In December 2022, the Premier specifically promised Queenslanders her new laws would mean that violent juvenile car thieves will face 14 years jail in a suite of increased penalties aimed squarely at keeping the community safe. Now, during debate the Premier and ministers are backtracking after it was revealed and confirmed Labor's new laws cannot override section 175 of the Youth Justice Act. Section 175 of that act states: one, under a magistrate juvenile criminals can only be imprisoned to a maximum of one year; two, under a District Court judge juvenile criminals can only be imprisoned for a maximum of five years; and, three, in serious cases, juveniles can only be sentenced to half of the maximum sentence applied to adults.

This means the promise that Premier Palaszczuk made in black and white to Queenslanders is not true. Sadly, we have heard it all before. This is yet another plan, with 10 points, in addition to the plans announced in 2015, 2016, 2019 and 2021—that is, 26 points in total—and the 47-point youth justice strategy of 2019 to 2023. Queenslanders cannot have faith in Labor solving youth crime. They have had seven years to do it and it is as bad as it has ever been.

The community has had enough. They tell me that under Labor, thugs who commit crime are let off and the police cannot do anything about it. They want proper programs for young offenders so they learn discipline and control. They want these kids to improve so they have a chance to get off the wrong track. The LNP will introduce gold standard intervention programs and make sure they are audited so the public can be confident there are outcomes for the money that is invested.

So much for their transparent and accountable processes, especially around the introduction of this bill. We know stakeholders were not properly consulted and then had a reduced time frame to make considered, sensible submissions to the committee considering this legislation. Seventeen days is all the government gave the committee to report on the bill. Queenslanders had just three days to make written submissions. What is Labor scared of? Is it that Queenslanders will expose their false promises—like the Premier's tough talk on crime; not the 10 years she promised for car theft as the bill recommends seven.

Perhaps the Premier would like to talk to Belinda a volunteer who works in one of my community sporting clubs. Belinda needs her car to run her family around, get to work and ferry young players to weekend sporting fixtures. Belinda watched as a group of young thugs stole her car, trashed it and were let off by a hamstrung judiciary. They were still in the car when they were arrested and then charged with their 20th criminal offence. Then they were released back into the very community they still terrorise.

Like every victim of crime, Belinda continues to suffer. She is spending hours fighting insurers, seeking to replace the car used to support her community. Our community has rights: the right to expect that when criminals are caught there is a consequence. But no, again we see the part-time Premier backtracking so the young girls like the one who stole Belinda's car are free to do it again. Serious repeat offenders under Labor have almost doubled. They know they will get off so off they go again.

It is not only the community Labor is failing; they are not helping these young people get back on track. They are spending the money but the projects are not delivering. They are letting these young people slip through the cracks because nobody is monitoring what works and what clearly does not.

Some \$1 billion has been spent on intervention and what have we got to show for it? We have a youth crime epidemic and now our communities are paying twice. They know the men and women in blue are doing their best. They also know that the thin blue line is getting thinner all the time, with police resources stretched to the limit because of inadequate funding and poor administration on behalf of the Labor government.

People are taking matters into their own hands and forking out their own hard-earned cash to keep themselves safe. To fit a house with Crimsafe screens and hardwired cameras can cost around \$25,000. That is what hardworking Queenslanders are being forced to do. Retailers are cashing in. Catalogues have more home security products than televisions these days.


Some are even borrowing the money. Some are already digging into their superannuation because they just do not feel safe without personal security for their homes. Instead of building a nest egg for retirement they are so scared they want to build their homes into fortresses. Already they are faced with skyrocketing insurance premiums and we know those costs are forced up with increasing crime rates.

Man-made disasters like crime waves have just as big an impact on the cost of insurance for Queensland household as do natural disasters. Just ask the people who live in some suburbs. When they ring their insurers the first question is: where do you live? If it is a certain postcode up goes the premium.

Sadly, we know many of the worst affected suburbs are actually in Labor electorates. I am surprised that community members have not been beating down the doors of their local MPs asking them to do something—anything. They are already staring down the barrel of a housing crisis because of Labor's failings. Now they have a crime crisis that is spiralling into a cost-of-living crisis. They are desperately installing cameras and screens to help bring down insurance premiums. Whatever they do, they are out of pocket. They are paying for Labor's failings over and over again.

Those Labor failings have prompted the introduction of amendments by my colleague, the member for Burdekin. As a former police officer, he knows the difficulties of fighting crime. Removing detention as a last resort as a sentencing principle from the Youth Justice Act 1992 is a considered response to those difficulties. The objectives of those amendments is to ensure serious repeat offenders are given appropriate penalties to reduce further offending and keep the community safe. To achieve that, those amendments would need to be made to both the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 to remove references to the sentencing principle and the Youth Justice Act 1992. The LNP amendment would unshackle the judiciary. They must have the ability to provide security for the community and deal with these recidivist criminals.

Yes, it is difficult to strike the balance between the rights of young offenders and their need for rehabilitation, but the community too has rights: the right to feel safe in their homes. It is cause and effect: a crime crisis equals cost-of-living pressures. This government is not keeping Queenslanders safe; it is keeping them broke. It is keeping a frightened community locked in their own homes while young criminals roam free.


 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (11.30 am): Earlier this year I travelled to Peirson Farms in the Bundaberg region where our Transition 2 Success team was holding a graduation ceremony for young people who have encountered the youth justice system but tried to make better sense of themselves. They were there, they completed their certificate 1 courses, and they were young. What really strikes you when you meet teenagers who are engaged in the youth justice system is just how young they really are. It was a great occasion because they were proud of themselves. They were there with their families and their families were proud of them as well. I imagine that is not always the feeling shared between those families from time to time. It is important to reflect that these young people want to be a part of our community. They know they made a mistake in committing whatever act it was that brought them to the youth justice system. They want to be a part of the community so much that when they

designed their graduation shirt they put the postcode on the sleeve: 4670. That was in the design at their request because it shows they are proud of where they live and they want to be part of a community which represents everybody.

Of course, we know that we cannot make excuses for acts of crime. We cannot make excuses when a young person goes out and commits any act of crime—especially a violent act of crime—but we must address the reasons why these situations occur. We cannot hide from it and think that a game of politics from the other side, an orchestrated attempt with media, is somehow the solution. We need to understand that young people are complicated. The member for Toohey and I reflected that a couple of weeks ago in this House I mentioned a student in one of my classes who retaliated against police who came to do a bag check in the class. He retaliated and assaulted them. You cannot excuse that, but where did he learn that behaviour from? He learned it because his home life situation had given him example after example of that being the way to act. We need to understand and intervene early on. Without excusing their acts, these young people are complicated and often hurt people who are themselves victims of crime, most times at the hands of their own family. The nuclear family where they are meant to feel safest, strongest and loved can often be the source of why they feel safer out on the streets of the community. They feel safer being guided by people who are not the right people to guide them and often lead them into dangerous situations and unlawful activities. We need to understand the complexities without excusing the acts of crime.

Yes, sadly the events that we saw over the New Year period cost the lives of innocent people who should never have had that happen to them. Their families should never have to live with those memories. Yes, those young people—I will not say if there was a scenario where a young person had engaged in that behaviour—will have to face the full force of the law. We understand that, and that is what this bill is about: strengthening community safety. Isn't it a sad environment when young people get into situations where they act in such dangerous and violent ways. That is what we should be reflecting on. This is not a bill that anyone should relish; it is a bill that is necessary. It is a bill that the community has asked for, but it is not a bill to enable rabid members of the LNP to get up and try to drive a wedge between our communities.

I want to thank the Premier, the youth justice minister, the police minister and the Attorney-General for the way they have formed this bill. They have shown that they have an ear for Queenslanders but, most importantly, they have a heart for Queenslanders.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (11.35 am): I rise to contribute to the debate on this long, much awaited bill. I will get to the flaws of the bill, but in following the member for Bundaberg I find it astonishing that the member did not even mention the victims of crime in Bundaberg. He did not even mention the victims and hardworking police officers who do everything they can each and every day to stay safe. The region that I represent is part of the Wide Bay as well, just like Maryborough and Bundaberg. Look at the statistics for January: other theft, 586; unlawful entry, 207; unlawful use, 82. That was just in one month alone.

That was the month the Premier decided, 'Hang on a minute. It's all getting a bit tough in 'medialand'. We'd better do a change.' This is the Premier standing up after those horrific deaths because communities are outraged just like my community of the South Burnett has been for years. Police officers have been outraged for years because of the failings of this Palaszczuk government. What did the government do? The Premier decided to stand up and say, 'I'm going to have a 10-point plan.' That has all come unstuck this week, hasn't it? Because we know that one of the principal parts of the Premier's so-called 10-point plan—after all of the other point plans she has announced in the past—cannot even work. We know that it has completely turned to dust during this debate because it is obvious—and the government has actually admitted—that they cannot and will not be able to lock kids up for the amount of time the Premier stood up and said. On 29 December the Premier actually said on Twitter, 'Violent juvenile car thieves will face more jail time and sentencing will be strengthened as part of a suite of increased penalties to keep the community safe.' What a load of rubbish! It has not happened. It is not in this bill, and both the Premier and the minister have had to come in here and admit it.

Look at them all over there! The member for Bundaberg did not even talk about the victims. He did not even talk about the hardworking police officers. The reason is because members on the left, like the member for Bundaberg, do not want this bill before the House. You see them one after another forgetting the victims of crime, forgetting people like the poor young man who sat in a park in Kingaroy playing his Gameboy when a group of violent repeat youth offenders—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Member, I am conscious of sub judice. I want to double-check with you. You are confident it is not before the courts?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I am. Violent offenders dragged him out of the car. They stole his car, they threw his mobile phone away and then he had to limp home covered in blood. This is a highly functioning autistic young man from my community. His father contacted me.

We need to be tough on crime. Do we need to help out these youths from my community who do not have a good family life? Absolutely we do. That is exactly what we need to continue to do, but for the repeat violent youth offenders enough is enough. The victims in our community have had enough. The community members have had enough. Our police officers, who are doing everything they possibly can to stem this, have had enough.

Why are we here? It is because in 2016 the Labor government passed the youth justice amendment act which removed the hard work that we had brought in in 2014. They removed breach of bail. They restricted the right of police to arrest for breach of bail. They rendered inadmissible child criminal histories when no conviction was recorded. They imposed the requirement that a detention sentence be used as a last resort, and that is why I support my good friend with his amendment in relation to bringing that back. They reintroduced sentencing reviews and abolished the boot camps.

Mr Harper: That worked, didn't it?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection from the member for Thuringowa and I will tell the House why. Because it was Townsville—

Honourable members interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection because he is on a warning, Madam Deputy Speaker, and I ask that you rule in that regard.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, I did not hear the interjection but I will warn all members on a warning that if they are interjecting and I see that—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, I will caution you not to reflect on the chair. Any member who is on a warning and interjects will be thrown out.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. The member for Thuringowa clearly yelled out across the chamber. I will not reflect on your decision, but this is the member who had to come into this House this morning and apologise for doing the same thing yesterday.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, you are welcome to write to the chair if you believe that my ruling was not correct. I have made a ruling on that decision though.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I want to clarify, firstly, that you did not call the member in relation to the matter and she resumed her seat so I am presuming that the member for Nanango has concluded her speech.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order and I will not hear any more points of order on this. Member for Nanango, you still have some time left for your speech. Do you wish to continue?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I absolutely do. Labor government members and ministers want to shut down this debate, and that is why they are going to guillotine this debate tomorrow. They know it is an embarrassing indictment. For the member for Thuringowa to once again tell a bare, blatant mistruth in this House that he has not interjected is just a load of rubbish.

Mr HARPER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Once again, I take offence at the member's remarks and I ask her to withdraw. They are offensive.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, the member has taken offence. Further, I will caution you again that I have made a decision on your former point of order and I would encourage you to move on in your speech.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Like I was saying, we are here in this House because members like the member for Thuringowa—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, you need to withdraw.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Sorry, I withdraw. We are given such a little amount of time to talk about issues that are important in our community, and we are standing here today because of members like the member for Thuringowa. He does not understand the victims of crime, the hardworking police officers or the hardworking ambulance officers who have to pick up these bloodied people who are bleeding from being stabbed in their homes. I had a police prosecutor in my own community who woke up with a brick to his head.

I will tell the House why this is happening. It is because seven years ago this government changed the laws, and those juveniles who were 12 at the time have grown up in the system and they are now over 17 years old. I see the members for Maryborough and Thuringowa giggling and pulling faces at me, and I think that is ridiculous.

Mr SAUNDERS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find that very offensive. I was not talking about the member for Nanango. Who would?

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, the member has taken offence and I ask that you withdraw.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw.

Mr POWELL: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Whilst the member for Nanango has withdrawn her comments—

Ms Boyd: No, she hasn't.

Mr POWELL: She has.

Ms Boyd: She has not.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, I will hear the point of order in silence.

Mr POWELL: I believe the comments made by the member for Maryborough in his final statement were very disparaging of the member for Nanango. If she is not going to take offence, I certainly will and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, you cannot take offence on someone else's behalf. I will ask for no more points of order on that matter and we will come back to the member for Nanango.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I have withdrawn and I will withdraw again. I will say this. It is an indictment on the government that it does not take this issue seriously. We have been calling for bringing back breach of bail as an offence for years and years and years. I could read pages and pages and pages from history with all of these statements, including from the police minister, the youth justice minister, the Acting Leader of the House right now and the member for Bundaberg. I have got quotes right here.

They came into this House and they ridiculed it as a political stunt, as something that will never work and should not work. Then, to get the Premier off the front page of the paper for not showing up to Toowoomba and not showing up to Goondiwindi the other day and to make sure this bit of bad news for the Premier goes away, she decided to do the biggest backflip I have ever seen in my 10 years in this parliament. The Premier came in here and actually pretended that the breach of bail amendment was not our exact words. The Attorney-General actually stood in the House and tried to justify why their amendment was different to the amendment that we had brought into this House. I do feel for the Attorney-General because she does not want this law. It was obviously part of the PowerPoint presentation that went to the cabinet to say, 'We need to keep the LNP quiet because they are right on this issue. They are right.'

Mrs Gerber: She got the drugs.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection. The Attorney-General and the other left in the cabinet got what they wanted and that is in relation to the increasing of the drugs that are now going to be flowing into this state. If they do not think it will increase crime in our community, well, I have got something coming.


I want to finish on this next point, even though there is so much more. I received a letter from a constituent, Paul, who shared his experience with youth crime. He wrote to me—

One year ago we joined the victims of crime via an armed home invasion, the knife, just as sharp as his words and intentions. This is something we would rather forget, instead, it remains and is reinforced as we watch the news every night.

He went on to say—

Thank-you to all our frustrated police who dedicate themselves, risking life and limb, to catch these alleged thieves only to watch as many are released and unleashed to terrorise and reoffend again.

That is the feeling of my community. That is what is happening on a daily basis because this government is soft on crime. This is one small step, but we need to go so much further to protect our communities.

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (11.48 am): Once a month on a Friday evening around 180 young people in my community gather at the YMCA Springfield Central Community Centre. They meet to play some intense games of basketball and volleyball, play some fierce online gaming comps, screen-print T-shirts or get creative with hip-hop dance and DJ'ing, whilst enjoying free pizza and a drink from our terrific local Domino's crew. They are there as a result of the incredible team from REKON Youth and supported by the wonderful Fana and Shelleigh Lole from Lole's Barber Shop. REKON offer community connection, diversionary programs, mentoring and training. Their mission is to empower young people to lead successful lives and to build a thriving community. I could not be more grateful for their work. The YMCA Springfield Central Community Centre was initially earmarked as a general community centre, but through strong advocacy from me and local stakeholders, this centre has become a dedicated youth-focused community space, aimed at engaging young people and providing them with that safe space. I want to thank YMCA Brisbane for their significant commitment to this centre.

In Flagstone, a growing community in my electorate, local developer, Peet, has developed a dedicated youth strategy based on input by young people in the community. This youth strategy is not just a document; Peet is investing financially to encourage organisations to undertake youth activities and projects which engage young people in a positive manner. At Orion Springfield Central, one of our major shopping centres, a new group called Y2Tribe, led by the dedicated Edgar, is quietly connecting with young people to hear their stories and to better understand what is happening in their lives and what support they need especially if this support is not being offered in their family environment. I recently met with Dr David Lakisa and Wayne Lakisa through their organisation, Talanoa Education. They are engaging our young Pacific Islander and Maori youth. Wayne, a former educator in youth detention, brings an incredible wealth of knowledge, experience and insights into understanding youth and education within our justice system, and I was so pleased to receive his suggestions and advice.

I provide these five examples because I believe they demonstrate that my community recognises the need to engage our young people and has a willingness to intervene early to prevent them from offending through boredom or perhaps as a result of more serious trauma, broken homes or underlying medical and learning difficulties. These examples are evidence that we want young people to succeed, to not offend and certainly to not reoffend. It gives me hope that, despite everything, we continue to believe that these young people are worth saving, and I do believe that this is our Labor government's view as well: every young person is worth saving. It is why we already have record investment and are increasing this investment in youth justice programs to tackle those complex causes of youth crime, whether it is in the prevention and early intervention space, whether it is in programs we know are already working and where we are seeing results, programs such as the Community Youth Response Diversionary Program, restorative justice conferences and Transition 2 Success programs.

However, we also recognise that there is a cohort—around 17 per cent—of young offenders who are committing 50 per cent of crimes. The government has increased our efforts on these serious repeat offenders with more intensive case management and intensive bail support for young people and their families. Our communities deserve to feel safe and, like many, it concerns me greatly when I see videos of crime online in our local communities. I truly believe that most young Queenslanders do the right thing and we should continue to have faith in them, but for that small cohort who, despite our best efforts, continue to pose a threat to community safety, then we need to respond. It is certainly what I believe the majority of my community is seeking from us as legislators, and we must listen and we must act.

We already have presumption against bail provisions, however, through this bill, we are introducing new laws including: a workable breach of bail provision; strengthening conditional release orders by extending the maximum period from three months to six months; a new declaration of serious repeat offender; and increasing penalties for stolen vehicles. We will also expand the number of offences with a presumption against bail.

I do not believe that anyone from our side of the chamber wants to see young people incarcerated. It is why we are doing everything we can to intervene early—we are seeing great success with most young people, the majority of whom do not reoffend—and to also work intensely with those young people who continue to be troubled. However, I do not shy away from the victims of crime in my community. I worry deeply about the residual trauma they carry when their homes are invaded, their property is stolen, and when there is potential or real violence perpetrated against them. I have and will continue to meet with and engage with individuals in my community who wish to share their experiences with me so I can offer ongoing support and assistance.

I also want to thank our Neighbourhood Watch groups in Springfield and Jimboomba police divisions who I work really closely with and I know are proactive in the space of community, as well as, of course, our wonderful local hardworking police.

The bill before us is necessary, but it is not being done in isolation. More and significant funding to tackle the complex causes of crime, early intervention programs, more support for victims of crime and boosting our police resources are what is required. This is what a responsible government does, a government that not only listens to and cares about the victims of crime but also understands and wants to address the complexities of youth crime and is determined to act. I commend the bill to the House.

Ms CAMM (Whitsunday—LNP) (11.53 am): From listening to the contributions that I have heard over the last sitting days, I would have to say that I do think some members of this House live in a fairyland. When we talk about a cohort of young juvenile repeat offenders, these criminals—and they are criminals—are causing such havoc in the community. They have taken people's lives and loved ones, they have brought fear into people's homes, they have stolen cars, they have impacted people's businesses every single day, they have impacted people's family lives, and ultimately they have put at risk community safety. One job a state government has is looking after community and public safety. We heard the Premier, before she took her leave, announce that violent juvenile car thieves will face 14 years jail in a suite of increased penalties aimed squarely at keeping the community safe. Then we see the legislation that we are debating here and it is not even close to what the Premier has committed to the people of Queensland. Once again, the Premier and the minister have bowed to public pressure, to the negative PR and media and, more importantly, to the opposition which has been governing from this side of the House and calling for breach of bail since it was taken away in 2016.

Government members interjected.

Ms CAMM: I see members on the opposite side of the House laughing. I do not think it is funny. I do not think any victim of crime in this state would think this piece of legislation is funny.

In June 2016, Labor scrapped the LNP's breach of bail offence, made childhood findings of guilt inadmissible in court when sentencing a person for an adult offence, and reinstated the principle that detention should be the last resort and for the shortest appropriate period when sentencing children. When we tried to move amendments in this House to ensure that that could be returned into legislation, we were shut down. Reinstated into the Penalties and Sentences Act was the principle that imprisonment is a sentence of last resort and a preferable sentence allows the offender to stay in the community.

The cohort that we are talking about comes from complex backgrounds—we all agree on that—but what this Labor government has done over the last several years has actually created the cohort. I look to my portfolio as a spokesperson for the opposition on the child protection system. Many young people who are in the youth justice system come from the child protection system, a system that is set up to protect children—a system that is failing children in this state. When you look at the numbers and the correlation with children that come from the child protection system, after the support and intervention by this Labor state government, they are the children who were continuously failed and are now youth repeat offenders. They have turned into hardened criminals.

I refer to some crime stats from North Queensland. The member for Burdekin and many members on this side of the House travel to Townsville and Cairns to represent the interests of Queenslanders, and many times we have debated the statistics in this House. I reflected on Hansard to find that on 16 March, which will be one year tomorrow, I stood in this House and represented the good people of Townsville, Thuringowa and Mundingburra because their own local state members were not standing up for victims of crime. Their own local state members were not taking meetings with their constituents who were tired, scared and fed up with the inaction of this state Labor government.

In January alone in Townsville, there were 88 cars stolen; in Cairns, 73. In the period from when this legislation was brought into the House up until now, 222 cars have been stolen in Townsville and 193 in Cairns. Today we are debating and asking questions of the Premier about what this government is doing in regards to the cost of living, and the best the Premier can come up with is, 'We are giving a rebate to your electricity bills.' What is the Premier and the members representing North Queensland doing to alleviate the increased cost of insurance—

Mr Healy: Ignoring you!

Ms CAMM: I will take that interjection.

Mr Healy: Ignoring you!

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Member for Cairns!

Ms CAMM: I will take that interjection.


Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

Ms CAMM: I will take that interjection. The member for Cairns is ignoring me, as he is ignoring his own constituents in Cairns. Those constituents are contacting our shadow minister for police and contacting our other shadow ministers because we have been standing up in this House since the election, calling for breach of bail offences, calling for action and the imposition of consequences, and calling for this government to not go soft on crime. When we go to Cairns for regional parliament, I look forward to meeting with the member's constituents. They always provide me with a very warm welcome when I go to Cairns.

I have heard many members in this House talk about the investment in children and youth services. I would like to reflect on my own community of Mackay and the Whitsundays and its youth service, YIRS. I met with the Minister for Youth Justice two years ago. Since then I have taken representation of the local community to the member for Mackay, Julieanne Gilbert. We have not seen an increase in funding for that service in a decade. This government talks about early intervention, supporting young people, supporting young people with complex needs, yet for my community of Mackay, Isaac and Whitsundays there has been not one increase in funding in the last decade but the footprint has increased. The department has increased the service agreement with no extra funding. My local community's service is now using reserve funding and making a loss of \$60,000 a year to support young people—young people with complex mental health, young people known to Child Safety, young people known to Youth Justice. I wish that it did not fall on deaf ears. It would be fabulous if, at the end of this debate, my local youth service received some of the funding that I have heard those Labor members opposite talk about receiving for their communities. When it comes to making decisions I hear a lot about evidence-based decisions, but that is certainly not what I see.

I also want to address some comments that were made with regard to victims of crime and what this government is doing when it comes to community safety, in particular in relation to the cost of living. Insurance prices based on postcodes in Mackay, Townsville and Cairns have gone up in some cases by 20 to 30 per cent. That is for car insurance and house insurance. What is this government's response? What is the response from those local members? We cannot blame the Scott Morrison government anymore. We cannot blame Campbell Newman anymore. My question to the Premier and to those ministers opposite is: what are you doing to support and help the victims of crime before the full force of this legislation takes effect? We know much of it will not work because they were just fluffy announcements. We have seen that evidenced by the lack of tracking devices, the statistics, the numbers of those youth offenders who have not been detained and who have been released early, the ongoing costs, the fear that has been brought about in our local communities and the lack of response we see by this government.

The LNP will always be tough on crime. The LNP will always hold perpetrators of crime to account. The LNP will also always listen to Queenslanders. We hear them. We understand the challenges they face. If this legislation makes no impact and if this government is brought back to this House to remove detention as a last resort, as we have called for, once again we will demonstrate to the people of Queensland that we are governing from opposition.

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (12.02 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023. There was widespread consultation, with 87 submissions and public hearings held in Brisbane, Cairns and Townsville. The committee and especially the chair, the member for Logan, should be acknowledged for their contribution. The committee made only one recommendation and that is to pass the Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023.

I appreciate that there have been some divergent views on this piece of legislation and not everyone agrees with the government's approach. That is to be expected on a piece of legislation such as this. Considering the submissions and evidence, it is very clear that this bill has struck a well-balanced approach.

The objective of the Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023 is to give effect to legislative reforms announced by the Queensland government on 29 December 2022 aimed at keeping the community safe and strengthening youth justice laws to respond to serious repeat offenders. Our community expects that the government put safety front and centre. This was acknowledged clearly by the Premier in the announcement of 29 December 2022 when she stated—

Crime, especially youth crime, is a complex issue but community safety must come first ...

All of the programs to divert children away from crime will continue but the community is demanding tougher penalties too.

This bill is one part of the solution. There is an entire wraparound of other assistance and options available to ensure we break the cycle of youth offending. We are only talking about a very small cohort of the community and for most young people there is not a repeated interaction with the criminal justice system. However, it is the repeat and serious offenders who need to be dealt with for the safety of our community.

I note the SDA's submission from the secretary, Chris Gazenbeek. I also note my membership which is listed in the Register of Member's Interests. The SDA, which represents retail workers, stated in their submission—

The SDAQ has received increasing comments and feedback ... about 'youth gangs' in shopping centre car parks at night. Incidents generally related to issues of intimidation but has now escalated to property damage, vandalism and workers feeling threatened and scared to leave the stores—especially at night.

Workers, no matter their industry or location, deserve to feel safe and secure in their working environment. In a previous life I worked for the Queensland Police Union and I would like to put on record my ongoing thanks and appreciation for the work done day in, day out by our proud and very hardworking men and women in the police. The Queensland Police Union submission states—

From the outset the QPU recognises that youth offending is a whole of government response and needs more than just legislation to address the issues of youth offending. We recognise the need for a robust framework of legislation to inform the function of Police and Courts but also acknowledge the need for wrap around services for offenders and their families, alternative justice models and programs that involve cultural and community leaders.

...

The QPU supports this legislation ...


The Local Government Association of Queensland has been an active proponent in highlighting the diverse needs and concerns of Queensland's regions, shires and cities. Their submission states—

The first priority of any government is to ensure the safety of its citizens.

On behalf of our member councils, the LGAQ strongly welcomes action to address the youth crime issues impact local communities across Queensland.

There is a role for an opposition to try to represent alternative views to government policy, but scaremongering and blatant misrepresentation of facts and issues does the community no favour whatsoever. Last week the LNP launched a scurrilous attack on the hardworking members of the Ferny Grove Police Station saying there have been cuts to the station's numbers. I want to put on record that there have been no cuts to the Queensland Police Service. The cuts to the commissioned officer ranks in this state were made by those opposite when they were in government. I want to put on record clearly that there have been no cuts under this government. In fact, I am advised the number of approved police positions at Ferny Grove remains unchanged at 49 officers. I am advised that from 1 March 2015 to 31 January 2023 the approved police strength in Queensland increased by 1,018 positions, from 11,430 to 12,448.

This bill will deliver on community expectations and help keep Queenslanders safe. There are programs in place to try to stop youth offending. When there are incidents of interactions with the criminal justice system, the right penalties can be found in this bill. I want to commend the work of my colleague the Minister for Police. I applaud his efforts on this bill. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (12.07 pm): I, too, rise to address the Strengthening Community Safety Bill. It is very clear yet again that the Palaszczuk Labor government missed the mark when they made legislative changes back in 2015 to insert detention as a last resort as a principle and remove breach of bail. It is very clear that the Premier went missing in January when the people of Queensland needed her to turn up most. Now it is very clear that they have missed the mark yet again in this legislation in that it does not even deliver what the Premier herself said it would. If honourable members want proof of that, they need go no further than the joint media release issued by the Premier, the Minister for Police and the Minister for Children and Youth Justice on Thursday, 29 December. The first line reads—

Violent juvenile car thieves will face 14 years' jail in a suite of increased penalties aimed squarely at keeping the community safe. We can show them that that is simply not true by looking at the legislation we have before us.

Whilst they say that section 175 of the Youth Justice Act states that under a magistrate juvenile criminals can only be imprisoned to a maximum of one year, under a judge juvenile criminals can only be imprisoned to a maximum of five years and in serious cases juveniles can only be sentenced to half the maximum sentence applied to adults. No violent juvenile car thief will face 14 years jail as a result

of this legislation. I acknowledge the members for Clayfield and Burdekin for pointing out this falsehood. The people of Queensland need to be aware that the Labor government talk tough when it comes to crime but they do not deliver. Again these laws show that.

I mentioned that the Premier went missing in January. When the parliament needed to sit again and we needed to pass these laws back then, she went missing. Even now, she is not delivering. In January alone across the Sunshine Coast police district, there were 69 unlawful uses of a vehicle, 149 unlawful entries and 628 other thefts. If I look at the other end of the Glass House electorate, in the Moreton district—that also covers the electorate of Pumicestone—in January alone there were 119 unlawful uses, 258 unlawful entries and a whopping 994 other thefts. When we could have been here in parliament debating legislation to get tough on these young crims, the Premier was elsewhere, and in that time we have seen nearly 1,000 thefts in the Moreton district, in one month alone.

It is important that we understand. We often talk about the young criminals—I will come back to them shortly—but we do not spend enough time talking about the victims of crime. I have been in this House now for five terms, for 14 years. Crime has always been an issue. In some parts of the state, particularly in places like Townsville, it has been a constant issue—apart from the term under the LNP government when we addressed crime on the ground.

What we see across the state now, though, is that if you yourself have not been impacted by crime you at least know someone who has. You sit down, as I did, with a good friend to hear how they sleep with a golf club or a cricket bat beside their bed, worried that their house will be invaded. You hear how they make a decision between leaving the car keys hanging from the peg beside the front door so that if they do get invaded at least the young crims are not running through the house trying to find the keys, or trying to hide them to make it harder to lose that precious vehicle that they have fought so hard to purchase in the first place.

Mr Lister: We hear it all the time.

Mr POWELL: I take that interjection from the member for Southern Downs. It is now the first topic on the minds of everyone across Queensland, and it has not happened by accident. It goes back to those actions of the Palaszczuk Labor government in 2015 and their inability to toughen the laws ever since, despite the rhetoric we hear from them. Victims of crime are the people we should be thinking of. They are the ones we should be assisting. As the member for Nanango said, some victims have been left battered, bruised, bloodied, knifed. It is not acceptable. Some people have had to bury loved ones. That is not acceptable. My fear is that, even with these legislative changes, they will continue to have to do that.

I acknowledge the police on our front line. They do a fantastic job with the resources they are given by this government. I know that my local officers based out of Caboolture, Woodford, Beerwah, Maleny and Palmwoods as well as Nambour work tirelessly to keep our community safe. I know that, for many of them, one call-out to a domestic violence situation is all it takes to write off a whole shift. That means we do not see them around the communities as much as we would like to. That is not their fault. It is because of the laws and the resources they have been given by the government.

I heard the contribution by the member for Ferny Grove. He suggested that we are not seeing a cut in police officers at the Ferny Grove station or at the Sandgate station. Tell that to the community and tell that to the police officers themselves. They know that they are operating short staffed. An approved level of staffing does not indicate that there are actually police officers in those stations. We are hearing this from the police officers themselves. We are backing them up. We know that they are doing it tough, and we will continue to support them.

I return to victims of crime. I mentioned what happens when you as an individual, a family or a business owner are impacted by crime, but it has a flow-on effect to every single Queenslanders. We spoke about it yesterday in question time, when we asked whether this government will take responsibility for failing to act on crime and, therefore, the associated increase in insurance costs that every single Queenslanders is paying. At a time when everyone is struggling with the ballooning cost of living and the ballooning bills we are having to pay—whether it be water, rego or electricity—we then get slugged with higher insurance bills. Insurance premiums are jumping in many cases more than 100 per cent because of inaction when it comes to crime.

I used to work in the department of child safety and I know that some of these young people have had very challenging and dreadful upbringings. In some instances, you know that what has been done to them has actually—


Mr Nicholls: It is unforgivable.

Mr POWELL: It is unforgivable; I take that interjection from the member for Clayfield. It is important that we have prevention and early intervention services. When I was working in the department of child safety we were often told that \$1 spent in prevention and early intervention would save \$100 in intervention at the pointy end. That is why we instigated the Carmody review into child safety. That is why there were so many recommendations, many of which this government has failed to implement, around improving prevention and early intervention services—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr POWELL: I take that interjection. The member for Clayfield, as the treasurer, put \$400 million into those services because we knew that was an investment for the future. Those on the other side can say, 'We've put in \$800 million,' or 'We're now putting in \$1.2 billion,' but we know that those programs cannot be working if we continue to see the results we are seeing. This is why the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow police minister have written to the Auditor-General, calling on him to investigate how effective these prevention and early intervention services are. I am pleased to hear that the Auditor-General is going to undertake that review. If we are going to spend that much money, we need to know that it is actually producing results. If it is not, then we need to redirect it into programs that are. We need to help these kids with these complex issues so that we do not end up with a pipeline of young criminals continuing to run rampant across the state of Queensland.

We need to address this problem at all ends of the spectrum. We need prevention and early intervention, we need to work with the parents, we need to work with the communities and we need to work with the kids, but it does not take away from the fact that there is a small number of young individuals who are creating mayhem, chaos, havoc and despair across the state of Queensland. We will support these changes but we suspect that, yet again, they will be a toothless tiger in this fight against youth crime.

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (12.18 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023. The proposed legislative responses in the bill are designed to break the cycle of offending by serious repeat offenders, with stronger penalties that will support the efforts of police and the courts to reduce offending and hold criminals accountable. They are part of a suite of new tougher action on youth crime and its causes. The Queensland government understands the impact that youth crime is having on our community. That is why tougher action is being taken to further protect community safety and to tackle the complex issues of youth crime.

In speaking in support of the bill in this place, I want to pay tribute to the victims of crime in our state. I have spoken with many victims of crime in my electorate and it has given me a greater understanding of how very traumatic it can be. After my car was broken into, my parents' house was broken into and my partner's car was broken into, I had an even deeper understanding. Being a victim of crime can be an awful experience. Not only is there a financial and property impact; there is also a substantial emotional impact. Anger, frustration, grief and fear are all emotions that victims I speak to experience—including my parents. I also want to pay tribute to the police, the youth justice officers, corrections, social workers, youth workers and everyone in Queensland who plays a role in trying to support young people to live happy, healthy and productive lives.

I could talk in this place about how this bill takes tougher action on youth crime and its causes. I could talk about how the bill targets serious repeat offenders who put community safety at risk, how the definition of 'serious repeat offenders' is being changed, increasing penalties, more offences with a presumption against bail and strengthened conditional release orders. I could talk about the \$34 million in high-visibility police patrols, the \$15 million to help senior citizens with the costs of securing their homes and more funding to support victims of crime. I could talk about the expansion of youth justice co-responder teams or the expansion of On Country programs, intensive case management for repeat offenders or the new \$100 million investment in grassroots early intervention with more community based initiatives targeting at-risk youth to provide recreational, learning, mentoring and drug and alcohol support to help break the cycle of offending. I could talk about how community safety is at the core of the government's response to youth crime and about how new funding is supporting more police resources and high-visibility police patrols in addition to the 12,000 police officers already on the beat protecting community safety. I could talk about how we will also do more to directly help Queenslanders with crime prevention while also being there to support victims of crime in their need.

Almost all of us in this place have children of our own or have children in our lives and I would go so far as to say that none of us would wish for them to end up in jail. None of us wants Queensland kids on the streets. We do not want them living a life of crime and drugs. We want children to live happy, healthy and productive lives and I would suggest that that is what everyone in this place wants and that

is what everyone in my community wants, too. It is highly unlikely that any children are watching this debate with any level of great interest, but I have some messages from people in my community to children who may have been making some bad choices, including the 17 young Central Queenslanders who are currently in detention. I hope that somehow these messages of support from people in Central Queensland find their way to these children so they can begin to understand that our community only wants the best for them. Yes, they have made some bad decisions. Yes, their choices have hurt many people—the victims, their families, the community. We are disappointed in some of those choices—very disappointed and hurt—but there is strong community sentiment to help support these kids to turn their lives around.

I want to put on the record in this place some of the advice from Central Queenslanders to our young people. Denis Cox offered this—

Tomorrow is the blank page of a 365 page book. Write a good one.

One small crack does not mean you are broken. It means you were put to the test and you didn't fall apart.

It's never too late to be what you might have been.

The Rockhampton Women's Shed said—

Each of us has a story, whether right or wrong! The decision to fight for a better life, better relationships, to better oneself is deep rooted within the person even at a young age, its hard sometimes to make a choice as there are so many conflicts in our lives, young ladies particularly need to learn, be mentored, be strong, be independent, believe you can achieve, be supportive and supported. Fight for what you want! There are groups and people out there who are so passionate abt this they can reach out to such as our Rockhampton Women's Shed Inc, we are compassionate ladies, willing to give time, and knowledge to those up and coming, to teach skills, teach independence, share time to those who feel alone.

Andrea Friend, a councillor from Livingstone Shire Council, offered this advice—

Forgive yourself! Say this out loud! I forgive myself!

Sandra Oram said—

Turn your negatives into positives. It's never too late to turn your lives around. Although it may not seem like it ... people do care. They can set you up on the right paths to live happy, fulfilled and meaningful lives. Life's too short to live with regrets ...

Maggie Dunstan said—

Sometimes the darkness is so deep it keeps you trapped in bad choices because it feels like there's no way out and if there is you aren't worth it. Young people need to hear that there is hope and they are worth it despite their pasts.

Jo Harris said—

Tell them it's ok not to be ok sometimes.

Just not to unpack and live there.

We all have 'experiences' in life that haven't been great. But what did we learn. What did we feel. How can we change it.

We are the only ones in charge of our actions.


Suse Lyons offered this advice—

You are worthy. You are supported. Life may have dealt you a rough hand but you have such a spark just waiting to grow. Accept support that comes your way and watch yourself shine. You are capable of good and great things. Keep going.

Brenda Mundt said—

Everybody makes mistakes. It's an opportunity to learn.

There were hundreds of comments from people right across Central Queensland who wanted to offer their advice and support and love to young people, particularly those juvenile offenders who are currently incarcerated. I want to offer my own message of hope and support as a representative of the community of Keppel: please, young people, know that we are there for you. We only want the best for you. I support the provisions of the bill which strengthen community safety and invest in early intervention. To the young Central Queenslanders in detention or living a life of crime, I say please let us help you. We support you and we want the best for you. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (12.25 pm): I rise to speak on the youth justice law bill and note that it is interesting that we did not hear from the previous speaker, the member for Keppel, too many comments from victims of crime. We did not hear too many platitudes as we heard expressed about young people from those people who have been the victims of crime. They are the people whom we are standing up for on this side of the House. Yes, we want to support young people, and that has been the thrust of what we have had to say. We need to make sure that there are rehabilitation processes, but we also need to make sure that the people especially in my electorate and the

electorates of those on this side who have been affected should also be considered, and that is what the government supposedly has said it is doing by taking on the policies that we have advocated long for.

Let me get to the details of what I want to speak about in the youth justice law bill. The watering down of youth justice legislation by this Labor government when it took office has created a generation of repeat hard-core youth offenders who know that their rights outweigh the rights of victims. Young offenders are targeting homes, cars, people and property. Sadly, in my electorate of Surfers Paradise it is almost a daily occurrence. To give members an idea of the seriousness of this issue in our community, since 2021 I have raised youth crime in this place, including currently, on 10 occasions. I know that the problem is so bad in some neighbourhoods such as Benowa Waters and Paradise Waters that people are having to hire private security to watch over their homes. People are living in fear, insurance premiums are going up and it seems the government has given up on listening to Queenslanders.

Last month at a dinner in Surfers Paradise, Brisbane friends told me that they had brought their dogs to the Gold Coast with them and, because of that, they brought both of their cars because they were fearful that if they left a car at home in Holland Park without the dogs being there and without them being there the vehicle would be stolen. That is what is happening in Brisbane. They were prepared to drive two cars to Surfers Paradise, where the dogs would be on the premises, rather than leaving their cars at home. That is what we are currently experiencing in Queensland.

One Surfers Paradise constituent provided me with direct feedback from dealings that they had with the police minister's office which I will share with the House. It states—

I wasn't complaining about the police. I simply got the feeling—
this is the police minister's staff and the ministerial office—

that they didn't seem on the same level as the ordinary people affected by the young criminals ... please push the current government to do something asap ... not years waiting for the new detention centres to be built. We need young offenders to be locked up now.

I table a copy of that email, which has been de-identified.

Tabled paper: Email, undated, to the member for Surfers Paradise, Mr John-Paul Langbroek MP, regarding youth crime [\[300\]](#).

Perhaps the Premier wants community vigilante groups to do the work of the police. I refer to an article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin* dated 22 February 2023 titled 'Horror weapons used by kids'. In this article Wayne Heneker, who runs a security company on the Gold Coast—and I note that he received an award from the police at the recent awards ceremony at Southport Sharks last week or the week before—has been hired by residents, as I have already mentioned, to patrol streets in Benowa Waters, Sorrento and Broadbeach Waters. He said that 'police had even warned him that some offenders may be carrying guns'. Mr Heneker goes on to say—

I've been getting a lot of CCTV footage of armed offenders. We've had them with kitchen knives, carving knives ...

One even had a Rambo style knife.

I table a copy of that article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin* online, dated 22 February 2023, titled 'Horror weapons used by kids' [\[301\]](#).

It is reported that at least 15 deaths have been linked to alleged youth crime in Queensland in the past two years. Mr Heneker said he feared more people would get seriously hurt or killed as frightened residents took matters into their own hands. I quote another experience Mr Heneker had in the heart of my electorate—


I went over to Sorrento one night and I found guys walking the streets with baseball bats. I told them, 'I think you should go home, you can't be armed in the street'. I went around a corner, there was a guy with a pruning saw with a handle. He says, 'I'm just waiting for 'em'.

The community is tired of living in fear and having to defend their properties with the risk of them being injured or killing a young offender and ending up in prison away from their families. Did it really have to take a tragic death on Boxing Day for the Premier to act on the youth crime wave? Then it transpires that prior to the Premier going off overseas the announcement that she made as No. 1 on the media release about what prescribed penalties would be for an incident such as that one was actually not true.

Debate, on motion of Mr Langbroek, adjourned.

QUEENSLAND CLIMATE TRANSITION BILL

Introduction

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (12.30 pm): I present a bill for an act to provide for reduction targets for greenhouse gas emissions and fossil fuel exports for Queensland, to provide for the development and implementation of the Queensland Climate Transition Strategic Plan and other measures to achieve the reduction targets, to establish the Queensland Climate Transition Authority and for related purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the State Development and Regional Industries Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Queensland Climate Transition Bill 2023 [\[302\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Climate Transition Bill 2023, explanatory notes [\[303\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Climate Transition Bill 2023, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[304\]](#).

This time last year our community was reeling from the impacts of devastating floods: everyday people literally picking up the flood damaged pieces of their lives and mopping up the consequences of yet another climate fuelled disaster. I expect those impacts are burned in all of our memories and certainly in the memories of those members who represented the most affected electorates. I will never forget the conversation I had that week with Ramy, one of the Indooroopilly residents on Witton Road. He told me about the moments before a 34-year-old man tragically lost his life just metres from Ramy's house. He heard the young man's cries for help through a brief pause in the torrential rain and called triple 0 while another young couple desperately tried to call him back to safety. That young man did not make it out of the swollen creek and emergency services located his body soon after.

I remember seeing cars and playgrounds almost entirely submerged in the receding floodwaters, debris stuck to the windows of homes, the high watermark still visible as an indication—an indelible reminder—of the scale of this event. When I picked up food to deliver to local students I heard about some of them sleeping in libraries and in supermarkets, while their ruined possessions lined the streets waiting to be taken to landfill. I also remember how, among the debris, pinned on fences in the flooded streets were these small yellow signs with such a simple message that was more relevant than ever: 'Climate action now'. That is what this bill is about.

This bill will bring Queensland's emission reduction targets in line with the climate science and the Paris Agreement and establish an independent statutory authority, the Queensland Climate Transition Authority, to implement them. Chief among the authority's priorities will be developing a path out of our state's reliance on coal and gas exports by 2030. We can start that process right now by not approving any more coal and gas projects.

The current government went to the last state election telling its city voters that it cared about climate change while advertising a completely different track record to the regions: 18 new coalmines approved, 80,000 square kilometres of land released for gas projects. It is clear to everyone that this stance carries a fundamental contradiction and one that the government has still not resolved: wherever Queensland's coal or gas is burned it will contribute to global greenhouse gas emissions; it will make climate change worse, including here in Queensland.

Our governments may not count those emissions in their targets or their reports, but that does not make them any less real. This simple reality was accepted and affirmed in the recent Land Court decision on Clive Palmer's Galilee coal project. Our laws still do not allow climate change impacts to be properly considered in environmental impact assessments of new coal, oil or gas projects. I dearly hope the Albanese government will join my federal Greens colleagues in fixing this by introducing a climate trigger into our federal environmental laws.

But we can do our part here in Queensland too. A key premise of the Paris Agreement, to which Australia is a signatory as we all know, is that states should do their fair share to tackle the global climate crisis. Australia's greenhouse gas emissions per capita are essentially the highest in the world. They are certainly the highest in the OECD and only a small number of petrostates, such as Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE, have higher per capita emissions. When we take into account our coal and gas exports, Australia's absolute carbon footprint is among the highest in the world, roughly equal with Russia, and our per capita emissions are nine times higher than China and 37 times higher than India. Australia is one of the largest exporters of coal and the majority of this is mined in and exported from Queensland.

All the experts, including the International Energy Agency—not exactly an organisation of greenie socialists—have been clear that there can be no new coal, oil or gas approvals if we are to reach net zero emissions by 2050. That is this government's own target, but we know from the best, most current climate science that even that target is unlikely to meet the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement. Just to refresh everyone's memory, the Paris Agreement is about keeping average global temperature increases well below two degrees Celsius, preferably less than 1.5 degrees above pre industrial levels. To do that Australia must reduce its emissions by approximately 74 per cent on 2005 levels by 2030 and reach net zero by the mid-2030s. This Labor state government's targets are nowhere near that. They are aiming for a 30 per cent reduction by 2030 and net zero by 2050. Those targets probably sound familiar to folks on both sides of the chamber because they are almost exactly the same as the former Morrison-led Liberal National government's targets, which wanted 26 to 28 per cent reductions by 2030 and, precisely the same as this government, net zero by 2050. Of the Australian states with an emissions reduction target ours is the worst. Other states, even the Liberals in New South Wales, have targets between 45 and 75 per cent. Almost a year ago now voters roundly rejected the Morrison government and its climate denial, yet that same denial is on display here in Queensland by a Labor government whose targets are based on politics, not science and that keeps approving new coal and gas projects.

I know—we all know—that they noticed the federal election result because just a few months after they finally released their long-awaited 10-year energy plan with an absolute backflip on phasing out coal from our energy system. Suddenly, after the Greens' best federal election result yet, they are bringing forward the closure of coal-fired generation, something that had been completely ruled out of hand previously, and it would be replaced with large-scale publicly owned renewable energy. They are even working with unions on a job guarantee. But they missed a few key parts of our policy. They forgot about the resources industry. They have no plan to help those communities and workers get out of fossil fuels and they still want gas in the energy mix.

Let us be clear: gas is a fossil fuel that is just as dangerous for our climate as thermal coal, taking into account its more potent fugitive methane emissions. Sure, it has been branded natural by a powerful industry propaganda machine, but gas is not a transition fuel. What is more, in a state like ours, with an abundance of sun and wind, where we are investing in renewable energy storage, we just do not need it. The fact is we cannot afford it. This government's current climate policy means more devastating floods, fires and heatwaves. It means higher grocery prices, skyrocketing insurance premiums and it will lead to sudden job losses without planning. The IPCC's report on the impacts of global warming at and above 1.5 degrees spells this out clearly. It tells us that if we do not keep the temperature goals in the Paris Agreement under 1.5 degrees, or well under two degrees, the effects on biodiversity, human health and our economy will increase significantly and, in some cases, exponentially beyond those levels.

Some of the impacts the IPCC highlights include the increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events and disasters—think the 2020 summer bushfires; think the 2022 floods or what is happening right now in the gulf where residents are being evacuated following record-breaking inundation. Warming above 1½ degrees would see mass population displacement and involuntary migration due to disasters in sea level rises of between 40 and 90 centimetres. It would mean reduced food and water security due to more heat, drought and flooding events. We have all seen fruit and veggie prices jump after recent disasters on the east coast. It forecasts failing or compromised key infrastructure, such as when water treatment plants went offline after being affected by sediment and debris from last year's floods. Heating above 1½ degrees means an increased risk of climate-sensitive disease and impacts on physical and mental health, from heat related illness to PTSD. It means loss and degradation of much of the world's forests, reefs and wetlands. In fact, more than 99 per cent of the Great Barrier Reef would be destroyed if we hit two degrees of warming.

For a long time I had despaired at our government's complete inertia. However, when I brought my children into this world—when I had children of my own—my feelings turned from despair into a desperate and urgent realisation that despair was not enough. I feel absolutely furious that my 13-year-old has lived through two one-in-100-year flooding events here in Brisbane. My youngest daughter's first year ended with smoke in the sky, choked by the fires that burnt Queensland forests and rainforests that, as far as we are aware, have never burned before. My oldest daughter is being told by the Premier of this state not to join the school strike for climate action but instead to do it after hours or during lunchbreaks, all the while this same government continues to approve the very coal and gas mines that are pushing our kids' futures further and further beyond the brink of safety.

However, ultimately sitting around in anger gets us nowhere and we need to have hope. This bill is about climate action and it is also about hope. It acknowledges the enormous task that we have ahead of us. It says we can do it and create an even better future beyond coal and gas if we genuinely put the people of Queensland ahead of corporate profits and outdated politics.

This bill will establish an independent statutory authority, the Queensland Climate Transition Authority, to develop the Queensland climate transition strategic plan by the end of 2024. In large part, the authority will be based on extensive consultation and research conducted by The Next Economy in 2021, which recommended a central coordinating body to manage Queensland's transition to zero emissions. The climate transition strategic plan must be developed through a collaborative, place-based approach in consultation with unions and employers in the coal, oil and gas extraction industries as well as people living in towns that are reliant on those industries. It will work across Queensland government departments and existing agencies to develop and implement a plan that immediately bans new coal, oil and gas approvals; phases out coal, oil and gas exports from Queensland by 2030; and supports Queensland to meet new science-based emissions reduction targets of 30 per cent by 2030 and net zero by 2035.

The authority will be headed by a director, to be appointed by the premier. A board of between five and seven members with relevant experience or qualifications, including at least one First Nations member and at least three regional Queenslanders, will oversee the authority. Board members will be appointed by the premier for three-year terms, with one member to be appointed as the chairperson. The authority will report annually on progress towards phasing out fossil fuel exports and achieving the emissions reduction targets as well as implementing the Queensland climate transition strategic plan. Annual reports will be given to the premier for tabling in parliament. Due to the constraints on me as a non-government member, the bill does not allow for any appropriations including for remuneration of the staff of the authority and its board. That, as well as the funding for the transition plans it produces, would fall to the premier and to the government in future budgets.

The authority's first priority will be to develop a transition plan for the resources industry. For all the good stuff that is in the government's Jobs and Energy Plan—and I have to say that I applaud the ETU and other unions that finally convinced the government to provide a job guarantee—it does not cover resources or exports. Even putting aside the scientific imperative to phase out coal, oil and gas—

Government members interjected.

Mr BERKMAN: Is it so hard to listen to? Even putting aside the scientific imperative to phase out coal, oil and gas, economic modelling shows that fossil fuels are on the way out globally. The use of thermal coal for energy is declining and investment in renewables is rapidly outstripping gas. Significantly for Queensland's exports, even metallurgical coal is on track to be replaced with green steel production, which is already ramping up in Europe, China and the USA. It is a great shame that Queensland, which has been identified as a potential leader in green steel manufacturing by experts including the Grattan Institute, the CSIRO and QUT, is already falling behind on this and is, instead, propping up the metallurgical coal industry. One way or another, coal, oil and gas are on the way out and denying that will not put food on anyone's plate.

The impacts will be significant. Although the Queensland Resources Council likes to overstate its importance, in 2022 there were still somewhere between 20,000 and 38,000 people employed by coalmining in Queensland. Oil and gas extraction industries employ about 5,000 people. The transition from coal and gas is inevitable. The question for us, as legislators, is: what will that look like? Will it be orderly or unplanned? Will it seize the opportunities to grow Queensland's economy with new jobs or leave communities scrambling to pick up the pieces after those mines close?

As part of the recent Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan, the government commissioned Deloitte to produce the *New futures, new resources* report. After the report told them that rapid global decarbonisation will likely reduce demand for fossil fuels, they very quickly and very quietly buried it. Eventually the report was uncovered by the Australian Conservation Foundation under right to information. It shows that delaying decarbonisation could minimise short-term negative impacts on the resources industry but will ultimately lead to—and these are Deloitte's words—'major risks' and missed opportunities. The report says that without significant change from current policy settings productivity will decline, innovation and new investment will slow, jobs and growth will decline, and wellbeing standards will slip significantly.

The report says that the best case scenario would be government support for a coordinated approach to decarbonisation. That is why the Queensland Climate Transition Authority will prioritise planning for the resources industry, which has been left out of the government's current climate plans.

That should include a retraining, redeployment and job guarantee plan for workers and economic planning for communities. New jobs could be created by expanded critical minerals mining and processing, supporting local manufacturing including green steel, and more clean exports. The authority can also work with other key emitting sectors like transport and agriculture to help them decarbonise so that we can meet our emissions reduction targets and keep warming below 1.5 degrees or well below two degrees.

To conclude, this is a big bill. It is a big proposition and I make no bones about the fact that the measures in it are significant. Some will even call it drastic, but so is the threat of runaway climate change. This morning there was a giant and frankly terrifying replica of a half-burnt koala outside this chamber. The government has shown its inclination to scold people for escalating their protests for climate action with more drama and more disruption, but their protests are only growing in line with the urgency of the need for action. The experts have told us—

Mr Head interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order, member for Callide. I need to hear the member for Maiwar.

Mr Healy interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Cairns, if you wish to interject then please return to your seat.

Mr BERKMAN: The government wants to scold anyone who protests disruptively, whether they protest disruptively on the streets or closer to the chamber. It does not matter where the action is taken—

Mr POWER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There is a reference before the Ethics Committee on this issue. We have been asked to restrain ourselves from making commentary on this while it is before the Ethics Committee.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maiwar, if you could come back to the main purpose of this, which is to introduce the bill, and avoid any reference to anything that may be before the Ethics Committee, it would be appreciated.

Mr BERKMAN: Certainly. The government is absolutely intent on scolding anyone who wants to protest its inaction on climate change, no matter where that might take place.

Government members interjected.

Mr BERKMAN: They scold people. They do: 'Protest quietly. Do it without disrupting anyone.' That has been really effective over the history of civil disobedience and progress!

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr BERKMAN: Do these people even know what a union is?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Maiwar, resume your seat, please. Member for Pine Rivers, you are on a warning. I ask you to leave the chamber under standing order 253A for one hour.
Whereupon the honourable member for Pine Rivers withdrew from the chamber at 12.50 pm.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maiwar, you have time on the clock. I will just give you a warning, too, because you continued to talk after I called for order in the House.

Mr BERKMAN: My apologies, Mr Deputy Speaker. It certainly was not my intention to speak over the top of you.

Chastise protesters, introduce laws to crack down on protest for the first time since the Joh era—this proud Labor government is cracking down on people's right to protest. The protests people are bringing forward in response to the government's inaction on climate change are only growing in line with the urgency of the need for action. The experts have told us that it is not too late to save the furniture but only if we undertake transformational changes on a global scale. Queensland cannot exempt itself from that need. The experts have been clear that that means no new coal and gas approvals, at a bare minimum. To make the most of the transition, we need to start now and replace fossil fuel exports with new opportunities by 2030. To save our state from the worst impacts of global warming above two degrees, we need to reach zero emissions by 2035.

Queensland has been a coal state for a long time. Sitting down with people who have worked in the industry for years and with families who have worked in the industry for generations will be hard, but delay and denial will only make it harder. It has been a long time coming. The UN Framework

Convention on Climate Change dates back to 1992 and the Paris Agreement is now almost eight years old. Governments and corporations which continue to back new coal, oil and gas have been warned for a very long time now that they cannot continue to ignore the science and lie to workers about the future of fossil fuels, sticking their head in the sand to make it to the next election. It is time for a real conversation here in Queensland about what is on the other side of coal and gas exports.

First Reading

Mr BERKMAN (Maiwar—Grn) (12.52 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 State Development and Regional Industries Committee


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

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY SAFETY BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 444, on motion of Mr Ryan—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (12.53 pm), continuing: On 29 December 2022 the Premier, in a joint statement with the Minister for Police and the Minister for Children and Youth Justice, under the heading ‘Tough laws made even tougher’, said—

Violent juvenile car thieves will face 14 years’ jail in a suite of increased penalties aimed squarely at keeping the community safe.

That turned out to be a falsehood perpetrated on the people of Queensland through newspaper ads and through significant coverage over television and radio over the subsequent weeks whilst the Premier went off to Europe. It was clear that the Premier, who loves to speak about what she used to study when she was at the British library learning law, did not understand the significance of what she was promising the people of Queensland that turned out to be a falsehood. That is the outrageous juxtaposition that we have seen from a Premier who said that she wants to be tough on crime but clearly is not doing so because of the limitations of sentencing in the various courts. An article from the *Sunday Mail* dated 12 February 2023 titled ‘Experts cry foul over the absence of talks: No discussions on youth crime’ states—

The Palaszczuk government has been accused of failing to consult expert groups during the creation of sensitive legislation to target youth crime.

That is only just over a month ago, because here we are on 15 March and of course we have had a committee report in that time with limited consultation with those same groups. The article states—

... experts are puzzled by the lack of stakeholder engagement and are baffled by the unusual platform to invite feedback—an online form consisting of five questions tucked away on the government’s website.

I table a copy of that article.

Tabled paper: Media article, undated, titled ‘Experts cry foul over absence of talks: No discussions on youth crime’ [\[306\]](#).

Whilst it was encouraging to see the Premier adopt the opposition’s stance on breach of bail in her extraordinary backflip on 20 February 2023, it should be noted that a number of her key ministers, including the Attorney-General, the police minister and the Minister for Children and Youth Justice, have all criticised the policy in the past 12 months. The standout contribution, on the day before the backflip was announced, was from the member for Sandgate, the Minister for Tourism. It will be as memorable as Rachel Nolan standing here as transport minister in 2009 and saying, ‘Queensland Rail is not for sale.’ Whenever the member for Sandgate, the tourism minister, is sent out it is a desperation move by the government, whether it is through a ministerial statement or for a press conference. He told us how much it would not work and the next day was completely rolled.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Logan, your interjections are not being taken. You are being disorderly under standing order 251. Please cease your interjections.

Mr LANGBROEK: I refer to an article in the *Courier-Mail* of 21 February titled 'Youth crime backflip'. The Attorney-General has in the past rebuked breach of bail laws emphatically in parliament and at press conferences, insisting the proposed policy 'did nothing to reduce crime'. In March 2022 she said—

The whole youth justice strategy of those opposite is to bring back this failed breach of bail. It is a joke.

Isn't it interesting? I table a copy of that article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 21 February 2023, titled 'Premier's youth crime backflip' [305].

This brings me to the tragic death of Angus Beaumont, who was just 15 years old when he was stabbed during a confrontation with two teens, both 14—repeat offenders with lengthy criminal histories, one out on bail and the other on parole at the time of the murder. Both went on to commit further offences whilst on bail for Angus's murder. There was an article in the *Courier-Mail* dated 30 January 2023 titled 'Angus Beaumont dad appeals to Palaszczuk to discuss youth crime reform'. Ben Beaumont, father of Angus, said—

It's like pulling the wool over someone's eyes to be honest.


He also said—

We're just one family that has been let down by the system who wants change, because at the moment what has been happening is not working.

The family wrote to all sitting MPs as part of the Victims of Youth Crime Collective. They raised the imbalance of the scales of justice and the ability for the judiciary to make competent decisions. During a bail hearing for one of Angus Beaumont's murderers, the judge opened the hearing by asking the prosecutor, 'All right, so how are we going to help this boy?' The judge said this right in front of the parents of Angus Beaumont. The same judge released the offender again on bail. This resulted in an armed home invasion.

There is so much more that I could go on with, but when we refer specifically to juvenile offenders we want to see implementation of early intervention. We can no longer allow offenders to serve their time and return to criminal behaviour.

Sitting suspended from 12.58 pm to 2.00 pm.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (2.00 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023. I do so because the Palaszczuk government has listened to Queenslanders' concerns about how youth crime is impacting their lives and communities. Our top priority is ensuring communities across Queensland are kept safe and that serious repeat young offenders are held to account while also investing in measures that tackle the complex causes of youth crime. Overall, this bill strikes the right balance.

While statistically youth crime rates are declining, the majority of young people who come into contact with the criminal justice system do not offend again following diversion. We have to address the problem of those serious repeat youth offenders who commit crimes that put people's lives in danger and which sometimes have tragic results, as we saw over the recent summer.

Through strengthening the Bail Act, the Youth Justice Act and the Police Powers and Responsibility Act we will target these offenders and be able to respond better to those who engage in serious repeat offending. This will be combined with an investment package of more than \$332 million to focus on prevention, rehabilitation and support measures to divert children away from crime.

I very much welcome this package. I know from talking to people in my community that this is what they want to see. They want to see measures put in place to divert children from crime. It will certainly bolster the already amazing programs that we have helping at-risk kids. In Ipswich, like many communities across the state, we have kids who grow up in dysfunctional environments who need all the support they can get to avoid falling into offending and antisocial behaviour. It is not easy, but there are some great organisations and individuals in my community, for example, that are working and engaging every single day with vulnerable young people.

I acknowledge the Aboriginal elders in the Ipswich community who have been doing this work for decades—as long as I remember—helping divert children away from offending. We have organisations like the Five Bridges Ipswich Community Justice Group. They have been important in working with

justice agencies, law enforcement, prisons and Legal Aid to help reduce the number of Indigenous young people in our criminal system. The Murri Court in Ipswich was reinstated in 2019. That has made a huge difference as well.

We know there is a lot more to be done and, unfortunately, First Nations children are over-represented in our juvenile justice system. In a year that we vote for a Voice to Parliament we have to better provide early intervention and diversion to support these at-risk Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.


As I said, we have some great organisations in Ipswich like the Ipswich Community Youth Service, Hannah's House and Project Booyah. I have heard other members mention Project Booyah in this House. They are all doing fantastic work helping vulnerable young children make positive life choices and supporting them with counselling, housing and job readiness.

I have been to many events where I have heard positive stories coming from these programs. While we hear a lot of negative stories, it is important to remember the encouraging, positive stories that we hear. I thank all those people who work with those kids every day.

I have been meeting with school principals over the last couple of months. I acknowledge the work that they do in supporting vulnerable students and families, in addition to educating children. It is often school principals, teaching and support staff who are the first ones to identify concerning issues among children. They can be the first to put them in touch with services that can help them through these difficult periods.

By targeting repeat youth offenders and investing in community safety initiatives we are delivering on our priority to keep Queenslanders safe from crime. But, more importantly for me, our increased investment in grassroots diversion initiatives means that we can lead vulnerable children away from the criminal justice system entirely and make our communities safer in the process.

As many in this House have, I acknowledge the committee that was tasked with inquiring into this bill. I know that it would have been tough at times hearing some of the stories they had to hear in a short space of time and come to some conclusions. I acknowledge the work they did. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (2.05 pm): The LNP supports the provisions in this bill to make breach of bail an offence. It is good policy. That is why we have been relentless in pushing the government to do it. Queenslanders need to know that the Premier and her government have failed them in keeping the community safe. We should have had action on youth crime and making breach of bail an offence a long time ago.

It was in 2021 that the government used its majority in this House to squash an amendment put forward by the LNP that would have made breach of bail an offence. They should have acted then. It was almost as though Queenslanders had not yet suffered enough in order to get this government to do something.

In January this year the Premier and her government should have recalled parliament—as we in the LNP were calling for them to do—to urgently deal with the youth justice crisis. Instead, we had to wait until 21 February—a few weeks ago now—for the bill before us to be introduced. Why has it taken so long for the Labor government to not only adopt the LNP's breach of bail policy, which is just one part of our plan to deal with the youth justice crisis, but also recognise—and that is what bringing this provision into the House is; a recognition—that something has gone wrong with the youth justice system? Why has it taken so long? They have been dragged into implementing this policy. It is a good policy because it finally puts some consequences into the youth justice system for offenders. There is no point having bail conditions if there are no consequences for those conditions being breached.

I think we know the answer to why it has taken so long. That is because deep down Labor is soft on crime. Being soft on crime is in their DNA. Siding with the offenders and always failing to recognise the impact that crime has on victims of crime is in their DNA. We heard that in a contribution in the House earlier which was all about the offenders. We know that there is an important element of that. What is happening in Queensland at the moment should be more focused on the victims of crime.

We see it again with this bill that the Labor government is treating youth justice as a political problem to be fixed with spin and media messaging and not something that massively impacts our community. Today in question time the Premier refused to acknowledge the impact that this has on people's insurance bills. We all pay for that. We pay for it through increased insurance when people's cars are constantly stolen and when people's homes are constantly broken into. We pay for it directly when people have to increase security measures on their houses just to feel safe at home.

I know that people have felt unsafe in their homes. The events of 26 December last year where we saw the violent, random and shocking killing of Emma Lovell has affected a lot of people and their sense of security in their own homes—the one place where they should feel safe. It took that for this government to act. It points to a lack of regard for all victims of crime. All of us suffer from it—even those who have not been personally and directly impacted.

This Labor government speak with a forked tongue when it comes to youth justice—they say one thing and do another. A clear example was the hubris and rhetoric that came from the Premier's media release—'Tougher laws made tougher'—from 29 December. The claim that juvenile car thieves will get a maximum sentence of 14 years imprisonment is clearly a response to the events in Townsville, the epidemic of car theft in Townsville, which is sadly something that is spreading to other parts of Queensland. That media release was about putting out fires in Labor seats where this is really starting to bite.

Mr Harper: It's a load of rubbish.

Mr KRAUSE: I take the interjection from the member for Thuringowa. It is not a load of rubbish. It is a real issue for people in Townsville, including in his electorate. This media release was all about putting out a political fire, but we see the practical impacts of the bill before us. The thing about 14-year maximum sentences for juvenile car thieves will not happen. It does not exist. Other members have gone into the reasons for this, but once again the talk, hype and confected outrage from the government about youth justice does not match the reality of their actions. This government is either hopeless at drafting legislation or just blatantly misleading Queenslanders on an issue that is very hot—or both.

What is also clear is that the government has internal ructions about this breach of bail provision. I do not think it is any surprise that other social policy positions have been released in the immediate wake of this policy being announced by the Premier. We have gone from a position where the Attorney-General previously said 'we cannot ignore internationally accepted principles such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child' when referring to the previous LNP government's efforts to bring consequences to young offenders and justifying the removal of the LNP's youth justice regime—including breach of bail, I might add—to a situation where the entire government, which is dominated by the left faction, is embracing an LNP policy. What a backflip. On the back of that, we have seen policy positions around pill testing and three-chance provisions in relation to serious drug use. You can get caught three times with one gram of cocaine, heroin or ice before you get arrested.

Mrs Frecklington: That was the payback.

Mr KRAUSE: I take that interjection from the member for Nanango. That was the political payback for the government adopting breach of bail as an offence. What sort of message does that send to young people when it comes to the impact that drugs have on their lives and their health? 'We are not going to make it an offence that you can be arrested for until you do it three times.' So you have three chances when it comes to those drugs, but it is interesting in relation to another situation: public housing. One of our other policies in government was the three-strikes provision for public housing tenants. Do you see any consequences for people who take advantage of the privilege of having a public housing unit or home given to them by this government? No. You can have three strikes when it comes to possession of serious drugs but there are no consequences when it comes to abusing the privilege of public housing. Labor is soft on crime. It is in their DNA.

The crisis we have reached today in all parts of our society, including the Scenic Rim electorate, can be traced directly back to 2015 when they unravelled and unpicked the entire youth justice system put in place by the LNP. KPMG reported that early intervention youth programs were working, especially in the young cohort segment, and they needed to be given more time. That young cohort from 2015 are the offenders causing havoc on our streets from 2018 until today, and that is a direct result of the provisions and policies taken to the election in 2015 which people warned should not be unpicked. Labor did not listen because ideologically they were opposed to doing something to intervene early and protect victims of crime because Labor is soft on crime, and that is in their DNA.


The Scenic Rim electorate is not immune to this crisis. I have spoken about some areas of the electorate I represent where one-third of reported crime can be assigned—

Mr Stevens: Attributed.

Mr KRAUSE: Thank you, member for Mermaid Beach—attributed to a handful or a dozen young people in the community. The resources that consumes for local police, local social services and local schools, not to mention—but I will mention them—the victims of crime, is tremendous. The failure of

this government when it comes to early intervention and the scrapping of policies that were put in place previously, which KPMG said needed more time given to them, have consequences across the entire state.

I recently spoke to the parent of a victim of crime whose son sadly lost his life as a result. She wanted to express to me her disappointment in the system. Because the offender was a juvenile at the time, even though her son lost his life the restorative justice system did not work for her because it was entirely optional for the offender. That is how it was put to me. When someone has lost their life but the youth justice system is entirely optional for the offender, something is desperately wrong. This bill is good. It brings some consequences to the system, and that is why we are supporting those provisions.

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (2.15 pm): I rise in support of the Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023. This bill is about making sure community safety continues to be paramount and continues to build on this government's reforms. We understand the impact youth crime has on victims and our communities, which is why it is important that we take this tough action. I again reflect that the Premier announced \$9 million of additional funding to Victims Assist, and yesterday the Attorney-General said—

I acknowledge the committee's comments in the report that the Victims of Crime Assistance Act should be reviewed with a view to considering enhancements to the act. As the Premier has announced today, we will be ... referring that to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee.

I will always listen to my community and fight for what they need, and that is why I support this bill. Unlike those opposite, this government does not look at this issue with a singular approach. We know that early intervention is key, and that is why we are investing more than \$100 million in additional funds into programs that are proven to make a difference. This builds on the \$800 million investment the government has already made in response to youth crime and tackling its complex causes to help break the cycle of offending in the future.

This includes programs like Project Booyah, which has seen some great success throughout Townsville and Queensland. Those opposite refuse to even acknowledge that those programs matter. Making sure young people are engaged in education and getting them into work is incredibly important, and this government continues to invest in infrastructure projects in Townsville and North Queensland because we know they support good jobs. Unlike those opposite who we know just cut, sack and sell—and that includes the Queensland Police Service and the Townsville Police Academy—we will continue to invest in programs like the Townsville Street University, which I know the member for Thuringowa has fought exceptionally hard for, but we will not shy away from ensuring our community is kept from that small group of serious recidivist offenders who steal cars and engage in disgraceful behaviour. They must be held to account. Our community expects that, and so do I. I will never apologise for that.

We know that those opposite love to be front and centre at press conferences as they continue to try and politicise this serious issue. I respond directly to our community and my constituents about youth crime, and I work to ensure that Townsville's and my expectations are met when it comes to tackling this complex issue. No amount of crime is acceptable. The government takes community safety seriously, and that is why this bill is before the House. I have always said that we would listen to our community, and that is what we are doing and will continue to do. We will always do what is best for the community, including taking a bipartisan approach to tackling youth crime.

Among the new measures included in this bill are increasing the maximum penalty for stealing cars from seven to 10 years imprisonment as well as requiring the courts to take account of previous bail history, criminal activity and a person's track record when sentencing. This builds on the success of reversing the presumption against bail for youth offenders, which the Queensland Police Service has said is making a difference in the community. We introduced breach of bail as an offence with real consequences. That is unlike the LNP, who despite their claims never actually legislated a breach of bail offence for young offenders when they were last in government. In fact, what they legislated for was a finding of guilt while on bail. It did not work, it made no sense, and the statistics showed there was more than a 90 per cent recidivism rate for those people charged.

We have listened to the community about introducing a real breach of bail offence that is workable and will hold people who do the wrong thing to account. While we are on the LNP's ineffective policies, we are still waiting for them to 'get it right' when it comes to their crime plan. That is what the opposition spokesperson for police and member for Burdekin said on 8 January 2021. That is 795 days ago, as of yesterday. The only plan they have come up with is three dot points. There is no actual plan, no actual legislation.

This government will never sit idly by and do nothing when it comes to both tackling the causes of youth crime and holding those who do the wrong thing to account. I will always fight for my community and listen to my community and I will continue to do all I can to tackle this serious issue on all fronts.

Mr KATTER (Traeger—KAP) (2.20 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023. I do this as the elected state member for the most crime-riddled community in Queensland, my beloved home in North-West Queensland. For anyone who does not know, Mount Isa has been dubbed the Alice Springs of Queensland and has been given the unenviable title of 'sin city' by people from Tennant Creek who come to escape alcohol bans, as people from Mornington Island did for eight or more years as the alcohol management plans impacted there.

On a per capita basis, Mount Isa has the highest crime rate in Queensland. It is a town of around 18,000 people, but in 2022 alone there were 788 homes broken into, that were reported, and 195 cars stolen. Car thefts have more than doubled in four years and break-ins have gone up by almost 50 per cent. Hold-ups are no longer done using verbal threats or by throwing rocks at a window; they are now done with knives, which has resulted in multiple stabbings. Our elderly are regularly accosted outside the grocery store by adults and youth as they try to get to their cars.

At the outset, I will say that the KAP will support the bill although we are not excited about it. It is probably the wrong word to use, but it seems criminally irresponsible to use this bill as a response to the enormous momentum and demand for meaningful change that has built up in the public. That is the really disappointing thing about what is being delivered here today. We will be moving our amendments and I will talk to those soon. Have they already been circulated, member for Hinchinbrook?

Mr Dametto: Yes.

Mr KATTER: I will table those now because these debates often get truncated, which is outside of our control.

Tabled paper: Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023, amendments to be moved by Mr Nick Dametto MP [\[307\]](#).

I will talk about some aspects of the government's bill. I am going to zero in mainly on that one issue where I find people miss the point on some of this. The government is adding the extra resources, the multiagency collaborative panels, for the high recidivist kids we need to focus on. We would all have to agree on that point—that we need to focus on the small number of high recidivist offenders—but the problem I have is that so many of the people who are making this policy are detached from the reality of what we are dealing with in a place like Mount Isa.

In the last conversation I had with someone from one of the departments out there, she did not go straight to the high rates of violence, domestic violence and assaults among the people we attend to in Mount Isa. That was not it. She said the biggest problem was recruitment and trying to fill the spots that were there. This was a couple of years ago. That problem has not gone away; it has only been exacerbated. They are trying to recruit for the existing staff to handle it, but we are now talking about bringing in another 30 staff to micromanage these kids. Pardon me for being a little bit cynical, but that is going to be pretty difficult to achieve. I would love to be a part of the solution to help with that, but you cannot say you will turn the tide by magically finding these extra resources and bringing them in.

Then you have competency, and I talked about this last night in the debate on the blue card bill. Most of the people who we want on the ground in those spaces who have the lived experience are not the ones in these jobs. The joke among all the mayors in the Aboriginal communities is that all the seagulls that come in on FIFO have all the competency certificates that everyone is comfortable with but they do not do the job; they cannot get past the front gate. As the member for Hinchinbrook said, that is the critical bit. It is not just a figure of speech. You literally cannot get past the front gate. Do not employ Rob Katter to try to get past the front gate in Pioneer and Mount Isa because I do not have the buy-in. That will take me a couple of years of engaging with families, getting to know them and getting them to trust me. I am sorry but I do not have faith in your people to be able to do that.

That is why one of our key policies that the KAP have stayed with for five years and have never deviated from is relocation sentencing. It is absolute madness to keep trying the same thing and expect a different result. You have probably heard it time and time again, but you are going to hear it again. Some kids are literally saying, 'I wanted to go to Cleveland.' There is no deterrent with breach of bail or whatever you like. A lot of these kids are not worried about breach of bail or anything. The highest consequence they can be given is going to Cleveland, where 100 or 150 kids congregate all in the one spot and they are coming out worse. They are all going to be put in the one spot and they are coming back worse. There is 95 per cent recidivism coming out of there. Clearly that is not working, but one of the parts of this solution has been to build two more of those centres.


We never deviated from this before we started getting these 95 per cent recidivism figures. We said that we needed a different form of sentencing—one that initially will provide a consequence for those kids. The magistrate will not be sending them to Cleveland for three months or six months. Instead, he will be saying, 'You're going to Urandangi out on the Northern Territory border,' or 'You're going to Kajabbi for 12 months.' That is a consequence. Do you know what the good news would be for everyone, especially the civil libertarians who say that the kid is the most important person, forgetting about the victims of the crime? The best chance we have to rehabilitate those kids is to force them out somewhere for 12 months where they can do the programs.

The answer I have heard repeatedly from ministers in the House and department heads who come to my office in Mount Isa is 'as long as it is evidence based'. That is a euphemism for never trying anything new. Let us do a pilot scheme then. That is not going to cost that much. It would be \$5 million or \$10 million tops to set up a remote camp akin to a mining camp in a remote area. There are various examples of this. Western Australia is already ahead of the game and is doing this. There have been many programs where kids are taken to remote centres. I have had personal experience with this seeing the worst of the worst kids out at, say, Urandangi State School. There was no security, no police, nothing; they just had a couple of good mentors out there and they were fine.

Do members know how much that cost the public? Nothing apart from the ordinary education budget. It was just a school, but the magic ingredient was that it was remote. It cleaned the kids right up. There were only 10 of them there, not 150, so they are not going to be there with their cousins, their brothers or their friends and there is a much better chance of splitting up family groups and friendship groups. If there were 10 or 20 of these around the state, we would be in a much better position to control this problem, rather than jamming them into another Cleveland detention centre.

There is another problem we have with this at the moment, and Shirley Marshall, a wonderful First Australian lady in Mount Isa, mentioned this to me. She walked into my electorate office and said, 'Robbie, some of these programs are all right but you've got to force the kids to get out there. We can't get the kids to go out there.' I said, 'That's exactly what I've been trying to say in parliament.' We need a legal instrument for the magistrate to be able to give a court order to say, 'That kid is going out there to that program.' Good luck if the program is put on in Mount Isa, because if you get past the front gate, as we said before, and then politely knock on the front door and say, 'Excuse me. Would Johnny like to come and attend our program?' guess what answer you will get. There are also still the blue card problems so we will not have half the right people there knocking on the gate or the door with the right input into engagement strategies. I am afraid you are going to be wasting your time until you can get a platform where you can really start to rehabilitate these kids. Plus it gives them that consequence up-front because they are not having the holiday at Cleveland. Instead, they are going somewhere else remote where they are likely to be split up from that group that can be a bad influence on them.

We are also talking about minimum sentencing. Adult crime—adult time. People have committed stabbings, murders, everything and they are looking at being back out on the street in three, four or five years' time. That is not acceptable to the community under any measure. You cannot just blame it on magistrates; you need to set some minimum standards. There is nothing wrong with matching minimum sentencing with an alternative form of sentencing. I think that would provide the best chance of ever turning these kids around. We can marry them up and have a happy marriage on both sides of the argument here where we are providing a real consequence plus providing that effective form of rehabilitation. These are virtues backed up by Keith Hamburger who has been an activist in this space for a very long time. I am sure we would not agree on a lot of things, but there is benefit there. We need that minimum sentencing and relocation sentencing. They are very important and, I would say, the most critical elements of what you are missing right now, and this bill does not address it, so I feel you are wasting your time.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (2.30 pm): I rise to speak to the Strengthening Community Safety Bill. In stark contrast to many of the speakers opposite, I want to start with a statement of fact, a fact that is routinely left out of the LNP talking points; that is, serious, repeat youth offending is a complex and layered issue, not an issue to be used in order to score points. It is an issue, however, that is intrinsically linked with disadvantage, trauma and poverty. The fact is that no meaningful solution can take place in isolation. We must not ignore the social and economic factors that cause or exacerbate the problems. That is a fact.

Over many years it has become obvious to all of us that those opposite do not really believe in an holistic approach to supporting young people or the vulnerable. That is a fact. For the Liberals and Nationals, there is no room for nuance when dogma, dog whistles and discrimination prevail, or when

scare tactics trump science. Why would they even seek to understand this issue? To do so would uncover the truth about the role their party and their ideology have played in disempowering poor and working people in this state and in this nation. We have seen them hell-bent on gutting social programs and weakening community ties, the outcomes of which are so often at the core of the issue that is before us.

On this side of the House, this Labor government, as with other Labor governments, is always focused on providing opportunity. We believe in supporting those impacted, and we believe in genuine action to reduce instances of unacceptable conduct. We believe in intervening for young people and for their families. We believe in addressing poverty and listening to and strengthening affected communities. It makes instinctive sense that children who are given the opportunity to reach their full potential are those least likely to interact with the criminal justice system at all.

To us, on this side of the House, opportunity means parents who can raise their children in homes they can afford, who can work close enough to make it back for dinner each night, and who do not have to worry about the cost of food on the table or the bus fare at the end of their shift. Opportunity to us means parents who have the time to nurture their children without the constant grind and fear of low-paid and insecure work. Opportunity to us means children who can see a pathway through higher education, TAFE or the trades, and have people who love them cheering them on.

Under this Labor government, today's young people will be building the industries of tomorrow. We will create those opportunities in energy and manufacturing in regions right across this state. We see those children not as our burden, but as the key to ensuring our state's legacy. It is commonsense that facilitating opportunities like these benefits us all.

You cannot have a conversation about youth offending without discussing the intersection of poverty. This is not a conversation that those opposite ever want to have or that they are equipped to have. For nearly 10 years—in fact, 3,168 days—we saw an Abbott, then Turnbull, then Morrison Liberal-National government brutalise this nation with stagnant wage growth and rampant wealth inequality. Lest you think, members, that this was mere incompetence, the then LNP minister, as we heard earlier today from the Queensland Treasurer, described the downward trajectory of real wages as 'a deliberate design feature of our economic architecture'. It was their deliberate intent. Keeping wages low was the LNP's precise policy objective. To give them their due—and I do not say this much about the LNP—they were pretty effective. That hurt families and it pushed kids into poverty. What we see today is the result.

Young people with disabilities as well are over-represented in the criminal justice statistics. Fifteen per cent of young people in contact with the system have at least one disability, much higher than the general population. What did we see from the LNP? They gutted the NDIS. They cut mental health funding. Their plan was literally to close schools. Those opposite have a record of systematic discrimination by denying people with a disability the right to live a life of dignity. Similarly, 32 per cent of youth in contact with the system live in unstable or unsuitable accommodation. What is the LNP record? They cut millions and millions in funding for remote housing. They literally turned their back—

Ms Bates interjected.


Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Minister, would you please resume your seat. I am sorry to interrupt you mid-speech. Member for Mudgeeraba, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Bonney, you are also warned under the standing orders. I will not have any hesitation in warning other members if that occurs again.

Mr de BRENNI: Those steps the LNP took exacerbated the problem of overcrowding in social and remote housing. That had profound consequences for the health, education and employment outcomes particularly of First Nations Australians. Finally, what perhaps will be the most enduring legacy of the Morrison government is the shameful and unlawful robodebt scheme, an active and direct victimisation of the most vulnerable among us. It drove Australians to their deaths. For 3,168 days poverty was treated like a moral failing. Some Australians and Queenslanders—some very young Queenslanders—were left behind to fend for themselves. Those opposite belong to the party that vilified and victimised those same people experiencing poverty. They come in here and choose to ignore the impact of this when they discuss youth offending.

This bill is critical to strengthening the available responses for serious repeat youth offenders, the system those opposite have created. It is necessary and appropriate. However, we also believe that the best system is one which prevents as many children as possible from entering it in the first

place. As such, these laws will work in cohesion with other evidence-based initiatives across prevention, early intervention and rehabilitation. Stopping the cycle of offending is an all-of-government and all-of-society effort. For Labor, it extends to the building and maintenance of parks, sports facilities, community centres and youth drop-in centres. It is part of our procurement policy, our education system, building our infrastructure creating jobs for young Queenslanders and, of course, our health system. We on this side of the House believe that this is a complex issue and that this bill is one important piece of an overarching framework of reform. We are listening to affected communities and the experts, and we are responding. The safety, dignity and inherent worth of all Queenslanders guides us in everything that we do.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (2.37 pm): The LNP is listening to Queenslanders and we are hearing Queenslanders and their fear of crime right across the state. Back in January, the Premier did not turn up when the LNP called for parliament to be recalled so that we could debate these laws and bring them in immediately, and even now she has not turned up with the right laws for Queenslanders. In fact, the maximum penalty, as she promised Queenslanders, was going to be 10 years, yet in these reforms it is going to be only seven.

I was the officer in charge of police at Laidley for many years. In 2015, when these laws started to be watered down, I could see the frustration felt by operational police. Some of those opposite would like to believe that the LNP do not care about the vulnerable in our community, but I can tell you that I was very proud to be part of a wonderful program that is still going in Lockyer called Together 4341, which is a partnership between the Hatton Vale State School and the Laidley District State School where they work to assist parents coming into the school. In fact, they have a real focus on the zero to five age group and assisting their parents. That program was put in place because of the level of vulnerability which existed in the Lockyer community, both in Gatton and in Laidley, as measured by both the Public Health Network and, before that, Medicare Local. We knew something had to be done, and I was pleased to be part of that.

We need to have those wonderful, early intervention programs operational across the state. There also needs to be laws in place which give police the ability to deal with recidivist offenders, those for which those opposite say the breach of bail provisions would not work. They said it would not work up until a couple of weeks ago. Obviously the polls showed they were not being strong enough on crime and they decided to change their policy.

I say thank you for copying the LNP's homework, because we know that breach of bail as an offence should be reinstated and youth who are committing criminal offences like adults should be dealt with like adults. The police are very frustrated—they have been frustrated for so long—and we have seen youth crime grow out of control. Those opposite said that breach of bail did not work because 94 per cent of offenders reoffended. That is not evidence that breach of bail is not working; it shows that they are recidivist offenders and the worst of the worst. Police need the laws to deal with them. It is a revolving door, but we need to keep working at it and give the police the tools they need. Then when police see the worst of the worst offender out at night or in a shopping centre during the daytime looking around and breaching their bail because the order says they should not be in the CBD of one of our towns, they need the laws so they can remove them from that system instead of continually triaging—as I said, a revolving door—until they end up in an adult jail and for a longer period. That is the sad reality for these 570—we now know; it was 470 last year—of the worst of the worst offenders right across the state.

That is just one aspect of the laws. Since 2012 we have seen police numbers per 100,000 of population—and these details are available in the *Report on government services*—decrease. Back in 2012 there were 290 police per 100,000. In 2021 there were 285 police per 100,000. I am looking forward to the updated report being released soon to find out exactly what it is now. With a population of 5.3 million, that already equates to 265 fewer police officers. That is over 500,000 operational police hours in which police could have been taking proactive action to deal with those offenders using the right laws to keep our community safe.

Recently I heard a lady say, 'Where do I hide my keys?' For goodness sake, people are absolutely horrified and frozen with fear that somebody is going to barge into their house to steal their keys so they can steal their car because now the keys are required to drive the car away. These brazen offenders do not discriminate. They do not care where this happens. Fortunately for me in the Lockyer and my community, we do not have a large problem with these sorts of criminals. They are usually driving from Ipswich to Toowoomba or from Brisbane or the coast to Toowoomba or elsewhere. Sometimes they do stop because they run out of petrol, and next minute one of our people in the shopping centre or at home is a victim of a crime.


As I mentioned earlier, there needs to be—and we respect—early intervention programs. I support our leader's recent call for a review of all of those early intervention programs. Our deputy leader wrote to the Auditor-General and he has agreed to do a review of those programs. It was \$800 million and I believe it is now heading towards the \$1 billion mark. Let's review those programs, see what works and what does not so we can replicate what works across the state.

To those opposite who proudly say that the boot camps the LNP instigated did not work, I say read the KPMG report. It did not say that. It said the time frame was not sufficient to judge the effectiveness of the program and that some of the programs were not tailored to the specific needs of the kids. Let's get the planning right. Let's get the funding right. Let's get programs associated with the seriousness of the offences and let's deliver early intervention programs right across the state that work. That is a simple solution.

The other thing we need to do is unshackle the judiciary. Having detention as a last resort, which we have called on the government to do over and over, needs to be put in place so that the magistrates and judges do not have their hands tied but can hand down appropriate sentences for these offenders. As I said before, the Premier promised Queenslanders one thing and they have received something else. They do not have the laws they need. Those opposite have been talking about having the strongest laws in the state. However, they have weakened the laws so much that they could only go back a little bit in terms of making bail presumption a last resort. Those things are just playing around the edges. Seeing breach of bail return is a great thing and I know the police will welcome that. It will give them the tools to deal with these offenders day after day, night after night.

I must say, when we hear people ask the question, 'Where do I hide my keys?' we know the system is broken. I do not want to live in a state like that. Queensland is a great state and we need to be a great state again. We do not need our communities living in fear of those 570 recidivist offenders who are racing across the state, committing offences and killing people whilst on bail. Anybody opposite who is trying to defend that is completely out of touch and is not listening to Queenslanders. They are certainly not listening to the Queenslanders in my community or the communities we have seen across the state. I can tell honourable members that it is only when the resources are given back to the police—and remember, we are already down 265 police officers. Let's see the next report that comes out. I bet the ratio is lower than 285 per 100,000; that will multiply out. We heard in estimates last year that proactive policing where police go out and try to catch offenders was down 40 per cent in some districts. That is not just because of these youth offenders; it is also because of the time they have to spend in carrying out civil processes. If they had picked up a youth offender two weeks ago, they would have had to make a civil application for an exercise of the power under the Youth Justice Act, taking them off the road for hours. There is a similar process of frustration when it comes to dealing with domestic violence, but that is a debate for another day.

People should not be prisoners in their own home. I know that crime is a terrible thing, but I can tell honourable members from the studies and the experience I have as a former long-term police officer that one thing worse than crime is the fear of crime. We all have people in our community who have boarded up their homes and are living in fear—total fear—with doors and windows locked day and night. Our community deserves better, and it deserves an LNP government that will be fair dinkum in listening to Queenslanders and delivering the laws and resources they need.

 **Mr WALKER** (Mundingburra—ALP) (2.47 pm): I promised during the last election campaign that I would advocate with our government for more solutions to address youth crime. I promised to work hard each and every day to make sure our community feels safe. I gave the commitment and I meant it. That is what we are delivering here and that is why I am proud to speak to this bill today. I also want to reassure the people in the seat of Mundingburra that their safety is my No. 1 priority. Everyone has the right to be safe not just in their home; they should also be safe when going about their everyday business. That is why I rise to speak in support of the Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023.

I also want to thank the Economics and Governance Committee for conducting a hearing in Townsville and for the excellent work they have done on committee report No. 41. I had the opportunity to attend the committee hearing held in Townsville on 2 March. I want to thank the local residents and those from surrounding communities who attended and gave valuable evidence. The information gathered at that hearing and other hearings held across the state has no doubt helped support and inform this bill that is before the House.

The vast majority of young people who come into contact with the criminal justice system do not offend again following diversion and rehabilitation programs. However, this bill targets those offenders who do impact community safety, and rightly so. Our approach and the approach in this bill is about

targeting serious repeat youth offenders, tackling the complex causes of youth crime and investing in community safety initiatives. This bill further targets the serious repeat youth offenders who are continually putting community safety at risk through a range of initiatives, including breach of bail. The bill amends the Bail Act 1980 to make breaching a condition of bail a criminal offence for young offenders for the first time this century—that is right, the first time this century.

The bill amends the Youth Justice Act 1992 to extend the maximum period for conditional release orders from three months to six months. That is a 100 per cent increase. Repeat offenders are more likely to serve their suspended term in detention if they breach a condition. Speaking as a former team member at the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre for over 18 years, this may provide offenders with a greater opportunity to access and complete rehabilitation programs, which will no doubt improve the young person's chance of turning their life around. Some will tell you that it is a holiday camp; it is a detention centre with a four-millimetre steel plate with microphonic cabling and CCTV. It is not a Hilton hotel; it is a youth detention centre for serious offenders.

We hear from the other side that these facilities are holiday camps. At the committee hearing held in Townsville on 2 March, a former Katter party candidate gave a word picture of what their detention centre would look like in the desert, with a steel mesh fence—not horse riding and not fencing, but with a steel fence. We have gone back to the 1800s! We heard the member for Traeger say, 'We can't get people in through the front gate because they're seagulls. They need tickets and qualifications.' Then he says, 'We'll get them out on the border.' Guess what: we still have to get the workers out on the border with the qualifications to teach these young people the skills they need to be effective in our community.

The bill amends the Youth Justice Act 1992 to declare certain offenders as serious repeat offenders, meaning tougher sentencing principles to protect community safety must be applied—that is correct: must be applied.

The bill amends the Criminal Code Act 1899 to increase the maximum penalty for unlawful use of a motor vehicle from seven years to 10 years imprisonment. It introduces a new circumstance of aggravation, with a maximum penalty of 12 years imprisonment, for unlawful use of a motor vehicle where the offender has published material on social media advertising their involvement in the offence. Addressing the social media aspect of this offending behaviour is a first. It introduces a new circumstance of aggravation, with a maximum penalty of 14 years imprisonment, for the unlawful use of a motor vehicle where the offending occurs at night or where the offender threatens violence, is or pretends to be armed, is in company or damages or threatens to damage property. It requires offences of unlawful use of a motor vehicle with circumstances of aggravation of violence or threatened violence to be heard by a District Court judge or Childrens Court judge.

This bill expands the number of offences with a presumption against bail. The other side says, 'It's fine to have bail; just don't breach it.' Here we have removed it. The presumption of bail is gone. Entering a premise to commit an indictable offence will now be subject to a presumption against bail. The bill amends the Youth Justice Act 1992 and the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 to clarify that police do not need to consider alternatives to arrest if a young person contravenes or is likely to contravene a bail condition in certain circumstances and when on bail for a prescribed indictable offence or some domestic and family violence offences.


In relation to taking criminal history into account, the bill amends the Youth Justice Act 1992 to require courts to consider previous bail history and criminal behaviour when sentencing. They must be recording the history as well. In relation to the transfer of 18-year-olds from youth detention to adult custody, the bill amends the Youth Justice Act 1992 to enable the transfer of 18-year-olds sentenced or remanded in youth detention to an adult correctional centre in certain circumstances. This is good news not only for the victims out there but also for the staff who have to work in these facilities. These bigger and older young offenders go to the adult facility.

To help break the destructive cycle of youth crime, we are taking action and investing in programs to divert young people away from the criminal justice system. We are investing in programs proven to make a difference. This includes a further investment of \$4 million in On Country programs providing culture-based rehabilitation for young First Nations people, including supervision by On Country elders. The member for Traeger should love that!

We are making more investment in grassroots early intervention. We are investing in more community-based initiatives targeting at-risk youth to provide recreational, learning, mentoring and drug and alcohol support to help break the cycle of offending. This investment includes \$4.2 million into Townsville's Street University. These new initiatives build on the \$800 million investment that the

government has already made in responding to youth crime and tackling its complex causes to help break the cycle of offending for the future. A \$10 million evaluation program will be completed to ensure the right investments are being made in the right programs. Importantly, the evaluations will measure outcomes, not just activity. The other side has to be excited.

This important bill will strengthen community safety. I will continue to work each and every day to ensure our community feels safe. That is my commitment to the people of Mundingburra. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (2.55 pm): I rise to speak on the Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023. Premier Palaszczuk did not turn up to work in January, when Queensland needed her. She has not turned up to parliament with the laws Queenslanders need now, let alone the ones she promised to Queenslanders. Maximum penalties will be less than what the Premier promised. Car theft will be a maximum seven years imprisonment, not the promised 10 years.

While the Premier was away and not recalling parliament, the Sunshine Coast police district recorded 69 offences of unlawful use of a motor vehicle, 149 offences of unlawful entry and 628 offences of theft. It is clear that the government has no enthusiasm for or investment in this bill. This is a political problem, not a crime problem. The government has treated crime as a management problem which will go away with Twitter announcements and carefully crafted media spin. It has treated the Queensland public as mugs. At the end of December, the Premier promised on Twitter—

Violent criminals should receive harsher punishments.

The community must be protected.

We've announced one of the most comprehensive packages ever seen in Queensland

She also said—

Violent juvenile car thieves will face 14 years' jail ...

On the same day, the Premier also promised on Twitter—'Violent juvenile car thieves will face more jail time and sentencing will be strengthened as part of a suite of increased penalties to keep the community safe.'

She said new measures include—

- **Increasing the maximum penalty for stealing a car** from 7 to 10 years' imprisonment
- **A more severe penalty of 14 years** if the offence is committed at night, where the offender uses violence or threatens violence, is armed, or pretends to be armed, is in company or damages or threatens to damage any property.

...

The increased penalties apply to adults as well as juvenile offenders.

The Twitter messages were misleading. What the Premier did not say is that, under the sentencing principles within the Youth Justice Act, the maximum sentence that juvenile offenders can be sentenced to is five years. The sentences announced by the government cannot be applied to children who are sentenced for unlawful use of a motor vehicle. They can still only be sentenced to a maximum of one year imprisonment. The government is not being up-front with people. It is more concerned about the internal factional wars than looking after victims.

Introducing breach of bail is a key policy of the LNP. The government's decision to introduce breach of bail is an admission that it has been directly responsible for the current crime crisis by watering down youth crime laws in 2015. Ministers and members are furiously walking back from the vehement opposition to breach of bail measures. They minimise the glaring reality of the crime crisis. The result of their watered-down laws is a youth crime epidemic. Last year, the Attorney-General told the parliament—

We know what does not work ... and that is called the breach of bail offence.

In June the minister said that breach of bail did nothing to reduce crime. The Minister for Children and Youth Justice said in 2021 that breach of bail had proved unworkable. Only last month, three days before the government's backflip, the minister said that the offence called 'finding of guilt while on bail' did not effectively deter or reduce crime. Then we have the Minister for Police, who said—

It is nonsense. It is a political stunt.

In June last year the minister told the parliament—

The fact of the matter is that it was a failed policy that did not work.

He then went on to claim that 'we have the toughest youth justice bail laws in the nation'. That claim is news to the Queensland public, because it is clearly not their experience.

In the North Coast Region, which includes Gympie, the offence of unlawful use of a motor vehicle by juveniles keeps increasing. Over the 2015 to 2022 calendar years it has grown from 242 offences in 2015 to 608 in 2022. That is a 151.2 per cent increase from 2015 to 2022. This one offence alone has been steadily increasing year on year under this government. The record for each subsequent year from 2015 has been 242, 268, 391, 445, 383, 450, 496 and is now 608. There has been a 49.4 per cent increase over the three years from 2020 to 2022 in the number of charges against juveniles for unlawful entry.

Each month our local media have regular stories of our experience with the crime crisis. In January two 16-year-old boys, a 13-year-old girl and an 18-year-old were charged with 74 offences including stealing cars and evading and obstructing police. Their crime spree targeted multiple businesses in the CBD and surrounding areas. A local school was broken into and a fire was started. Police try to do their best, but they are under strain.

In the last few weeks a Gympie mother came to me desperate that the system was failing her child. Her teenage child is continually committing serious offences. He thumbs his nose at the police, at authorities and at his parents. There are no repercussions for him. The mother is so desperate that she asked that he face the consequences of his actions. The government is failing her, her son and the community. It is failing everyone. This is not compassion. This is not helping offenders realise and bear responsibilities for their actions, but unfortunately this story is not new.

In 2016, seven years ago when the government wound back the youth justice laws, I recounted a similar incident. I told the parliament my firsthand experience with a young offender who sat there silently thumbing his nose at the community, thumbing his nose at the police, thumbing his nose at the legal service, thumbing his nose at the government. The examples permeate our community. Last year youths broke into the home of our elderly neighbour. She is a pensioner who lives by herself. Her home was ransacked; personal items and meagre savings were stolen. They tried to steal her car. The impact is that my neighbour is now fearful of being in her own home and of her security being violated.

These offenders believe that they are untouchable, and in many cases they knew they were untouchable. Repeat offenders know the system has been a toothless tiger. None of what we hear is new. The government was warned about the impact of its approach to crime. Victims are the ones who have paid the price. Lives have been lost. Home owners, businesses and communities are paying the price to repair or re-establish damaged property with increased insurance costs. They pay the price of the emotional scar it leaves.

I was on the committee when the government started its ideological campaign to first water down youth crime laws. In 2016 a Townsville resident told us about her frustration with the government's refusal to let the previous government's youth justice reforms time to work. She said—

The government have been in power for 12 months now and during that time they have repeatedly said they would get tough on crime.

...


The public were sick of hearing about crimes happening and having little to no feedback if the offenders were caught. We have yet to see the courts use these reforms to their full and proper potential so that they are actually given a chance to work.

Townsville fought hard for these reforms ... because the residents felt that something needed to be done ... People were frustrated by the lack of action against juveniles repeatedly committing crimes and hearing about them getting off with a slap on the wrist. Juveniles were using the court system like a revolving door.

That submission is just as relevant today.

Over the last eight years the government has allowed the situation to deteriorate and has refused to listen. We owe it to victims and to the community to get it right. That is why the LNP amendments to remove detention as a last resort should be supported. Our amendment will ensure that serious repeat offenders are given appropriate penalties to reduce further offending and keep the community safe. Labor's track record is a failure. It gave young offenders the option not to wear a GPS-monitoring device, with only eight being fitted. The interim review of the trial proved it was not successful, yet it is being expanded. Its new 10-point plan is in addition to the ones announced in 2015, 2016, 2019 and 2021 and the 47-point Youth Justice Strategy 2019-2023.

Given Labor's track record, it is hard to have faith that it can solve youth crime. It is hard to believe it will not water down policies at the first opportunity because at its heart it does not believe in these reforms. I do not oppose the bill, but let us hope that this delivers what the government is promising it will.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (3.04 pm): Today I rise to speak in support of the Strengthening Community Safety Bill. In reflecting on what we have heard in the last couple of days from the LNP, we have heard a lot of anecdote, we have heard a lot of opinion and we have heard a lot of hyperbole. There has been yelling and shrieking. It has frankly been embarrassing to watch. What I can say is that those opposite have offered nothing—all slogans, no solutions; all politics, no policies. They have said that they will bring in top class intervention programs. I ask my colleagues: how would we trust the LNP to bring in these programs? It has never seen an intervention program that it did not want to cut. What happened to all of the programs at the Barrett centre when it closed that? What happened to Skilling Queenslanders for Work when it was in government? It cut that program—demolished it—one of the best community capacity and employment programs in Australia. We have heard what it did to Project Booyah—absolutely gutted it when it was in power.

I also find it interesting that the member for Clayfield could talk about a drop in crime statistics when those opposite were in government at a time when they cut the crime statistician's office. How very interesting.

Mr McCallum: As well as frontline police.


Mr WHITING: As well as frontline police. Members of the LNP have said, 'We would audit these programs.' However, how would they measure the life skills that are built by these programs—that is, how they teach people to get up each day, brush their hair and go to work, how to speak to someone and shake their hand and look them in the eye, how you put your phone down when you are talking to someone? How can they measure when a young person builds that rapport with a new male role model in a program that they are doing? How can they audit that? They cannot audit that, and these are some of the most important skills that we see built in these programs. This shows that the LNP knows nothing about these programs. It is all slogans; it has no solutions.

I find it interesting that those opposite did not talk about the initiative to fast-track sentencing. We have heard that 80 per cent to 90 per cent of young people in detention are there on remand. They are waiting for their day in court. Most importantly, without that sentence we cannot help them do the programs and do the rehabilitation that they need to do. It is wasted time. We are putting \$9.8 million into initiatives to fast-track sentencing so we can have them working on themselves in the meantime.

Probably the most important part of this package to me is the non-legislative part—that is, all the intervention programs that will be funded, all those extra supportive services and those things that help these young people break the cycle of offending. To me personally these are the most important parts of the package, yet we hardly hear anything about these programs from the LNP. We should share the successes of these programs, and I refer to programs like PUSH! at Deception Bay where Younity is working with the local shopping centre to have a professional bike workshop there so that young people can work on a bike project and build that rapport with male role models. Then there is the co-responder program that has already been operating for years in North Lakes at night-time. The YMCA, youth justice, child protection and police are working together on the streets at night to help the young people they meet there.

We know that the LNP is full of anecdotes about crime, but it hardly ever talks about the successes that we have through these programs. Those opposite should talk to the people doing these programs like I have and hear the success stories. Last week at Morayfield I was talking to a young man, 15 years old, who has been living in parks. The PCYC at Caboolture and Kurbingui Youth Development are helping him engage with education and that young man is looking to become an electrician in future years.

Queenslanders are sophisticated in their response to this issue. Even when those with the most hardline views hear about this community safety package, they understand we need to feel safe and they want that, but they also want us to invest more in these programs. That is exactly what we are doing. I am very proud of the total package that we are putting to Queenslanders and I support this bill.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (3.10 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023. The bill was introduced into the House by the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, Mark Ryan, on 21 February 2023 and referred to the Economics and Governance Committee to report on 10 March 2023.

The first issue raised by submitters was the short time frame on such an important piece of legislation that affects each and every Queenslanders. This bill was not the result of the Palaszczuk government being proactive in regard to youth crime activity; this was as a result of the rising anger in the community at the lack of competence and the complete failure of this Palaszczuk government to enforce law and order on behalf of the Queensland public, and some of the shocking events that occurred over the Christmas period.

We now have a bill introduced by government to try to undo the damage that their own legislation has caused across the last eight years. The objectives of the bill include increasing the maximum penalty for car theft from seven years to 10 years and increasing the maximum penalty for using or threatening to use a motor vehicle to commit an indictable offence from 10 to 12 years imprisonment. These offenders are not receiving the maximum sentence now and will not under this bill unless there is an important amendment moved to the Youth Justice Act. The act states that under a magistrate juvenile criminals can only be imprisoned for a maximum of one year, under a District Court judge a maximum of five years. The Premier promised Queenslanders on 29 December 2022—

Violent juvenile car thieves will face 14 years jail in a suite of increased penalties aimed squarely at keeping the community safe. It has now been confirmed Labor's new proposed laws cannot override section 175 of the Youth Justice Act—another deliberate deception by this Palaszczuk Labor government to all Queenslanders who are trying to keep their families, homes and properties safe from repeat youth offenders. On Tuesday morning in this House the shadow minister, Dale Last, attempted to move an amendment to remove the clause that a custodial sentence be an option of last resort. Unless that amendment is passed, we will continue to see repeat offenders released on bail and reoffending shortly after they leave the police station door. Predictably, the government members voted against allowing the shadow minister to move this amendment so this bill is already doomed to failure.

Under this government's watch we have seen crimes committed by serious repeat offenders increase from 10 per cent to 17 per cent, a massive increase for all of us to witness. The bill also proposes to create a new offence where the offender has published material advertising their involvement in the offending on social media. This behaviour is particularly frustrating and offensive to victims who have had their property stolen—quite often vehicles—and then see the offenders boasting of their crimes on social media. Proving this will apparently be problematic, according to some of the submitters. The bill states that it will also introduce an offence where the offending occurs at night, where the offender uses or threatens violence or pretends to be armed in company and damages or threatens to damage any property. Some of the submitters stated that these offences are a duplication of laws that already exist.

The bill also extends and expands the trial of electronic monitoring as a condition of bail for a further two years to include eligible 15-year-olds. The irony of this amendment will not be lost on the Queensland public. It would be difficult to find a more public policy failure than this government's electronic monitoring devices program. To date there have only been eight devices fitted due to offenders having the right to refuse to wear them and in some areas an inability to actually track them. This is an announcement of a policy that this government has already proven that it is incapable of implementing.

A significant amendment is to provide that it is an offence for children to breach a condition of their bail undertaking. Where do we start with this one? What a revelation those opposite have had. After years of stating that breach of bail would not work, in the face of an increasingly hostile electorate the Premier has suddenly decided that breach of bail is an issue. The police minister Mark Ryan and the youth justice minister Leanne Linard were at a public crime forum in Toowoomba only days before the announcement stating their opposition to breach of bail as an offence. The youth justice minister was particularly vocal on this subject. The Premier had obviously lost faith in the failed youth justice minister and the failed police minister to make any meaningful impact on the ever-increasing crime wave across Queensland and made a captain's call to stem the bleeding of support for this government. No-one had been more strident in their opposition to breach of bail than the Attorney, Shannon Fentiman. In fact, it would appear that this amendment has little support from the left so it has been interesting to hear the contributions from those opposite as they try to convince the public that they support this change, which is more about appeasing the public with little to no intention to actually enforce it. Bringing back breach of bail as an offence is something that the LNP has been advocating for for years.

The bill also states that it will remove the requirement that police consider alternatives to arrest if they reasonably suspect a child on bail has contravened or is contravening a bail condition. The victims of crime have been screaming for this for years. Recidivist youth criminals have been operating with impunity for years and there has been no consequence for breaching bail conditions. The bill also states that a child's bail history must be taken into account during sentencing. It is my understanding this information is already available to the magistrate.

The bill will create the ability of a sentencing court to declare that a child offender is a serious repeat offender in certain circumstances to enable considerations such as community safety to be paramount and ensure certain child offenders serve their suspended term of detention if they breach their conditional release orders. Let us watch this space. The bill will enable the transfer of persons who have turned 18 years on remand and the earlier transfer of persons who have turned 18 years serving a sentence from youth detention centres to adult correctional centres. This was another massive fail by this government. When the Palaszczuk government moved 17-year-old offenders from adult prisons to youth detention centres it had a direct impact on the rise of youth offending.


Victims of crime are sick of this weak Palaszczuk government's stance on crime and the electorate of Condamine is not immune. Condamine has always been considered a protected community where people feel safe and secure. Not anymore. Burnt out stolen cars on the back roads of Condamine are now commonplace. Others just dump them on the side of the highway. Residents are not safe on the road, on the sidewalk, at their workplace or in their own homes. I have met with many victims who are terrified to stay in their own homes. Many of these are elderly without the means to purchase extensive security and surveillance equipment and they really should not have to. In your own home you should feel safe.

I remember going to a house outside Kingsthorpe where the house was broken into while the residents were away—and I mean literally broken into with a rock thrown through the window. The house was ransacked. Every drawer and cupboard was gone through with valuables stolen. A four-wheel drive in a detached garage was driven out through a closed roller door. The house had security cameras and when the footage was shown to the police officers they knew the offenders. The culprits were arrested. One of them had been on 28 previous charges and was immediately released on bail. This adds to the frustration of the police officers who are constantly arresting the same offenders. The shopping centres in Toowoomba are not safe for shoppers or the staff who work in them. While working at one of those stores on Christmas Eve my daughter was assaulted by a shoplifter. Country shoppers are avoiding shopping centres as they do not feel safe.

Crime has become so widespread that even the family farm is not immune. We are receiving a constant flow of reports of thefts on farms on the Downs, including private homes being broken into at all times of the day. There are many examples of vehicles, motorbikes, tools and increasingly copper being stolen from farm sheds. Fuel is being stolen on a regular basis, with one farmer witnessing from his kitchen window two men filling up their car in broad daylight, a brazen act with total disregard for anyone else's property. The wiring is being stripped from farm sheds, water bores, drain augers, batteries from tractors—the list goes on.

Recently the grain silos at Norwin were broken into with a damage bill of over \$150,000. As a privately owned grain storage business, the owner will be footing this bill. There are many cases of landowners being targeted multiple times: reinstalling wiring only to see it stripped and stolen again. One landowner has had his security cameras stolen. When a tradesman or a farmer has their work ute stolen they lose their tools of trade as well as their means of travel and the wait time to replace that vehicle can be many months.

I recently spoke to a long serving police officer who told me that in his 25 years in the force he has never seen the force under so much pressure and morale at such a low ebb. This government has stated that this legislation will resolve the issue. I am not so sure about that.

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (3.19 pm): I stand to make my contribution to the Strengthening Community Safety Bill and I want to state a couple of the things from the outset. As I have said to people in my electorate and other areas, this government is committed to ensuring our communities are kept safe and that serious repeat offenders are held to account. The vast majority of young people who come into contact with the criminal justice system do not reoffend following diversion and rehabilitation programs. This bill specifically targets those offenders whose actions impact community safety. Our approach, and the approach in the bill, is fundamentally about three things. First and foremost, it is about targeting serious repeat youth offenders. It is about tackling the complex causes of youth crime, and they are complex, extensive and take time. It is also about investing in community safety.

On a number of occasions I have had the unfortunate pleasure of having to talk to a number of my constituents who have been the victims of crime, including juvenile crime. That has been happening for a while. There is no joy in sitting down to listen to someone who has gone through this. My family has been exposed to it. I know the hurt and pain that it brings to the community. Anyone who suggests that anybody in this chamber comes to this debate without reflecting on their community and passing those messages onto the Premier, the Deputy Premier, cabinet and fellow parliamentary colleagues is absolutely having themselves on. That is our role and that is what we are seeing here today. The hard work is being laid out by what we are doing today.

I remember one afternoon I was leaving my office when a young man came in. He was infuriated. His car had been stolen. He was a worker and he had thousands of dollars worth of tools in his vehicle. Understandably, he was very upset. He made his case very clear to me. It started off with colourful language and we had a bit of a discussion. After a little while he settled down and we started talking about the details. I said, 'Okay, let's talk about this.' We started to work through what he thought we should be doing. We had those discussions. I explained to him where the government stands and how we get things done.

That young man went away but he came back the next day. He apologised for the way he had conducted himself. He sat down and said, 'I want to make a contribution.' I contacted him not so long ago and told him that, after the discussions we had had some months ago and those I had had with other people, we would be introducing a piece of legislation. I told him that the legislation talks about breach of bail and strengthening conditional release orders. In his case, it was acknowledged that the offender was a repeat offender. This piece of legislation is a direct result of some of the issues that that young man had brought to my attention. I talked about the new declaration of serious repeat offenders and he seemed quite happy with that. We talked about increasing the penalties for stealing vehicles and we went into a little bit of detail on that.

I have spoken to a range of people about the proposals that we are putting through the parliament today. All of those people have been exposed to crime in some way, shape or form. I can tell the House that the majority of them are happy with these proposals including expanding the number of offences with a presumption against bail. There are community expectations in relation to that and this legislation enforces that.

Apart from the fact that we are taking criminal history into account, we are also extending and expanding GPS electronic monitoring and transferring 18-year-olds into adult custody to get older kids away from younger kids. I have been to the three youth detention centres that we have in this state. They are not happy little places. I have seen the individuals who work there and I have seen the juveniles contained there. If people who have not been to those institutions think that they are a walk in the park then they should go and have a look at them. I am very pleased that 18-year-olds will be moved from youth detention into adult custody because the influence they have on younger juveniles is enormously concerning.

I have spoken to a number of people who have had their homes broken into. I note the story of one woman from Manunda with whom I spoke. She was asleep and when she got up her car was gone. Having watched the camera footage, her initial comment to me was, 'What is forcing these young kids to do this?' She was looking at the video footage and saying, 'Look at these young kids. What are they doing? How do they get to this?' As with the majority of people, once they get over the anger, she was more interested in knowing what we are going to do to stop this from happening.

We know the expansion and extension of case management is fundamental. We have that in Cairns. We know that an expansion of the youth co-responder teams is good. I have been out in Cairns with our youth co-responder team and I know it works. I have seen government departments working together towards positive outcomes for the community, which is terrific.

I acknowledge the expansion and extension of early action groups, which are working in Cairns. I have met the people who run the On Country programs and I have met juveniles who have been involved in those programs. Providing culture-based rehabilitation for First Nations young people, including supervision by elders, is absolutely fundamental.


I do not say any of this without taking the victims into account because they are people I talk to, they are people I have promised to represent and they are people I have made commitments to. This government sticks by those commitments, including our commitment to extend the Youth Crime Taskforce. We are putting in high-visibility patrols and we are seeing some positive results. Looking at January 2022 to January this year, we are 52 per cent down. While that may be a good result, we will continue to work for better results. That is part of it.

We are expanding the joint flying squads and additional money will go to that. We are helping seniors to secure their homes with an initial \$15 million initiative. I have a mate in the insurance game who tells me that if you install an immobiliser on your vehicle that will have an impact on your vehicle insurance. In that regard we are investing \$10 million in select areas and I am very lucky that Cairns is one of those areas. Let us see what happens in that space.

We will provide enhanced assistance for victims of crime. That is vitally important. We recognise the trauma associated with crime and \$9 million is being invested to better respond to victims of property crime. This is all happening as a result of the lobbying that goes on and the actions happening in our communities.

I thank the committee, particularly for coming to Cairns. I thank the chair. I encouraged everybody in my community to attend. I sent emails even to those people who do not support me but are anti me. My office contacted them and I encouraged them to appear before the committee. It is vitally important that everybody here hears from the people in Cairns—not just me but a range of others. They did hear that.

In closing, I thank the Premier, cabinet and my parliamentary colleagues. Some of these decisions are tough but we got it through and it worked well. I thank and acknowledge the police. I acknowledge all those who work in the child safety area. It is a tough gig. I am not sure what the circumstances are around COVID but there has been an absolute explosion in need. I am not sure whether there were fewer foster parents around because of COVID. I am not sure what has happened. We are looking into all of those sorts of things. However, I do know that there are people who are working every day to get the best results. I am confident that this is what the community is expecting. We are hoping for better results and I am sure we will get them. I thank each and every one of my colleagues. I remind the people of Queensland that on this side of the House we never surrender reason to passion. We look at the science and we apply it.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (3.28 pm): In December the Queensland Labor government publicly promised that violent juvenile car thieves will face 14 years jail. Now in the bill before us we see that the maximum penalties are half of what they promised. The sentencing maximum is seven years. Under the sentencing principles contained in the Youth Justice Act, the maximum sentence that juvenile offenders can be sentenced to is still five years. Put simply, not only are maximum sentences rarely applied; the penalties before us cannot be applied and detention as a last resort remains as a sentencing principle.

The government has not been up-front with Queenslanders and cannot be trusted to solve the youth crime crisis affecting our safety—our safety at home, in our places of work, out in the community, on public transport and in shopping precincts. For years the media and the public have been told by multiple Labor ministers that breach of bail does not work. It was actually described as ‘nonsense’ by the police minister. As recently as December 2022, he was still spouting this position. What do we see today? The breach of bail amendment which is an identical copy of the LNP’s previous amendment—yes, the amendment which the government did not allow the LNP to move. What a backflip! How can the people of Queensland believe anything they hear from government ministers about youth crime?

We also had discussions about GPS trackers. The previous GPS monitoring trial was highlighted by the LNP as legislation that would not work, given young offenders had the option not to wear one. Only eight were fitted. The interim review of the trial did not say it was a success, yet it is going to be expanded.

As for the circumstances of aggravation for unlawful use of a motor vehicle if it is posted on social media, how are police to find the resources to (a) monitor social media posts and (b) prove the content of the post? This really is nonsense. Instead, the government should be working with the federal communications minister to ensure social media platforms are obliged to remove such posts in a prompt and timely manner.

Accompanying this legislation has been a flurry of announcements such as the engine immobiliser trial. While it is not a part of this bill, the government has announced a trial of engine immobilisers in Cairns. The parliamentary Transport and Resources Committee investigated this technology back in September 2021. I was a part of that inquiry and I can say that we were unable to identify any jurisdiction in the world which has successfully implemented engine immobilisers across the existing fleet. The expert advice to the committee was that at this time there is no single, in-vehicle technology available. Furthermore, the current technology increases the danger to the driver, passengers and passers-by because the driver loses control over the vehicle. In other words, it is not a good strategy when we are discussing inexperienced, under-age, unlicensed drivers in powerful stolen vehicles.

The truth is that this latest flurry of announcements and amendments is part of yet another so-called 'plan'. I suppose this would be a 10-point plan. We can add it to the plans announced in 2015, 2016, 2019 and 2021. That is a total of 26 points in addition to the 47-point Youth Justice Strategy 2019-2023. The Labor Party is running out of points! There are no more points. The points are done. They have used so many points that they are gone.

Despite all these plans, the Productivity Commission in January this year reported that the number of children in detention in Queensland has been climbing year on year, against the trend nationally. Queenslanders have reached the point where they are frightened in their own homes. They are frightened of being physically assaulted or attacked with a machete in their own home. It is unbelievable that it has come to this in Queensland. Innocent people have died. Businesses cannot obtain insurance. Just ask Darren Bauman at the Dingo Roadhouse in my electorate. Even in these beautiful, peaceful little country towns we are enduring this youth crime crisis.

The whole crisis—and it is a crisis—is completely of Labor's making. Powerful factions within the party went to war against the LNP government's reforms: abolished breach of bail, reintroduced closed courts and reintroduced detention as a last resort; and 17-year-olds were moved into the youth category. These changes were largely introduced to pacify powerful Labor factions. They are driven by ideology and have not survived exposure to reality. What is really insulting for the victims is that we have been completely denied any rights in this process. Labor not only failed to keep Queenslanders safe; it failed to recognise that the justice system must deal with victims as well as offenders.

It would seem that the offenders have all the rights and protections, and the victims get nothing. We in this House recently heard that the government is going to provide some funding for victims, but we have also heard that there is a two-year backlog at Victim Assist. It seems the victims are penalised more than the offenders in the Labor game.

If your car is stolen and destroyed in Gregory, it has a major impact. We have no public transport and taxi services in only two towns. Consequently, much employment is dependent on employees having a driver's licence and transport. The impacts of having your car stolen are life-changing, widespread and long-lasting. When a juvenile thief walks away with no penalty at all, only to play the game again, it is understandable that victims and their families and friends start to fume. Justice has not been served to them.

There has been much preaching from Labor about the benefits of early intervention in preventing youth crime. That is a position I can totally support, so I ask Labor: why not give early intervention a go? They certainly have not yet. Early intervention is not 'early' once the juvenile is already committing the crimes. Early intervention is not trying diversion after the youth has already had contact with police and the courts. Early intervention is certainly not at 12, 15 or 16 years old. Early intervention is from birth, and it requires a whole-of-government approach.

This model was adopted in the US state of Hawaii about 20 years ago. They currently have—for the whole state—a grand total of eight children in detention, and none of them are there for violent crimes like murder and assault. Queensland currently has 300. We need proper services restored for expectant mothers and their babies. Mothers can be assessed for their support needs before they give birth. For particularly vulnerable mothers, that support should take the form of regular home visits for at least the first years. These home visits should offer parenting guidance and education—

Mr Power interjected.

Mr HART: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am within a couple of feet of the member for Gregory and I cannot hear what is happening over the top of the member for Logan's interjections.

Mr POWER: I take that on board. I do apologise. I note that the member will do the same during question time.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Member for Logan, that is not a point of order. I ask all members to cease their interjections.


Mr MILLAR: Once children move into the school system, we need Education Queensland to have better strategies in place to keep students engaged. In April last year the *Courier-Mail* revealed shocking statistics on the rate of suspensions and expulsions in Queensland schools, and vulnerable children were the ones copping this. Indigenous children and children with disabilities were three times more likely to receive a suspension. Wait for it: children in care were six times more likely to be excluded. Some receive their first suspension as preppies. That is before we even look at truancy rates

among these cohorts. Advocates, including the children's commissioner, have called on Education Queensland to do more to keep children in school in order to combat youth crime. That is right: they explicitly linked these two issues.

Finally, Queensland Health must rapidly increase the availability of drug and alcohol rehabilitation. This would decrease the incidence of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder. It is the only way to ensure children are not growing up in homes where substance abuse rules the household. Sadly, it is the only way to prevent early drug use by the children themselves. What is the Labor government proposing? That Queensland will have the most relaxed drug possession rules in the nation, and we are going to do this with no rehabilitation option in place. I guarantee that this will mean more children growing up in the care of drug addicted parents. More children will witness domestic violence. More children will be harmed by those who should be caring for them. I directly link this to our youth crime crisis. It is as though we have a whole-of-government approach to betray these vulnerable children and their families.

If you had a seven-year-old child when the Labor government's youth crime crisis started eight years ago, you would now have a 15-year-old. Under the Labor Party's watch this youth crime crisis has continued. It is having a devastating impact in South-East Queensland and of course in Cairns, in Townsville and along the coast, but it is also having a major impact in rural and remote areas. As the member for Condamine said, not only is it happening down here; it is also happening on farms. We see people losing valuable machinery that costs hundreds of thousands of dollars and trying to get back into the trade. When a local diesel mechanic in Longreach has his car stolen, he loses his livelihood. He cannot replace that car in an instant. He cannot go to Avis or Budget and get another ute. All his tools are in the ute when it is stolen.

It is time for the Labor government to step up and start fixing this problem. This has happened under its watch. The Labor government has taken away a lot of things that the LNP government did in terms of youth crime, and now it is starting to bite us. I suggest that the Labor government fixes it up and fixes it up now.

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (3.38 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023. From the get-go I say that there is nothing to be gained by any Queenslanders playing a game that is politics of fear. I do not think that anybody in Queensland benefits from the types of contributions I have heard throughout the debate.

I commend the member for Cairns on his contribution. I concur with everything he had to say. We have had many a discussion on this topic. It is through action and through the prongs of this bill that things will continue to improve and we will see change. It goes so much further than just what is in this bill.

Our society has changed so much compared to what it was like for the generation before us. Growing up I do not think anybody in this chamber—maybe with the exception of the member for Bonney and the member for Gaven—would have even known what a mobile phone was let alone Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and so on. It is a complex environment for young people. There is an old proverb that it takes a village to raise a child. I wonder if maybe as times have changed we have lost a bit of that thinking. There is something that every one of us in here can do and everybody in our community can contribute to see change and to tackle this issue.

This bill looks at three aspects of targeting serious repeat youth offenders. I believe the changes in this legislation will absolutely help in that space. The first is tackling the complex causes of youth crime. That builds on what I have just said. There has been generational change for young people. The causes of youth crime are complex. We only need to look at the mental health statistics to know that mental health is generational as well. When we have children being raised in families where those complex issues exist it is, as the member for Cairns said, a tough gig and a tough space.

We can all contribute positively to try to see change. Respectful relationships and the way we conduct ourselves is important. We are the role models for our communities. I remind everybody in this chamber that it is our responsibility to model the sorts of behaviour that we want to see in our communities.

In terms of investing in community safety, we have already made significant investment in programs and it continues to be built upon. In the Redlands there are quite a few things that our community is doing both in terms of service provision and a volunteering capacity and space.

I give a shout-out to our YMCA Vocational School. They are fantastic in a challenging space. They have a community hub. Chris is community coordinator. He is doing an absolutely stellar job. They have the hub open as an after school youth drop-in space. They are engaging with young people at the

skate parks—I had a go and I can tell members that I am not very good on a skate board. They have a recording studio in the vocational school that is free for young people to come in and use. They have getting creative programs. They have all sorts of things that engage young people. That is important. It is incumbent upon all levels of government to look at strategies around how we can engage our young people. They are doing a fantastic job.


Our Volunteers in Policing—I am not sure I have heard anybody else mention them—in the Redlands are an absolutely incredible group of people. Frank, Paul, Ngairé and rest of the team are coordinated by our community liaison officers, Brendan Winslow and Chris Hebblesworth. They are doing a fantastic job. They are at their stand at every local event talking to the community. They do letterbox drops. They do safety checks and all of that great work in the prevention space. I give a huge shout-out to them. I am proud to be able to call them friends. Over the last few years I have been able to spend a lot of time with them and they are doing a terrific job. All of our police have a really tough job. I thank them all.

I will finish by touching on the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. In my area that has been a significant program for young people. At the last graduation Erin shared her story of the program. She said, 'Courage, persistence, structure, honesty and support—five key ingredients that have laid the foundation of our future through the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program.' She went on to talk very deeply. She said—

To Running Wild, I would like to personally thank our supervisors, Sheridan and Rose. A key piece that was missing in my life was structure and discipline and that is exactly what Rose brought to the table. She made sure things got done and no-one was ever idle. Rose was always encouraging and cool.

For our young people structure, boundaries and parameters are important things. That is a big parenting piece. There are so many aspects to the complexities of youth crime. The parenting piece is big. If members go to their P&Cs they will know that it is the regulars who show up. How do we engage more of our families in those school communities so we strengthen our communities?

In terms of Skilling Queenslanders for Work and Erin's story, she has been able to take that experience forward and her future is looking very bright. She attributes that to all of the support she got with Skilling Queenslanders for Work. That is what the Palaszczuk government will do every day of the week. We will invest in programs that help support our young people and see stronger and better communities. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (3.45 pm): I heard the previous member talk about the need for honesty in this debate and yet we have a Premier who has publicly talked about harsher penalties that are not harsher penalties when we look at the black and white of the legislation. The Premier has misled Queenslanders already. This is after eight years in the job.

Ms Richards interjected.

Ms SIMPSON: She is dropping the ball and ignoring the genuine fear of Queenslanders. Once again, I hear Labor members belittling the fear of Queenslanders. They have no idea. That is why it has got to this point. The fact it is so serious now is that there has been eight years of systematic failure by this government to address the issues.

What we have now are hardened young criminals who have gone through the system and have not had the appropriate intervention points in the justice system because this Labor government under Premier Palaszczuk watered them down about seven years ago. What we are seeing is not the consequences of inaction but the consequences of the deliberate action to remove the breach of bail provisions, to make detention a last resort, to tie the hands of the judiciary where detention may have been a more appropriate solution and to not ensure that the early intervention programs were achieving what they needed to achieve.

I support early intervention, but what we have not seen coupled with that is transparency and action. When there is a progression from lower level crime to very serious crime and people getting away with crime time and time again we then have hardened criminals. At that point it is very difficult to intervene. What we see is the fruit of the deliberate action of this government to water down the law. Now they have made it so much harder.

We heard the Labor member for Redlands trying to downgrade the genuine fear that people in the community have faced.

Mrs Gerber: Saying it is playing politics.

Ms SIMPSON: Saying it is playing politics. Let me read from what a constituent—not a politician—who was a victim of crime said. Let us not forget that these are everyday Queenslanders. The constituent said—

We visited my mother in Maryborough. Two weeks ago in town we stayed the night and we were robbed by a juvenile offender early Saturday morning—4.30 am. He took the brand new iPhone 13 and keys to our Prado and tried to steal my Hyundai car.

He goes on to give a shout-out to the Maryborough police and the job they did. How upset and intimidated his elderly mother is. Whether she is elderly or not, it has completely destroyed her right to safety in her own home. Living in fear—yes, there are Queenslanders living in fear and still we hear the bleating from Labor members who think it is all made up. It is not. These are people's stories.

In Nambour, in the seat of Nicklin, I have walked down the street and talked to people. Nambour is next to my old hometown of Yandina. I went to high school in Nambour. I grew up around the area. In the last few days, as well as previously, I have talked to people who have said, 'I work in Nambour. I feel too scared to go to my car on my own after work at five o'clock in the afternoon.' They have seen a deterioration in safety. People's fear and actual incidents matter, but once again we have heard Labor members downplay this, as if it does not matter that people are living in fear.

Mr Power: That's just lies. Why would you say something like that? It does matter—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Order, member for Logan!

Ms SIMPSON: It does matter.

Mr Power interjected.

Ms SIMPSON: I have been listening to members opposite—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Logan!

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member, what is your point of order?

Mr LANGBROEK: I draw your attention to the fact that the member for Logan has used unparliamentary language and I ask that he withdraw it.

Mr POWER: I am not sure, but I am happy to apologise for the good order of the House.

Ms SIMPSON: There are people everywhere throughout Queensland living in fear of crime—not because of some made-up media story but because they have experienced it. This lady was telling me that, as a worker in Nambour, she fears walking to her car on her own after work at five o'clock in the afternoon unless someone can walk with her. That is a genuine issue.

I ask the government to explain what the actual police strength numbers in Nambour are. We know that about eight years ago the actual police strength numbers were 30. I would like to ask them what the actual police strength is today. They must answer that question, as they must answer that question in relation to other police stations throughout the Sunshine Coast and Queensland, because we have found they have tended to fudge the actual police numbers that are available to meet crime. At the same time police numbers are downgraded, they have watered down the laws with regard to juvenile justice. You have to have the suite of measures this government took away, and we are fighting to see them restored.


We have just seen an Olympic backflip from Premier Palaszczuk with regard to breach of bail. Didn't that set the cat amongst the pigeons when it came to what was happening internally in Labor. They did a little backroom deal. 'We'll water down drug laws in order to give you breach of bail,' so the left and the right can feel like they have had a win. You cannot deny, whatever the machinations are behind closed doors, the public machinations of members from the Labor side who were completely opposed to bringing back breach of bail. There is a conga line of embarrassment on the Labor side, but they are not genuine unless they go about putting other measures in place such as my colleague the member for Burdekin and other colleagues have outlined with respect to other measures to help with this particular issue.

At the start of this year Queenslanders experienced horrendous examples of youth crime, including home invasions and loss of life such as we saw in North Lakes and as we saw later in some of the suburbs of Brisbane, but where was the Premier? Certainly, she was not going to break her holiday overseas. Premier Palaszczuk just did not turn up to work in January. She took time off for

weeks when Queenslanders needed her. So much for keeping Queenslanders safe. That was just the political spin she wanted when it was convenient for her at an election. But when the rubber hits the road on this issue of juvenile crime, her intervention to water down the laws and seeing the fruit of the deliberate watering down of the laws, where was the Premier? She was on holidays. Extraordinary! She appears to be a part-time Premier when there is a red carpet involved. It is unfortunate that when people's lives were at risk the Premier was nowhere to be seen.

Ultimately, we have seen the worsening impacts of youth crime over a number of years. The crisis has reached higher levels than we have seen even in the past. Many communities have been struggling with this in the last few years. The Premier was missing in action and has been disingenuous with respect to the laws that we now see before the House, particularly with regard to the so-called penalties the Premier says she is bringing in. We heard a very clear legal treatise from my colleague who, on the basis of other legal analysis, found that the level of increased penalties the Premier referred to is actually a mistruth. The Premier promised that violent criminals would receive harsher penalties, including a maximum penalty of 14 years in jail, but that is not what she has delivered based on the laws currently before the House when looked at in context with the accompanying legislation.

Let us have truth about the issues that have occurred with the watering down of juvenile justice laws in Queensland. Let us give Queenslanders what they deserve, which is the right to be safe and to feel safe and not to be ridiculed by those opposite when they do not think those things matter until their own political hides may not be safe. The only time they care about safety is when there is a bit of heat under their proverbials and therefore we start to see them backflip with respect to one law. There needs to be far more to fix this broken system.

 **Mr SKELTON** (Nicklin—ALP) (3.55 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Palaszczuk government's Strengthening Community Safety Bill. Recently Queenslanders have been raising concerns about crime, and our government has listened. Under the Palaszczuk government Queensland has among the toughest youth justice laws in the nation, and this bill makes those laws even tougher. I will say that no amount of punishment stops crime; it is about early intervention. Youth crime is a complex and difficult issue to properly address. On one hand, the evidence clearly shows that the more time young people spend in custody or prison the more likely they are to commit further offences upon their release. However, this comes as very little relief to Queenslanders who are rightly concerned with keeping crime off our streets and keeping law-abiding Queenslanders safe. Indeed, in my own electorate of Nicklin my office is constantly receiving emails and phone calls from concerned members of the community asking what can be done about this complex and difficult issue. To all constituents who have contacted my office over the past few months, thank you. These changes to Queensland's youth crime legislation are in no small part the result of you all voicing your concerns. The reforms we will be voting on today are proof that we are all listening and we are acting.

The Strengthening Community Safety Bill targets the serious repeat youth offenders who are putting community safety at risk through a range of initiatives, including amending the Youth Justice Act. This bill extends the maximum period for conditional release orders from three to six months. Repeat offenders are more likely to serve their suspended term in detention if they breach a condition. This will also provide offenders with a greater opportunity to access and complete rehabilitation programs.


The bill will amend the Criminal Code to increase penalties for stolen vehicles. This includes: increasing the maximum penalty for unlawful use of a motor vehicle from seven to 10 years imprisonment; introducing a new circumstance of aggravation with a maximum penalty of 12 years imprisonment for unlawful use of a motor vehicle where the offender posts on social media bragging about their involvement in the offence; introducing new circumstances of aggravation with a maximum penalty of 14 years imprisonment for unlawful use of a motor vehicle if the offender is armed, in company or uses violence; and requiring offences of unlawful use of a motor vehicle with circumstances of aggravation or violence or threatened violence to be heard by a District Court judge or Childrens Court judge.

The bill also amends the Youth Justice Act to require magistrates and judges to take into account the offender's criminal history when sentencing. The bill amends the Bail Act to make the breach of a bail condition a criminal offence for the first time this century. This is not to be confused with the consistent calls of those opposite to reinstate the former Youth Justice Act provision 59A. This section created a 'finding of guilt while on bail' offence, which was a fake offence that did not work. It did not allow young offenders to be punished for breaching a condition of bail. The majority of offenders did not spend any additional time in jail in connection with a finding of guilt while on bail.

It would be remiss of me not to thank our hardworking police and youth justice workers. I would like to make special mention of Senior Sergeant Gary Brayley, who is now retired, and his leadership in our community. As the OIC of Nambour Police Station over many years, the partnerships he helped forge with the community centre and local charity groups were key in engaging youth and sparing Nambour the worst of this insidious national problem.

There are serious issues in society with youth crime. We are talking about these repeat offenders who are emboldened and are bragging about these offences on social media. It is a scourge certainly and it needs to be stopped. One thing we have not spoken about is the other scourge in our community—that is, the scourge of extreme right-wing terrorism to the point where we now have people emboldened to kill innocent people for certain ideological beliefs. This is also emboldened by social media and elements of our community that give these people air.

This bill is the Palaszczuk government's answer to a complex and ongoing problem. I do not doubt that we will be debating this for years to come because crime never stops, but we do need to take action. We hope the bill achieves that. We are committed to ensuring that our community is safe and that serious repeat young offenders are held to account. I actually do think they should be held to account. I want to make special mention of the contributions from three of my colleagues which added a little different nuance to the debate and not so much of the argy-bargy—the member for Mansfield in her capacity as an educator, the member for Macalister in her capacity as a serving police officer and the member for Keppel with her testimonies from victims of crime in her electorate. I thank them. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (4.01 pm): I rise to give my contribution on the Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023. We are living in a Queensland right now that is the product of something that has happened over a long period of time. It did not happen overnight. The reality is we have children in this state who have been raised with very little boundaries and there is an inability for parents to control the children who live under their roofs, and carers are in very similar situations. We are also living in a Queensland where it is very difficult for schoolteachers to reprimand children without considering how they will feel after being told 'no' or being told what to do. This has slowly changed the way that children view adults—to the point now where we have children who are misbehaving and then breaking the law. The Youth Justice Act in Queensland as it is currently written is actually helping to propel this type of behaviour. Even after these amendments are put in place, I do not think there will be much of a change.

These children who have interactions with the QPS are let off with a warning. It is written in the guiding principles for the interactions between QPS and the young offenders. If they cooperate with the QPS, they are let off three, four or five times and sometimes for serious offences. When they finally make it to the courtroom in front of a magistrate, they are given a number of warnings, a number of bail opportunities and different diversionary programs they are not forced to do because of the way the Youth Justice Act is written with detention as a last resort. These children have been given no boundaries, have had interactions with the QPS, have been warned and have been told to go home—sometimes with a bag of KFC to enjoy afterwards as a 'please behave yourself tonight, Johnny'. When they finally get in front of a magistrate, the magistrate is bound by the legislation set by this House to basically put them back out on the streets. After four, five or six interactions with the magistrate in Townsville, the magistrate finally exhausts all options and sends them to Cleveland detention centre.

I can tell the House right now after speaking to those people who work behind the green fence at Cleveland that they have terrible working conditions there and they feel like they are not being listened to by the hierarchy of the detention centre. Guess what. The kids are running the detention centre. They know exactly what buttons to press and they know exactly what to say to get their way on a daily basis. The kids know the rules and regulations so well that they will fake a code pink, which is basically an attempted suicide, because they do not want to be locked down anymore and they want to go out and play basketball or do a music class with their friend after a mini riot at breakfast time. That is disgusting.

This is the state government's way of dealing with youth crime right now. It is pretty embarrassing after the momentum that has built up over the last term and following into this term. There have been so many tragedies that have happened out on our streets, and I will table these documents after I have read the headlines. It started back in Townsville years ago, but the one that really got everyone upset was the 14-year-old boy who was charged for killing four of his friends in a car accident. I saw that car crash the next morning. It was like a car had been thrown by a giant through a forest. It was in pieces everywhere. I could just imagine the carnage. It did nothing. I table that.

Jennifer Board, a young lady who grew up in the Hinchinbrook electorate in Ingham, lost her life. I table that.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Member, I am going to double-check with you. These matters will be subject to sub judice if they have not been heard through the courts.

Mr DAMETTO: I am not speaking particularly to the offences or the people offending, just the matter themselves.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me get some advice on that. The advice I would give you is to refrain from talking in any specific detail to any matter before the court. You will be liable for sub judice. I will leave it for you to determine whether they are before the court or not and the consequences of that.

Mr DAMETTO: Thank you for your guidance, Madam Deputy Speaker. I will just table the rest of the documents.

This has been on the front page of the *Townsville Bulletin* and the *Courier-Mail*. Every one of these stories is a tragic loss of life. That bundle of front pages is almost an inch high. It shows the real carnage and the cost to Queensland of allowing these kids to run riot on our streets.

The legislation before the House will go some way but it is embarrassing that this is the best this state government could come up with. There would be a lot of members in the government right now who would be very worried about their prospects in the next state election. With the amount of youth crime in Townsville, I imagine that the three local members there—the members for Thuringowa, Mundingburra and Townsville—would have been having some fairly robust discussions within the party. If this is the best the party room could come up with, I can say that when the people of Townsville vote in a year and a half, I am pretty sure two or three of those members will have their heads on the chopping block.

There are a number of things that this legislation tries to do and one of them has come under heavy criticism—that is, increasing the maximum penalty from seven years to 14 years for unlawful use of a motor vehicle. The problem is that, due to how the current Youth Justice Act is written, raising the maximum penalties will do nothing because they have not changed other parts of the legislation. Under section 176(2) of the Youth Justice Act, the maximum penalty will still be seven years imprisonment for a child who commits this type of offence, so we are doing nothing.

The KAP will introduce amendments during consideration in detail. We have been pushing the same line for as long as I have been a member of parliament in this great party. For nearly six years, relocation sentencing has been our option that we want to give to magistrates to give these children a chance to do something different during their time in imprisonment. What is going on right now is that 95 per cent of kids are reoffending in the first 12 months after they have been to Cleveland detention centre, and remember that only the worst of the worst go there.

We want to make sure these kids have an opportunity to turn their lives around because building another two detention centres will not help. The people of Townsville, Cairns, Central Queensland and Mount Isa have had enough. I have no faith at all that this legislation will send a shock wave through a generation of kids who have not been told 'no' and have been allowed to get away with things for forever and a day. It will not stop them from putting on their gloves and balaclavas at night and breaking into the next house.


I heard a member in the House yesterday talk about seeing things from a point of privilege. I think that point of privilege is very prevalent here. I do not think that the people who are making these decisions or working in the departments advising the minister actually understand how bad this is, or understand the way these kids think. They are just giving you a big finger in the air every night they jump in another car. It happened only just this week in Townsville where children in stolen vehicles are actively chasing down police cars. When I first moved to Townsville in 2005, kids were stealing cars then—in lower numbers, I will admit—but I tell you what, the kids were running out to the back of savanna and burning a car after having it for five minutes. Now they are actively chasing police cars, and police are having to retreat; there is no mechanism for them to go out there to try to stop these kids.

Another matter that has been predicated is that the state government will make breach of bail an offence under their reforms. When briefing ourselves on this bill, we understood that once the declaration is made, the definition of 'as a last resort' no longer applies to the community standards becoming of paramount consideration. What they did not tell us, though, or the public, is that they do

not want anyone to know that the courts are too scared to sentence these kids for a period of detention in the first place. Magistrates are petrified of having their sentences overturned in the courts of appeal. It is an embarrassment to a magistrate. That is why they are erring on the side of caution.

There is only a small proportion of very bad repeat offenders who are actually sentenced to a term of detention. Many of these children, when it comes to sentencing, will still be treated under the classification of a period of detention as a last resort, which means, guess what, there will be more kids back on the streets and more kids breaking into houses every night. Townsville, Cairns, Mount Isa and the rest of Queensland deserve better. The fact is Queenslanders deserve better. They deserve the security of better options being available when it comes to sentencing; that mandatory sentencing is brought in to ensure youth offenders are put behind bars and are being dealt with in a way that reforms them instead of sending them back to criminal activity.

(Time expired)

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (4.11 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Strengthening Community Safety Bill. The bill strengthens Queensland's strong youth justice laws and introduces several new measures to keep the community safe. Community safety is a key priority of the Palaszczuk government and these new laws are a critical step in the right direction. We understand the impact that youth crime is having. We understand and have seen changes in the types of offences which are being committed on a national level. We share the community's concern about this and we are taking tougher action to further protect the community. Legislative changes in this bill will target serious repeat offenders, tackle the complex causes of youth crime and invest in community safety initiatives. Queensland already has some of Australia's strongest youth justice laws, but Queenslanders have called for changes to be made to target these serious repeat offenders.

Overall numbers of unique young offenders are declining, but there is a small cohort of offenders who require stronger responses. Figures show that about 17 per cent of young offenders commit 50 per cent of all crimes. To address this we will: introduce new laws to make breach of bail conditions an offence, as for adults; strengthen conditional release orders; increase penalties for stolen vehicles; expand the number of offences with a presumption against bail; take criminal history into account during sentencing; increase penalties for criminals who boast about crimes on social media; and introduce more severe penalties for violent crimes. Youth detention capacity will be increased with two new youth detention centres being built, a new youth crime task force will also be established, and there will be more extreme high-visibility patrols.

It is also very important to prevent young people from ending up in the criminal justice system in the first place, and Queensland's Youth Justice Strategy has a range of measures focused on early intervention with initiatives that support young people at risk to remain at school, connect them with local sporting activities and support their families with relevant counselling and other support services.


This bill will invest in and expand on programs such as the Stronger Communities initiative that divert young people away from the criminal justice system, programs which will work with young people and their families by connecting them to education and support services, including mental health and drug and alcohol treatment. The expansion of dedicated youth co-responder teams will also provide rapid response for young people at risk of offending, as well as young people on bail.

More than 40,000 engagements with young people have already been completed to ensure that they are accessing the right services, and a further investment of \$4 million will be made to On Country programs that provide culture-based rehabilitation for young First Nations people with supervision by On Country elders.

I would like to thank all of the hardworking frontline police officers on the beat protecting Queensland. This bill will provide additional funding to support more police resources and high-visibility patrols. \$15 million will be provided to assist seniors in improving their home security. There will be further funding to subsidise the cost of fitting vehicle immobilisers to prevent car theft, and further funding to provide support for victims of violent property crime and increase counselling and community support services.

Keeping the community safe is one of my highest priorities and why I host my monthly Coffee with a Cop sessions at Sunnybank Hills Shoppingtown. Many different community members come along and they can chat with our police officers and also our fantastic multicultural community liaison officers. I would like to recognise the hard work of both the sworn officers and the liaison officers of Calamvale, Acacia Ridge and Mount Gravatt police stations. They do a fantastic job assisting our community, especially their crime prevention and safety unit.

This government has listened to the community and consulted with the experts. We are targeting serious repeat youth offenders, tackling the causes of youth crime and investing in community safety. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (4.15 pm): I, too, rise to speak on behalf of my community on the Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023. I would like to say at the outset that this is a bill which is really important to my communities, particularly the community of Goondiwindi which has had a really hard time with crime in the last couple of years, and it has been getting particularly bad in the last few months where we have seen a lot of criminal activity that has started to include assaults and serious assaults on individuals, and that is something which really concerns me.

Because of the number of concerned constituents and people who have simply been passing through my electorate on the way to somewhere else who have contacted me to talk about their experiences, and I have seen quite an alarming escalation in the number of people on Facebook and social media who are expressing dismay at the situation there, I wrote to the Mayor of the Goondiwindi Regional Council and my worthy predecessor, Lawrence Springborg, and suggested that perhaps I could convene a town hall meeting in Goondiwindi to enable the people of Goondiwindi to speak about their experiences, to get things off their chest, and to share their ideas and expectations as a community. His council wrote back to me and said, yes, that would be a good idea.

That is no small thing because the people of Goondiwindi are very proud—they have an excellent community; it is an outstanding town in every respect—and a small number of offenders have been making things very difficult for the community there recently. They do not want to be known as a crime hotspot. That should not define their town. Goondiwindi is not Mogadishu. At the crime forum which I convened, I heard the authentic voices of people who you may not see every day. They are not conspicuous people. They are everyday, hardworking people—the butcher, the baker, the candlestick maker, the nurse, the teacher, the accounts manager, the car salesman—all of whom were united in their concern about crime in their community. The community forum surprised me in how convivial it was. It was not full of fireworks. There were not unworldly hotheads ranting about bringing back the death penalty. What we had was people, many of whom may never have spoken at a community event before, talking about the sorts of things that have happened to them.

Mr Acting Deputy Speaker, I will say from the outset that I will do all I can to account for some of these examples in a way which will not offend the sub judice rule. I will not refer to the names of victims and I will try to express it in veiled terms so that there is no possibility there, but I will be subject to your guidance of course, sir.

Only a week or two ago there was the case of a person who was staying in temporary accommodation—they were on their way to somewhere else—and three offenders tried to steal that person's car. When that person went outside and asked them what they were doing, they rounded on him, followed him back to the place he was renting and assaulted him after breaking in. That was a serious assault and that particular person is still reeling from the consequences of that.

I have spoken to people who have had their homes invaded many times, most often because the offenders wanted to steal the keys to the cars so they could go out and joy-ride. It is no joke to say, as others before me including the member for Lockyer have said, that people should not have to hide their car keys in a different spot each night or consider hiding them in plain view so that when intruders break in they can find them straight away and not assault the occupants of the house. Those sorts of things should not be happening in Goondiwindi.

I have met business owners who have had their shops damaged in ram raids by vandals and stock stolen including quite recently. I have spoken to disabled and elderly people who are very vulnerable who quite literally are afraid in their own homes. In some cases they have very good reason to be because they have had their home invaded two or three times before. I have spoken about a number of these cases in the past. These are very concerning matters for good, law-abiding people. They are good people who live by and uphold the law of the land and do not do harm to anyone else.

When we talk about this question of youth crime in particular, there are two sides to the picture. On the one side there are the understandably complex issues which give rise to juvenile delinquency. I heard a number of speakers on both sides refer to some of those causes relating to poverty and disadvantage. Nobody denies those as being seminal causes of the kind of conduct we are seeing on the streets in some of our towns these days. I do say though that is only half of the picture. The other half is the victims and the need to prevent reoffending. It seems that in the interests of racing to understand and account for the circumstances of the perpetrators, that side has been folded back. It is

similar to the photograph on the mantelpiece, the wedding photo with the awkward gate-crashing distant relative who photobombs the shot; you fold it back, stick it in the frame and forget about it. The people will not be forgotten any longer.

In my opinion, talk about the complexity of the causes of recidivist youth crime has been used as a fig leaf to excuse repeat offenders being allowed to roam the streets night after night to commit the same offences. That is a fact. In my communities—in Goondiwindi, for example—we have had cases where juveniles who have been on bail or have actually been under supervision nominally have been able to go and assault people, steal cars, break into houses and vandalise community assets. If the government and all of us in this chamber agree that community safety is the No. 1 concern, then the only option to break the cycle of crime now so we can continue those discussions about how to address the sad causes of crime is to restrain the offenders.

This bill disappoints me in that it does not remove from the Youth Justice Act the provision that detention must be a last resort. I believe that that has led to offenders being on the streets able to continue to commit crimes and terrorise communities when they should not be. None of us—certainly not myself and I am sure nobody else in this chamber—likes to see juveniles locked up. However, it is a binary thing. You either put the rights of good, law-abiding citizens to live in peace and safety in their community ahead of the rights of juveniles to be given a second, third, fourth or 50th chance, or you do not. I am saying—and I look into the camera—to the people of Goondiwindi that I understand that and I have heard that. I heard that at the community crime forum we had on Wednesday last week.


This bill fails in three respects from my perspective. Firstly, by reintroducing breach of bail, the government has ostensibly done what is required. However, by leaving the requirement that custody be a last resort in dealing with youth offenders it really leaves the status quo. There are no consequences which will restrain repeat offenders from continuing to offend. The provisions regarding the declaration of serious repeat offender status, clause 21 of the bill, really make this bill a toothless tiger. It states—

- the court is sentencing the child in relation to a prescribed indictable offence;
- the child has previously been sentenced on at least one occasion to a detention order for a prescribed indictable offence;

Those points spell doom for the usefulness of this particular bill. Those who have been on the streets long enough to accumulate 50, 70, or 100 charges before they are incarcerated are still going to be committing those offences before they reach the point where they will be detained for an indictable offence.

Lastly, I was sceptical about the value of the provision relating to increasing maximum sentences, because I do not think it would be likely that offenders would be given higher sentences than they are currently regardless of what the ceiling is. Now we find out that the promised increase in maximum sentences does not actually apply to juveniles at this stage. I do not know whether that is an omission and the government will subsequently introduce an amendment to deal with that or not. It just shows that this bill has been crafted in order to give the appearance of listening to the community and doing something about youth crime but it is still welded to the idea that we have to somehow balance the rights of victims and offenders. There is no balancing here; victims and potential victims come first. Offenders must suffer the consequences and be restrained from continuing to offend.

I thank the people of my electorate and Goondiwindi for their engagement with me. I would like to thank Senior Sergeant Richard McIntosh for his excellent assistance at the crime forum as well as the Goondiwindi Regional Council and Councillor Lawrence Springborg for their long advocacy on this matter.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (4.25 pm): I rise to support the bill. I want to make a few early remarks and to say that I am sure everyone in this House is concerned about the amount of crime out in the community. Unfortunately, it is not just a Queensland phenomenon; it is happening all over Australia. Post COVID a lot of issues have emerged that we never saw pre COVID. To an extent we have always had a certain amount of crime and governments have tried to manage it. Post COVID there have been unprecedented issues whether they be economic issues or relating to the availability of materials. An incredible number of post COVID issues have emerged. This is one of those issues that everybody is concerned about.

As the Premier said, we have listened to the community and this legislation is all about putting community safety first. I believe that the swag of changes in this bill deal with what everyone has said is a very complex issue. There is not only one solution to this issue and no-one should come into this

House and argue otherwise. We are hearing from the other side that the solution is to do with detention as a last resort and that is going to solve all the problems. I remind those opposite that detention as a last resort also applies to adult crime; it is currently in the adult Criminal Code. So they want to take it out for young people but leave it in for adults. Do they for one second suggest in this House that adults not be treated in the same manner by the courts for a particular crime because the UN lists detention as a last resort? That is laughable. At the moment that is all they are hanging their hat on.

Now they have moved on to this provision which used to be the 'Mickey Mouse' breach of bail provision. Can I say for the first time this century we will be introducing breach of bail as an offence, the same as applies for adults. That is for the first time this century. It is a completely different thing to what they were arguing for previously. When Labor does it, we do it the right way. When they do it, it is nothing but stunts. We saw stunt after stunt. That is all it is. Only Labor can deliver what needs to be done to address the issues that the community is facing.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Order, members. I will wait for silence.

Ms GRACE: They do not like it when they hear the truth.

Opposition members interjected.


Ms GRACE: Look at them all squirming in their seats. They all get up and, like broken records, say the same rubbish over and over again.

When it is called out, they do not like it. I and others in this place will call it out. It is nothing more than a stunt. You remove detention as a last resort for youth but you do not remove it for adults? What nonsense! It is absolute nonsense. The breach of bail that we have is not the Mickey Mouse scheme that they tried to con Queenslanders with.

I commend the Economics and Governance Committee, under the chairmanship of the member for Logan, which did an excellent job on what is a complex issue. This bill aims to address serious repeat offenders. It looks at the issues of strengthening conditions of release and new declarations for serious repeat offenders. There are a number of elements in this bill that will give tools to the courts. More importantly, we are tackling this complex issue by expanding intensive case management and allocating \$100 million of additional funds to assist the community to assist these young people.

As the Minister for Education, I am proud that we have a number of those programs in our schools at the moment such as wellbeing packages and disability resourcing models. We have other initiatives such as the Education Justice Initiative, 11 court liaison officers, our flexi spaces, our Link and Launch and our \$11 million Regional Youth Engagement Service. Our Queensland Pathways State College, with its six campuses in Mount Gravatt, Goodna, Coorparoo, Bundamba, Bracken Ridge and Townsville, is doing excellent work. In the early years, we are investing \$1 billion to get kids into kindy early so that we can give them the best start in life.

It was great to be in Townsville to see the Indigenous programs run in Kirwan State High School and in Townsville State High School. I thank Uncle Les Tanner and Aunty Rothana Baira, who have done an excellent job with their First Nations indigenous culture program. There are young offenders there dancing their hearts out and engaging in education. They are the programs that we will be supporting. With those few words, I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (4.32 pm): I will begin my contribution on the so-called Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023 by calling that title precisely what it is: a misnomer at best and more like a bald-faced lie. Every expert, community service provider and person involved in youth justice who made a submission opposed this bill on the basis that it will lead to more crime—

Mrs GERBER: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am drawing your attention to the member for Maiwar's unparliamentary language. I ask him to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): I have been informed by the Clerk that you have used unparliamentary language. I ask you to withdraw and refrain from using that language in the future.

Mr BERKMAN: I withdraw. All of the people who made submissions on the bill—everyone with useful expertise—made it clear that they opposed it because it will lead to more crime and it is more expensive and harmful than the alternatives that would actually work. The government rushed this bill through the committee inquiry process, allowing just 2½ days for submissions, because they know it does not stand up to scrutiny. It is a baseless, media-driven response that suspends the Human Rights Act on four occasions to deny children their rights, including to the right to criminal proceedings that are age-appropriate and that promote rehabilitation.

It is worth noting that even the government's response to the global COVID-19 pandemic did not require the suspension of the Human Rights Act. The government justifies this on the basis that the bill addresses an urgent so-called 'youth crime crisis', but the evidence does not back this up. The submission from the Queensland Youth Policy Collective points out that the government has misinterpreted data from the Childrens Court annual report. The data indicates that the children in the 'serious repeat offender' category, who this bill purports to target, committed fewer offences than in previous years. It also shows that the vast majority of offences committed by children were minor offences.

While reported offences across all ages has trended up slightly over the last few years—not taking into account population growth, mind you—the proportion of offences committed by children has actually fallen. Why do we have a bill urgently targeting 'serious repeat offender' children? We do know that children are more likely to offend in groups, close to home and in visible public spaces. Let's face it: visible offending makes a better media story, a better beat-up.

I absolutely acknowledge that the statistics are little consolation to those who have been traumatised, frightened, injured or otherwise affected by crime. There is no doubt that the majority of people in the community want effective action, and rightly so, but this bill is not effective action. The government has acknowledged that there are other ways to improve community safety that would be less restrictive of human rights. As the Human Rights Commission pointed out in its submission, 'it may be that those options are in fact the only way to achieve the purpose of the bill'.

The government agrees that the bill will lead to more children being incarcerated, and that is really the entire point. In fact, they seem pretty proud of it. Youth prisons are already overcrowded, mostly with children who have not even been sentenced yet. Kids are regularly being locked up in their cells for 23 hours a day or held in adult police watch houses—sometimes for weeks on end. Today the ABC was reporting that a 13-year-old Aboriginal boy was confined to his cell for 14 days straight last October and 22 days in February. He was only allowed out of his cell on five occasions during the intervening 36-day period. He spent 60 days in custody, including six days in adult watch houses in Mareeba and Cairns. All of this was inflicted on a child who was on remand and ultimately released on probation.

The committee in its inquiry on this bill heard of similarly shocking conduct in Queensland watch houses. One submission detailed adult detainees exposing themselves to children detained in watch houses, children being deprived of clothing and underwear, illegal strip searches, young girls being detained in cells with adult men, and young detainees being assaulted by individuals or groups of detainees. Rather than shining some light on this submission, the committee instead chose to bury it. I now table a copy of that submission so that it is at least on the record in this debate.

We are talking about children as young as 10 being exposed to these conditions, because the government still refuses to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 14, in accordance with UN standards. The government has an answer to this, though: it is simply going to build more youth prisons. The reason youth prisons are overcrowded is that two years ago this government introduced new laws that lock more children up. Spoiler alert: it did not work!

Countless submissions on the bill pointed out that incarceration is criminogenic. The Australian Lawyers Alliance says that it affects a child's development and reintegration in society, which increases reoffending and entrenches them in the criminal legal system. We know that already. The Caxton Legal Centre says—

Imprisonment is a cycle and needs circuit breakers. Increased exposure to imprisonment is not a circuit breaker.

We know that already, too. Look at our own experience in Queensland. We imprison more children than any other Australian state, and where is it getting us? If incarceration works, why does Queensland have a so-called youth crime crisis? Why are approximately 90 per cent of children released from detention alleged to reoffend within 12 months? The reason is that we have not addressed the underlying issues. In fact, this government has made them worse.

I focus a lot on the factors contributing to young people's involvement in the criminal legal system including disengagement from school, exposure to abuse, neurological impairment, problematic substance use, homelessness and inadequate sleep or nutrition. I do not raise these issues to discount the consequences of their actions but because we need to figure out what needs to change in order to stop it happening again. We need an alternative youth justice model of prevention, early intervention and diversion with therapeutic wraparound services for those tiny number of children who continue to display seriously harmful behaviours.


Prevention includes capping rents and building more public housing, growing our public health system, fully funding state schools and expanding free meals programs to give children an incentive to come to school and get those things that might be missing in their home lives. Early intervention includes neurocognitive testing in schools and diversion to therapeutic programs before a child is charged. Diversion includes more funding for First Nations and community-led programs that operate after-hours especially, money for AOD and mental health care and disability support.

How could we afford more of all of these programs, you ask? Let us not waste the money on more new prisons. It costs around \$1,879.90 per day to keep one child in prison in Queensland, and that is excluding the capital costs of building the new prisons in the first place like this government proposes to do twice over now. The government is suspending children's human rights so that it can introduce an even worse version of the LNP's breach of bail policy with this bill. The government is making it a criminal offence for children to breach technical bail conditions like meeting an appointment or a curfew or staying at a particular address. A child whose home is unsafe or violent could be criminalised for leaving. A child who does not make an appointment could be sent back to the watch house. Where is the evidence that this will improve community safety? There is none. The government is also suspending the Human Rights Act to allow a court to declare a child a serious repeat offender. The QLS emphatically opposes this in its submission. It requires the court to determine what a child is likely to do in the future and punish them on that basis. Not only does it breach the Human Rights Act but fundamental legal principles that someone should not be punished for potential future crimes.

The government is also suspending children's human rights to send them straight to prison if they breach any of their conditions while on a community supervision order, which now lasts for up to six months rather than three. One of the fundamental principles of international human rights is that imprisonment should be reserved as a last resort, especially for children. Of course, the LNP is trying to scrap that principle entirely now that Labor has taken away its primary cudgel of breach of bail. But Labor is already chipping away at this principle with these changes to community supervision orders and it undermines it again by expanding the application of the presumption against bail to include burglary and riding as a passenger in a stolen vehicle. Let us just think about that 11-year-old kid who is sitting in the passenger seat when their sibling steals a vehicle. There is now an assumption that that child should be locked up. Again, it is undermined by removing the requirement for police to consider alternatives to arrest if they reasonably suspect a child on bail for a prescribed indictable offence or DV offence has contravened or is contravening a bail condition.

I am at a loss to understand how the government could extend or expand the use of GPS trackers that have already been shown to be ineffective, racist and stigmatising and a waste of money. There is no evidence to expand that failed program. The Caxton Legal Centre and the QLS also point out that increased sentences for theft of a vehicle are wildly out of proportion to the actual damage caused. For example, the penalty for stealing a vehicle at night or with friends or posting about it online will now exceed penalties for unlawful wounding or most sexual assaults. They will not act as a deterrent. These penalties will not deter young children because their brains are not fully developed and they have limited capacity to understand consequences. They act primarily on impulse and opportunity, not on carefully weighed decisions. Even if you only care about community safety and do not give a damn about these kids, you know that this bill will increase offending. Queensland already locks up more kids than any other state. This is a disgraceful piece of legislation and I hope each and every one of these members of the government feel ashamed when they sit there and vote for it.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (4.42 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Strengthening Community Safety Bill and in doing so want to reflect on the member for Maiwar's comments. It is all very well and good for the member for Maiwar and the Greens to go out there and talk down what this government is trying to do.

Mr Berkman: It's the Greens talking it down? Did you read the submissions?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order!

Mrs D'ATH: What the Greens should have been doing over the last few years that we have been in government is backing in—

Mr Berkman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mrs D'ATH:—what we are trying to do, which is to try to find balance in such complex situations. We do need to make sure that the community is safe and that it feels safe. First and foremost the community must feel safe. We do not want elderly people feeling like they need to lock themselves in their homes to feel safe.

Mr Berkman: But you're going to criminalise more kids.

Mrs D'ATH: We also need to—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maiwar, your interjections are not being taken. Could you cease your interjections, please.

Mrs D'ATH: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. We also need to make sure that we are doing what we can to deal with those who are committing the most serious offences and who are committing 50 per cent of the crimes which only makes up 17 per cent of those young offenders. That is why these laws have been specifically targeted towards those serious repeat offenders to try to change the direction in which their future is heading. For the Greens to take their position ignores all of the investment this government has made and continues to make to try to change the direction of these young kids' lives going forward. What is really important is not just the time they spend in detention but what we do to support them through the process while they are in detention and those wrap around supports as they leave detention as well. That is what we need to be doing. That is what this government is doing—investing in those diversionary programs and those supports.

Mr Berkman: While proudly locking up more children!

Mrs D'ATH: It was the Palaszczuk government—

Mr Berkman: Proudly!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maiwar, you are warned under the standing orders. Your interjections are not being taken. I asked you to cease them. You are now warned under the standing orders.

Mr POWER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I think your restraint is really admirable and you could continue to do it, but he clearly wants to get kicked out—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, please resume your seat.

Mr POWER:—and I think that is disappointing.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members on my left. Member for Logan, you are now warned under the standing orders.

Mrs D'ATH: I did take personal offence to the comments that the member for Maiwar made and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maiwar, the member for Redcliffe has taken personal offence at the comments that you made and I ask that you withdraw.

Mrs D'Ath: He's ignored the ruling, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maiwar—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maiwar—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. You have been asked to withdraw comments, not withdraw from the chamber.

Mr Berkman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maiwar—

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maiwar, I ask you to withdraw from the chamber under standing order 253A for an hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Maiwar withdrew from the chamber at 4.46 pm.


Mrs D'ATH: The point I was making before I was interrupted by the member for Maiwar is the fact that we need to put strong laws in place and we need a clear message to the community that there are consequences to offenders' behaviour, but we also need to be investing in community programs and diverting young people away from crime, and that includes these serious offenders. We know that this particular cohort are coming from very complex home lives and circumstances. Many of them have

been exposed to addiction, to violence, to sexual assault, to domestic and family violence and we need to be looking at all of these issues to support these young people away from crime. That is why I am very proud that as the health minister we are investing in a whole lot of programs, not just through the court process but through our Better Care Together programs, expanding community based treatment services like the Assertive Mobile Youth Outreach Services, establishing new early psychosis services and acute crisis response teams and providing specialist clinical and liaison in-reach services to new and existing Headspace centres across Queensland in partnership with the Commonwealth government. We are also investing \$16.4 million to expand our existing forensic mental health services and youth services and investing \$1.76 million in Project Solus, which is 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.

These are just some of the initiatives that we are investing in to try to change the path which these young people are on. I do want to acknowledge the great work that our Queensland Police Service does and the investment that we are seeing in my local community with the mobile police beats, the CCTV cameras, the hooning measures and also the great work that they do at our PCYC with Project Booyah. I want to acknowledge our youth justice workers and the work that they do, particularly on the Transition 2 Success program. That is seeing success. That is seeing kids diverted away from crime.

That is in contrast to when the LNP was in government and introduced their boot camps. Kids were reoffending and going back into those boot camps multiple times. Millions of dollars were wasted on not reducing crime. In fact, the reoffending rate was extremely high. While I acknowledge our police, our youth justice workers and our child safety workers, I also acknowledge great organisations like the Redcliffe Area Youth Space and Chameleon Youth Housing which work with these complex youths each and every day. They support them to get an education, get into employment, get into housing and on a much better path. I acknowledge the work we are doing in investing in community safety, around more resources to help seniors secure their homes, subsidising vehicle immobilisers to help prevent car theft and, of course, increasing assistance for victims of crime. These are important initiatives which I do not think should be overlooked when we talk about what we are trying to do with this bill and these new offences and sentencing options in this legislation.

I oppose the removal of detention as a last resort. It is an overreach, as it was when the opposition was in government. In relation to the offence they call breach of bail, they are misleading the public. For years and years they went out there and said, 'We will bring back breach of bail', but they never implemented breach of bail as an offence. They had an offence for an offence. You had to commit an offence, be charged with that offence and then you were committing an offence for committing that offence. It is contrary to double jeopardy laws. The courts were scathing about that offence. The former attorney-general was good at bringing in bad law that the courts were critical of, that did not work and deliver the outcomes that they claimed. We are bringing in the accurate breach of bail offence that applies to adults. It will apply to young people. We are doing it the right way. We are doing it in a considered way. We understand the complexity. We are delivering it in a balanced way to make sure we have those tough laws but at the same time we are putting in place the measures, the programs, the funding and the resources to divert these people and put them on a better path. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (4.51 pm): I rise to make my contribution to this debate. I want to start with a few quotes. The first one is from our now Premier, the member for Inala at the time, back in 2009. She quotes a former member of this House, Mike Horan, who said—

... those people who commit such crimes should be held accountable and face punishment that is deserving of the crime they have committed, regardless of the age of the offender.

What the Premier said when quoting him was—

This is where the opposition starts to get into trouble from the word go.

We can only assume that she has a different view: that offenders should not be held to account. In 2016 the former attorney-general said—

I rise tonight to take the final steps in the long process of restoring and strengthening the Queensland youth justice system after it was seriously and shamelessly attacked by the previous government.

At the time there was a lot of discussion about evidence that would lead to outcomes. I want to give members some evidence. In 2012 the number of offences of unlawful entry in Toowoomba was 1,053. A few short years later, in 2015 under the LNP, it had reduced by 30 per cent and was down to 736. In

2022 it rose to 1,821, a 147 per cent increase and two and a half times what it was when the LNP left government. It would appear that the evidence that we were looking for was misguided at best. But it does not stop there. Let us go to unlawful use of a motor vehicle. In 2012 when the LNP came to office the number of offences of unlawful use of a motor vehicle in Toowoomba was 203. We got that down by eight per cent. In 2022 it was 730, up 292 per cent—a nearly four times increase.

The impact of that is great and I will come to that in a minute, but I will bring to the attention of the House the last one which is assault. In 2012 the number of assault offences was 503. It went down to 473, down six per cent, under the LNP. Apparently the reforms that were not working drove all three of these measures down. It is now up to 1,160, up 145 per cent, or two times more. The outcome of that is we are now at 2,300 victims. That is a massive increase in the victims in my community from this dabbling in the so-called evidence-based outcomes of the youth justice system.

The simple facts are that the evidence shows that everything this government has done has led to more victims in my community, more crime, increasing the cost of living and increasing insurance. When I ran pubs I knew a couple of people who used to fix my broken windows. They are now driving some of the nicest cars you have ever seen because they have been making a packet of money fitting security screens and doors all over town, as everybody else who is grappling with the cost of living is having to put Amplimesh and Crimsafe, CCTV and extra lights up just to feel safe.

I want people to think about the 2,300 victims—that is the evidence that now exists in Toowoomba—because of this government's failed youth justice laws and the unwinding of ours. To reiterate: unlawful entry went down 30 per cent under the LNP; unlawful use of a motor vehicle went down eight per cent under the LNP; and assault went down six per cent under the LNP. That is the hard evidence recorded on the government's own data. Since that time, under the ALP we have seen a 147 per cent increase in unlawful entry; a 292 per cent increase in unlawful use of a motor vehicle and a 145 per cent increase in assault. If that is not evidence that what was introduced by this government and has been dabbled with and played around with by this government has not worked in any way, shape or form then I do not know what other evidence the academics and other people can put forward. Clearly, what the LNP did worked because it drove crime down. Clearly, what Labor has done has not worked because it drove crime up. They are the facts.

Last year in a question on notice to the minister for youth justice I asked about some of the programs that were being introduced, such as restorative justice, youth justice orders and bail for young people who completed conditional bail programs. Just so members know, in 2020 the conditional bail program had a 100 per cent failure rate. In 2021 it had a 100 per cent failure rate. This government likes to come in and lecture everybody about how they will fix everything and the policies they have will make it all better and if we do this and we do that we can help these young people. Who they are not helping are the victims who are prisoners in their own homes. Not only are they prisoners in their own homes, they are spending money on locking themselves in. They are having to put up protective screens, install electronic surveillance and lighting and sleep with items for protection by their bed. They are not sure whether they should leave the keys out so they just get the car stolen and have to pay more in insurance and go through months and months of what it is like not to have the vehicle.

I have one statement from an elderly lady who retired and moved up to Toowoomba. She has asked me if she can get the stamp duty back on her house. She has only been there for a year or so and she does not want to have to pay the stamp duty to sell her house and move out of town. She has had seven attempted burglaries. She has spent thousands of dollars trying to secure her premise and she does not feel safe to the point where she is leaving town. All she is asking is can the government exempt her from the stamp duty on the house because she does not think it is fair she has been driven out of town by criminals. The lack of action from the Labor Party has led to that outcome and she should not have to foot the bill and give the Labor Party additional tax income for leaving her home.

The problem is that Labor has constantly viewed this as a political problem. It is a political problem to them. The reason we now face breach of bail is very simple: they would have done some polling in their marginal seats, probably a couple of seats up in Townsville, and they would have said, 'Holy smokes! The people of Queensland are very concerned about us with this revolving door of justice and the fact that everybody keeps getting let back out and some people have offended and offended and offended and offended.'

Debate, on motion of Mr Watts, adjourned.

MOTION

Gabba Redevelopment



Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (5.00 pm): I move—

That this House:

- (a) notes that the Gabba redevelopment cost has blown out from \$1 billion to \$2.7 billion;
- (b) notes the statement by the Auditor-General, Mr Worrall, to the State Development and Regional Industries Committee on 13 March 2023 that he doesn't 'think there ever was a business case supporting the billion dollars. I think you'll find the source of that was from a press release.';
- (c) calls on the government to release the results of all business cases, studies, reviews, assessments or similar work relating to the cost of any redevelopment of the Gabba; and
- (d) calls on the government to table these documents no later than 5 pm on Thursday, 30 March 2023.

Of course, tonight we are talking about and debating Olympic and Paralympic infrastructure in the state of Queensland that, as we know, has already had blowouts before it is even planned, evaluated or delivered. It is typical of the Labor Party. A year and a half ago they announced that the original development plan for the Gabba would cost \$1 billion and already we have seen a 170 per cent blowout, that is, before Queenslanders have seen a shovel in the ground or anything. Is it any wonder that in the committee meeting, when asked by our hardworking members such as the member for Burleigh, the Auditor-General said that all he could find for the source of the information for a business case was a press release issued by the government? That makes you wonder: what on earth was the planning and preparation that the Palaszczuk Labor government did with respect to the original Gabba development plan that was to cost \$1 billion? Where did they get the \$1 billion figure from? What plans did they do? What did they draw up? It appears there was nothing because the Auditor-General did not even know about it.

If the Auditor-General were going to undertake a financial inquiry with respect to the Gabba redevelopment, I would say to him, 'Don't worry, Auditor-General, if there's no business case. I have the answer.' It is the envelope that Premier Palaszczuk wrote on when she—

Mr SPEAKER: Member, are you tabling that as an official document or are you putting it down?

Mr BLEIJIE: I will be tabling it, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: You will stop waving it around.

Mr BLEIJIE: Let us look at this document on which the Palaszczuk government planned the Gabba development. On the back of this envelope it says, 'Labor Priority' and 'Red Carpet!' That is their No. 1 priority for the Gabba redevelopment. On the left-hand side of this envelope it has '\$1B' crossed out, '\$2B' crossed out, '\$2.7'—maybe? No, cross that out. What else do we have? '\$1.5'—no, cross that out. '\$5B'—maybe? Cross that out. There is also a big question mark. I table a copy of that. That is how the Labor Party has planned the Olympic infrastructure, on the back of an envelope. I am happy to forward that to the Auditor-General.

Tabled paper: Envelope, undated, titled 'Gabba: Labor Priority: Red carpet' [\[308\]](#).

We know that the Premier has made the Olympics all about herself. It is like she has stolen the Olympics from the people of Queensland. I can assure members that that is not how treasurers used to do budgets, particularly the member for Mulgrave. I know that he never did a budget on the back of an envelope, but this new Treasurer does.

As the government plans the Olympics we know that it is the arrogance of this Premier that means it will now all be in-house. She cannot let go of control and power when it comes to the Olympics. It is like she has stolen the Olympics from the Queensland public so that she can have it all in-house. This Premier is the modern-day equivalent of Lucius Tarquinius Superbus, the last king of Rome. What was he known for? As his name suggests in Latin, he was known for arrogance and being lofty. We know that the Premier wants to stay in the job and open the Olympics in 2032. While she will not, I ask members to imagine the new Gabba colosseum and out comes 'Empress Palaszczuk' on a chariot that is pulled not by horses but by four backbenchers.


Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Kawana is not using members' proper titles. I ask that he be reminded of the requirement to do so.

Mr SPEAKER: There is a very good point being made. There is an office holding and I ask that you use that, member for Kawana.

Mr BLEIJIE: Out comes Premier Palaszczuk, on a chariot that is being pulled by a few Labor Party backbenchers. She is waving to the crowds—the colosseum has only 8,000 additional seats, I might add, for a \$2.7 billion cost. She would be like Caesar, giving the thumbs up or down depending on whether or not she likes the performance or the athletes. That is how silly this proposal from the government is in terms of blowouts.

They say that they are doing it all as normal. That is absolutely right. The Labor Party cannot project manage anything on time and on budget. Everything they touch blows out. If they amend this motion it will show how arrogant they are and that the parliament is not holding the Premier to account, as she promised yesterday.

(Time expired)

 **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) (5.05 pm): I move—

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

'will provide a world-class stadium for the people of Queensland and visitors for the games and the future;

- (b) notes that the 2018 Stadiums Taskforce Report labelled the Gabba a "tired" venue that would require major upgrades by 2030;
- (c) notes that the redevelopment will include extra seats, improved accessibility for patrons and dedicated change rooms for female athletes;
- (d) notes that an expanded PDA will increase opportunities for social and affordable housing, high-quality public transport and employment opportunities within the Gabba and South Bank precincts;
- (e) notes that a business plan was submitted to the International Olympic Committee as part of the normal requirements for a games bid;
- (f) notes that a Brisbane 2032 Coordination Office will be established, which has a shared governance model integrating all three levels of government and OCOG and will have appropriate reporting arrangements;
- (g) notes that under the former Morrison LNP government the Gabba would not have been owned by Queenslanders and could have been sold off;
- (h) notes that the Queensland LNP opposition has a hit list of projects they want to slash, which would see LNP want to cut, sack and sell in Queensland again; and
- (i) notes that the Auditor-General in a recent public parliamentary committee hearing stated "there's definitely issues impacting on infrastructure not just in Queensland, but certainly in Australia"; and
- (j) calls on all members of parliament to back the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Before I begin my contribution on the amended motion, I will correct the record in relation to some of the claims being made by the opposition. First of all, the Gabba proposal included in the original host questionnaire was developed by world-renowned Queensland architecture firm Populous. They provided the plans and the budgeting that were included in the host questionnaire. That business plan was presented to the IOC. As with all venues in the host questionnaire, it was costed in 2020 dollars. There was always going to be cost escalation.

Opposition members interjected.

Dr MILES: Wait—we have noted inflation and increases in building costs. I have heard the opposition Treasury spokesperson ask: if billing costs have only gone up 40 per cent then why is it more than that? That was 40 per cent in one year. The venue will be built in 2026-29, which is more than one year away. I would have thought that even the opposition Treasury spokesperson could tell that nine is more than one. These revised costings consider the fact that the venues will be built in the years in which they will be built. The infrastructure we will deliver in the lead-up to Brisbane 2032 will reshape our city, our region and the entire state over the next decade and beyond.

Hosting the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. It will deliver \$8.1 billion in economic and social benefits to Queensland and create 91,600 jobs. Over the next decade—

Dr MacMahon interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for South Brisbane will cease her interjections.

Dr MacMahon interjected.

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

Dr MILES: Over the next decade we have the opportunity to accelerate the housing, transport and community infrastructure our growing population needs. Just like the Commonwealth Games and Expo 88, Brisbane 2032 will change Queensland for the better forever. Just as Queenslanders

remember Expo 88 fondly, future generations will remember the year 2032. In saying that they will not fund the true cost of the Gabba when it will be built between 2026 and 2029, those opposite are saying that they will cut it. They say they support the Olympics, but they do not support building the Olympic stadium. They need to explain how and where they will cut these billions of dollars.

Mr JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (5.10 pm): I do love Greens v Labor in the House. I do not want to distract from my contribution, but there are a couple of matters from the Deputy Premier that have to be corrected. In terms of the Deputy Premier's media release today, I cannot recall a more offensive abuse of the office the Deputy Premier holds. It was an absolute fabrication of what has actually been said and committed to by our side of the House. The Deputy Premier demeans the office he holds. He talks about the media stunts of magistrates. I cannot imagine a worse media stunt from this Deputy Premier than what we have seen today. It is rich for him to talk about the media stunts of magistrates after what we have seen here today. The Deputy Premier demeans the office he holds. My speech will be in contrast to the deputy leader's contribution, you will be shocked to know, Mr Speaker. I want to talk a little bit—

Mr Hinchliffe interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: No ancient Rome references from me!

An opposition member interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: I could come up with a Harry Styles reference after the watermelon battle we just saw on display! I want to focus a little bit on the wasteful spending we have seen on the Gabba—from \$1 billion to \$2.7 billion—and what it actually means. As shadow Treasurer I think it means four things: more debt and interest costs; fewer services; higher taxes; and a lower standard of living. Let me run through these quickly. Firstly, there will be more debt and interest costs. Debt is already headed towards \$129 billion. I do not think anyone knows what we have to show for it. Interest costs across the forwards are going from \$3 billion to \$5 billion—and that is before we have even built anything yet! I am interested to see what those interest costs will be in the budget this year and what we could be building with that money.

Secondly, there will be fewer services. Question time really irritated me today. The responses from the Palaszczuk government often do irritate us. Maternity services were on the agenda today. We could have more services if those opposite could spend money properly. Imagine having an electorate the size of Tasmania where every woman has to go to another electorate to give birth. The education minister was talking about us closing schools. The Labor government sold seven schools a year for 20 years. Labor sold and closed down my primary school. They closed primary school after primary school.

Thirdly, there will be more taxes. We know about the Treasurer's broken promises, but I might leave the Treasurer alone a bit tonight. I want to talk about his mate down the road in Logan—his 'slogan from Logan' buddy. The federal Treasurer ticked off remaking capitalism over summer—tick, done. Then he went to super. Since we last sat he has gone after the family home. He is talking about capital gains on a principal place of residence. Labor are addicted to taxes. We heard their slogans again during question time this morning: good jobs. Do the elitists in the Labor government think there are two kinds of jobs: good jobs and bad jobs? Is that what the elitists over there think? On this side of the House we think every job has value. We think every job has to be treasured. For the slogans from Logan, it is time to jump off.

Finally, there will be lower standards of living. Wasteful spending means lower standards of living. We have seen that with the cost of living, whether it be power prices, electricity prices or water prices. We on this side of the House asked a range of questions today. We know that arrears are ticking up. The APRA results came out yesterday for arrears. They are ticking up. There is more and more pressure coming upon households. I am glad that the member for Sandgate is on the speaking list tonight in light of his little Freudian slip this morning: \$5 million versus \$5 billion. Really? Seriously, what is a couple of billion between comrades?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. I do not want to interrupt your flow, member for Toowoomba South, but I have made myself clear in terms of people having slips of the tongue or mispronunciations in this place which were not actually of great significance. I would ask that that is taken into consideration in your contribution.

Mr JANETZKI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. There has never been a budget the Palaszczuk Labor government could not blow, there has never been a project that they could not mismanage and there has never been an announcement that they would not make again and again and again. It is the people of Queensland who pay for all of it.

Ms Richards interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Redlands is warned under the standing orders. I call the member for South Brisbane.

Dr MacMAHON (South Brisbane—Grn) (5.16 pm): I do not really have words strong enough without being unparliamentary to express how angry my community feels about the Gabba redevelopment. This government is literally planning on building what will be one of the most expensive sports arenas in the world at a sickening \$2.7 billion. In the process, it plans to close an active and growing state primary school. East Brisbane State School is 124 years old. They are nearly a class bigger than—

Mr BAILEY: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. I am just inquiring whether the member for South Brisbane got the call there.

Mr SPEAKER: She got the call because she rose to her feet and sought the call. That is the process in this place. Speaking lists are a guide only, members. Member for South Brisbane, you have the call.

Dr MacMAHON: East Brisbane State School is 124 years old. They are nearly a class bigger than they were this time last year. They host kids from refugee families. They have built a community that is strong and connected, and they remain committed to fighting what is being forced on them by this government that does not care about them. The Gabba redevelopment will also require the clearing of Raymond Park and family homes for a warm-up track. We will lose a park, old trees, a community garden, the Kangaroo Point Rovers Soccer Club, a dog park, playgrounds and exercise equipment. Residents have been deceived and now face being the first residents forcibly displaced for the Brisbane Olympic Games.

Displacement is a regular trend in Olympic host cities. Between the 1980s and the 2010s, summer Olympic related developments displaced more than two million people. Brisbane continues that proud tradition. The Gabba could easily be brought up to excellent modern standards for a fraction of the \$2.7 billion price tag without the need to close a school or clear a park and family homes. It could be brought up to the standards deserved for people with disabilities and women athletes without being razed to the ground and rebuilt. The Gabba could host the opening ceremony and athletics could be held at a more appropriate and affordable location such as QSAC or at Carrara. In fact, this is exactly what the IOC recommended: host the athletics at Carrara.

The secrecy from this government is chilling. Key parts of the Olympic Host City Contract have not been made public. The Premier could not even answer my questions about the contract a few weeks ago. Clearly, she is not across her portfolio. Key documents between the local organising committee and the AOC and the IOC are shielded from right-to-information requests. The promised independent infrastructure authority is being absorbed within the bowels of the Premier's and Deputy Premier's departments and away from the transparency it deserves. When the Deputy Premier described these new arrangements in parliament earlier this week, he said that a key issue going for them was that Deloitte thinks it is a good idea. I am very curious about the role of Deloitte and other overpaid private consultants in managing the games going forward.

Every Queensland community should be thinking: is my school or home on the chopping block? Which of my essential services are going to go underfunded while billions and billions are thrown at the Olympics and the Gabba? How many families will go without public housing? How many women will go without access to a maternity unit?

I am not sure that anyone in here—not the government nor the opposition—has actually looked at the evidence base behind the Olympic Games. The promised economic benefits are not backed up by evidence. The promised tourism benefits are not backed up by evidence. The idea that the Olympics gets everyday people involved in sport is not backed up by evidence.

Do members know what is backed up by evidence? The Olympic Games, without exception, run over budget by, on average, 172 per cent. The summer Olympic Games run over budget by, on average, 213 per cent. Where is that money coming from? What essential services are going to be defunded so we can throw money into the black hole that is the Gabba and the Olympics?


Research by our federal government said—

... there remains considerable uncertainty as to whether the benefits of the Brisbane Olympic in 2032 will outweigh the costs to the community. Given the substantial costs involved, prospective host governments should ensure a rigorous and critical assessment of costs, benefits and risks before committing to hosting the Olympic Games.

Where is this rigorous and critical assessment here in Brisbane? Economists Baade and Matheson write—

The overwhelming conclusion is that in most cases the Olympics are a money-losing proposition for host cities.

This is what we have signed up to. If the opposition are serious about this motion today, they need to come out and say that they do not support the Gabba project, they do not support closing a school and they do not support bulldozing a park and family homes. They need to say the same to their mates in the Brisbane City Council. They need to withdraw their support and put Queensland kids first.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (5.21 pm): I rise to speak in support of the amendment moved by the Deputy Premier. If the member for South Brisbane does not want investment in her electorate, I know the people in my electorate would like it, as would be the case for the electorate of any other member here.

I am excited about the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games because it will be a game changer—

Dr MacMahon interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry to interrupt you, member for Macalister. Member for South Brisbane, you know the rules. You have been warned under the standing orders. You are interjecting. You can leave the chamber for one hour. It does not matter whether it is question time, debate on a bill or debate of a motion, the standing rules and orders apply.

Whereupon the honourable member for South Brisbane withdrew from the chamber at 5.22 pm.

Mrs McMAHON: This will be a renaissance of Olympic proportions for Queensland. Not since the Commonwealth Games of 1982 and Expo 88 will an event transform Queensland. This will likely leave a legacy larger than both of those combined.

In 1982 we got to show off our backyard, our climate and our athletes. In 1988 we got to show off our lifestyle and our innovation. What I will be most proud of when we have the Olympic flame lit in 2032 will be showing off the most inclusive games in history—such a long way from those first Olympics some 2,800 years earlier with male only competitors and spectators.

I am excited for what 2032 will bring to Queensland. I am excited for my community. But there is a cohort in my community whom I am most excited for. That is our junior female athletes and our differently-abled athletes.

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs McMAHON: I know those on the other side of the House could not give two pinches. Our Olympics will be run and our facilities built with them not just as an afterthought but their needs as part of the design brief. The 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be the most inclusive. It will aim to have equal numbers of female and male participants and will have the largest number of athletes ever competing in a Paralympics. That is something that I am proud to stand here and support. I urge all those opposite to support it as well.

Our current Gabba—the wonderful, iconic venue that it is—needs to be up to this task. The Gabba redevelopment is poised to ensure that. The Gabba does need an upgrade. Even with redevelopment starting in 2026, the newest parts of the Gabba will be 21 years old. In a 2018 stadiums task force report it was assessed that the Gabba only had a remaining useful life of 11½ years, taking it through to only 2030. We cannot sit and wait. This project needs to be on line and proofed well before 2032. The Gabba currently does not even have change rooms for elite female athletes.

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs McMAHON: Those opposite could not care less. I know those opposite are reluctant to embrace female participation over there, but surely they support our elite athletes for more than just photograph opportunities.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left will cease their interjections.

Mrs McMAHON: Accessibility for spectators is also not up to scratch. It only caters for 66 wheelchairs. In some cases, wheelchair users have to use a goods lift just to be able to access the stadium. The Gabba redevelopment will see facilities—

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

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

Mrs McMAHON:—specifically built for female athletes—not just as an afterthought and retrospectively fitted. This is not just for the Games but for the longer term legacy tenants of the venue and future athletes. What a wonderful venue for our Brisbane Heat WBBL and Brisbane Lions AFLW teams.

Opposition members interjected.


Mrs McMAHON: They do not care. They say that they can go and use the modules outside. We value them and they deserve world-class facilities. On this side of the House we value their contribution to the Brisbane and Queensland sporting landscape. I can just imagine the look on a young female player's face when they get to use world-class facilities. Those opposite do not care about our young female athletes—'You guys can just have a renovated space. Go out the back and use the renovated space.' This is not just a 'nice to have'—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Nanango is warned under the standing orders. Members to my left will cease their interjections.

Mrs McMAHON: This is not just a 'nice to have' or a piece of 'gender inclusive wokism'; it is actually a requirement of the intergovernmental agreement. We must, as it says, 'provide infrastructure, spaces, services and information which are accessible and inclusive, enabling full, effective participation, including for persons with disability'.

(Time expired)

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (5.27 pm): It is an absolute privilege for me to rise and speak on behalf of the LNP government. We are proud that there is going to be an Olympics in Queensland. We are proud that there is going to be an LNP government when the Olympics are on. A good government should have good management. Good government should be delivering good project management. Good planning, good delivery, good leadership and good control is how we make sure that good projects get delivered on time and on budget.

It was a pleasure to be with my colleague the member for Burleigh on Monday when we asked the Auditor-General about cost overruns on Cross River Rail and the Gabba and discovered that the \$1 billion cost announced by the Premier was done by media release. We discovered that the \$2.7 billion blowout—that is \$1.7 billion extra—had no business case. This is not the first time that this has happened. This government has a track record. Wellcamp was not that long ago. It took us all the way through to estimates to discover the final cost of \$220 million, and it was without a business case.

The Queensland Audit Office report No. 16 of 2021-22 stated that this government wanted to deliver \$52.2 billion of infrastructure over four years. Guess what! Because of poor planning and poor coordination those projects are overrunning by 11 to 21 per cent.

We want to see a great Olympics in Queensland. We want to see legacy projects delivered but this government is not one to do it. This is a clear case of the difference between an LNP government and a Labor government.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I apologise, member for Lockyer. Members to my left, I am having difficulty hearing the member for Lockyer. I would hope that you will give him the courtesy of actually allowing me to hear his contribution.


Mr McDONALD: This is a clear example of the difference between an LNP government and a Labor government. We put the best people on a board to deliver projects and to make sure they are on time and on budget. This government puts themselves around the table with their mates to control things and then outsources the work to consultants at an additional cost. It is no wonder these things are going sky-high. As I said, they have form. The Auditor-General identified six projects in *Report 16: 2021-22—Contract management for new infrastructure*, and that report is further evidence that this government cannot project manage anything. This is \$1.7 billion and we discover now there are another 23 projects with a cost overrun of \$10 billion. That is \$5,000 per household. How many people in their community would like \$5,000 to spend on power or fuel? There are people coming to see me in my electorate who are struggling to put food on the table, let alone send their kids to swimming lessons or school camp.

This is a real issue. When you have \$10 billion in cost overruns, as the Treasurer said, that is about interest, it is about delays, but it is also about cutting services—something this government does not seem to care about. They are certainly not listening to Queenslanders. As those services get pushed

out, as the projects get delayed, we are missing out on things. A poorly serviced hospital in our community is worth \$2 billion. That is five hospitals. I know that in Toowoomba and the Darling Downs they would love to see that hospital go ahead. I will put on the record now that I bet it will be delayed because of this big black hole that is \$10 billion and growing.

The Auditor-General is a very fair person. He will say when there are good things and he will say when there are bad things, but Report No. 16: 2021-22, for those who want to read it, it actually says that poor management and poor controls have caused the overruns. In fact, it goes one step further and says that the framework for these projects was dated back to 1999 and has not been reviewed. It does not contain contemporary project management practices. This government is certainly out of control.

I support the motion by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. It is a smart thing for us to release business cases. This government was elected on accountability and integrity, but talk is cheap. I can tell those opposite that the people of Queensland are listening. The people of Queensland are watching. We want to see the legacy of the Olympics in South-East Queensland. We will be proud to see it delivered for the people of Queensland, not the Premier's baby.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (5.32 pm): We are used to the LNP's euphemism for cuts. When they were in power for that short period it was all about waste. Do you remember that? Waste. 'We have to deal with the waste.' That was just code for cuts, code for selling things off. The new Leader of the Opposition has just thought of a new code for cuts, and that is blowout. It is the same old game from the opposition. They just have to find a euphemism for cuts, for sacking and selling. They never saw an infrastructure project they did not want to cut, and the Gabba is another one of them. They always want to cut, they always want to sack, they always want to sell, and they are still doing it here today. Here we are in Queensland hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and what the opposition—and I might say, the Greens party—the member for South Brisbane obviously is not here—is actually saying—

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, it is not appropriate to refer to someone's absence from the chamber.

Mr BAILEY: I take your direction, Mr Speaker. What they are saying is that we should have the games, although the Greens party might have a different view, but we should not have a stadium that is best practice and inclusive for people of all mobilities. That is what they are saying. I expect that from the LNP but I do not expect it from the Greens party, because you can always look at what the Greens party does rather than what it says. They say they support the environment, but then they moved amendments in here to water down our tough tree-clearing laws. They say they support action on climate change, but then they voted with the LNP in the Senate against the emissions trading scheme. They say they support people with disabilities, but the member for South Brisbane actually said in here that you can bring it up to standard at a fraction of the cost of \$2.7 billion. Is she an expert in disability? I do not think so.

The advice to government is that if we are to be genuinely inclusive of female athletes, of athletes of all abilities, then the current stadium cannot be retrofitted for the Paralympic Games. This government will not have the Paralympic Games without a stadium that is fit for purpose for people of all mobilities, for athletes with wheelchairs and all kinds of different abilities. How embarrassing would it be for our state to put up a shabby, second-rate, non-inclusive stadium for the Paralympic Games in 2032? What a humiliation that would be. That is what the opposition and the Greens party are proposing in an unholy alliance. If you want the Paralympics, if you want the best athletes, you have to have the best infrastructure.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Logan, you are interjecting. You are not in your seat. You are on a warning. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Logan withdrew from the chamber at 5.35 pm.

Mr BAILEY: You can talk about inclusion all you want, but what matters is when you back in infrastructure that includes everybody in our community. The opposition and the Greens party are showing they are duplicitous about letting people down in this day and age. It is 2023. We are heading towards the 2032 Paralympic Games and Olympic Games. Everybody of all mobilities should be—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

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

Mr BAILEY:—included when it comes to using the Gabba, either as a patron or as a participant. It is our premier stadium. It is not just sport; it is also the great arts contest that—

Opposition members interjected.


Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left! Pause the clock. Member for Currumbin, are you having some kind of out-of-body experience? You are warned under the standing orders.

Mr BAILEY: You have to practice what you preach, and that is what this government does. We are building Cross River Rail to service the Gabba. If we want world-class international artists to come here, we have to make sure that people of all mobilities can participate freely in a way that is genuinely inclusive.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, this is your final caution.

Mr BAILEY: It is embarrassing for people in wheelchairs to have to get to their seats in a goods lift. I do not support that for a jot, and neither should any member of this parliament. It is sad to see derision and yelling from those opposite when we are talking about the inclusion of people with disabilities at the Gabba. It is shameful and pathetic. After eight years over there you have learned nothing about genuinely supporting an inclusive society for people of all abilities. That is what we are doing at the Gabba. That is what the LNP has not learned. Most people learn from opposition. You have learned absolutely nothing.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (5.38 pm): We have just heard it is the Premier's stadium, according to the transport minister! We know that she already thinks it is the Premier's Olympics. The abuse we have just seen with regard to the basics of accountability! This government thinks they have had a 170 per cent blowout because in a billion dollar project they forgot to include female toilets. They forgot—shock! horror!—to follow the law with regard to disability access, so do not blame us if we want to increase the price again by \$1.7 billion because this Labor government was so incompetent when they came up with a billion dollar project they forgot to put the loos in the right place with access for everybody. How can we trust them? That is why this motion of the opposition is so important.

Let the sunshine in. Release the actual business cases. Were there business cases? The Auditor-General has belled the cat. He has exposed the fact that the only information he had in regard to the billion dollar price tag was essentially a media release, yet this government have the gall to actually stand up, trying to keep a straight face, and say, 'No, it's the cost blowouts in construction and the fact there weren't women-specific toilets and changing rooms and disability access.' How incompetent are they? There is supposed to be a whole machinery of government to do the planning and the scoping, yet they have come up with a billion dollar project that did not have that. Minister, you should resign after that appalling contribution.

Mr SPEAKER: Comments will be directed through the chair.


Ms SIMPSON: That minister over there, the Minister for Transport, has presided over multiple projects with multiple blowouts, yet he comes into this place with projects that will potentially cost other Queenslanders the infrastructure they need if they are not managed in a way that respects the fact it is not the Premier's stadium or the Premier's Olympics, but it is the people's money. Have some respect for Queenslanders. Have some respect for the \$10 billion you have overblown your budgets, and the minister over there is largely responsible for that. What a joke. They want to blame cost blowouts on labour and construction index increases which is beyond anything anywhere else in Australia. They are very special indeed.

Our motion is also about releasing the business cases. Why is this government against integrity? They talk about it before elections; they vote against it on the floor of the House. Let the sunshine in with regard to the real facts and figures. Do not hide the figures. Trust the people. It is their money. It is their Olympics. It is their future that is being mortgaged by this government that has no respect for the dollars that are being spent.

The *Let the sunshine in* report had some critical comments about commercial-in-confidence and the way this government hides behind it as a personal shield. They say that things are commercial-in-confidence, like Wellcamp where over \$220 million was spent. What is going to happen with the Olympics when another billion dollars here or billion dollars there is wasted? People do not get their hospitals. They do not get their birthing services. They do not get the rail, roads and other services through all of Queensland that they not only deserve but also have paid for. This government has mortgaged and wasted it because of poor planning.

The government have the audacity to come in here and say they are going to vote against releasing the information. What has the government got to hide? Release it, Minister, I say through the chair. All of the cabinet ministers need to release it. Trust the people. Trust them with the money because it is theirs. They should see this. If we are going to see success in infrastructure in this state, the government have to release the information and show accountability and integrity. They need to start building some infrastructure that will serve all of Queenslanders to deliver what they need in the future because they deserve that.

That is why I support this motion. That is why it will be an absolute disgrace if the government votes against integrity measures to release the information. The Premier was elected on a platform of integrity and accountability but she has changed. The Olympics is hers, and we heard from the transport minister that the stadium is hers, thus the 170 per cent blowout is hers, and now she is taking it in-house because apparently there will be fewer cost blowouts. Well, pigs may fly backwards.

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (5.43 pm): I rise to support the Deputy Premier's amended motion. When I was a young girl, I grew up around South Brisbane. I can tell the member for South Brisbane that in 1983 there was not a latte to be found. The area was rough as guts. As a child, you never told anyone you lived there. Most of my friends had left but in South Brisbane we stayed, and I am glad we did because I got to see firsthand the transformation of what was previously described as an area of derelict dockyards, unacknowledged brothels and hotels of disrepute. This transformation came as a result of a temporary event but one which changed Brisbane culturally and physically. Expo 88 redefined our entire city, as one oriented towards culture and leisure, of business growth, and it helped to create South Bank Parklands, a 40-hectare site that is now the city's most popular leisure precinct. World Expo raised expectations and created a public appetite for a South Bank that could replicate that sense of social connectedness but also reflected a new modern Queensland—though, to be fair, this was mostly as a result of the removal of the corrupt Bjelke-Petersen government and the election of the Goss Labor government in 1989.

The 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games give us a new opportunity, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, to transform our state, but all we have heard from those opposite is sniping and whingeing, undermining and moaning. This is an opposition that do not want the Olympic and Paralympic Games to succeed. They do not want Queensland to succeed. They want to work hard to create maximum misleading damage—the hardest they have ever worked—but it is frustrating for them because the people of Queensland are not fooled. They do not want our state talked down. They know about this wailing and complaining, especially when it is being led by the member for Kawana and chief whiner.


The Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games is named after a host city, but it will be a games for all Queenslanders. From Cairns to Coolangatta, Cherbourg to St George, this is a games that is already providing opportunities across the state. A new Gabba is just one example of how the games is not driving its redevelopment, simply accelerating it. A 2018 *Stadium Taskforce Report* highlighted that it is a tired, old venue and would need to undergo major upgrades by 2030 regardless of the games. Just ask the Brisbane Lions. Just like the games themselves, a new Gabba makes Brisbane a must-play destination for national and international sporting events.

Opportunity of tomorrow is also opportunity today. In the sports sphere, there is Youfor2032—the biggest talent search that Australia has ever seen. Youfor2032 has travelled more than 13,000 kilometres, visited 33 towns and cities, conducted over 130 testing sessions and assessed thousands of young Queenslanders. So far 673 children have been offered a place in stage 2 of the QAS-led elite sporting pathways program, but what is really special is that 169 of those kids come from regional areas.

Brisbane 2032 is more than just about four weeks of sport. It will deliver two decades of economic benefits from the day we got the games. KPMG has predicted the games will: boost international tourism and trade by \$4.6 billion for Queensland; create approximately more than 91,000 jobs in Queensland; drive an estimated \$3.5 billion in social benefits to Queensland, including improvements in health, community connectedness and civic pride; and generate industry investment in new skills, capacity and supply chains, particularly across areas of construction, manufacturing, regional tourism and even sports tech. One of the fastest-growing areas is actually sports tech, tipped to be worth almost \$60 billion globally by 2026. VALD are one of Queensland's shining innovations. Their expertise is now exported to sports teams around the country and around the world.

A new Gabba also delivers the opportunity to expand the priority development area of Woolloongabba and South Brisbane. Its redevelopment will trigger major urban renewal and increase opportunities for social and affordable housing, business and, again, jobs. The games will focus the

world's eyes on Queensland, not just in 2032; it will generate the best international advertising campaign Queensland will ever get, providing a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to market our state as a global destination and place to do business. 2032 is still nearly a decade away but Brisbane, the south-east, our state, is hurtling towards that magic year. 2032 is not just the sporting pinnacle for young athletes. Like Expo 88 was all those years ago, Brisbane 2032 is a beacon for a better Queensland and our government.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (5.48 pm): I rise to support the Deputy Leader of the Opposition's motion. What those on the other side do not understand is that we appreciate that the Gabba needs to be redeveloped. Of course it needs to be redeveloped, but who in their right mind would think it is going to cost \$2.7 billion? Who in their right mind would believe the incredible claims that the Deputy Premier makes that over a two-year period from when it was first announced the costs have increased by 170 per cent? That is as credible as the Deputy Premier's Lady Cilento poll. That is as credible as the transport minister saying that he is good at keeping government records. That is as credible as the Treasurer saying after the bushfires that he found the Binna Burra bell.

The best way to look at the absurd blowout in cost is to compare projects that have happened around this country on other stadiums that have been built over the last two years. Let's have a look at some of those stadiums. The Bankwest stadium at Parramatta, a beautiful stadium which seats 30,000—not quite the same as we will have at the Gabba—it cost \$360 million—oh, million dollars—\$360 million—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock! I think we all know where we are going here. You made an error in billions and millions—

Mr MANDER: Which I quickly corrected.

Mr SPEAKER: I will go back to you, member for Everton.

Mr MANDER: The second stadium I want to look at is the Allianz Stadium which is the old SFS, the old Sydney Football Stadium. I refereed many games there. It has a capacity of 42,500. It cost \$828 million. Optus Stadium in Perth has a capacity of 65,000. It is one of the great stadiums in this country. What did it cost? It cost \$820 million. Let's go to the Gabba. The cost has blown out from \$1 billion two years ago to now be \$2.7 billion. It will have a capacity of 50,000, which is 8,000 more than we currently have, and it is going to cost us \$2.7 billion; that is \$52,000 per seat, which is more than double that of every other stadium than I just mentioned. This shows the disgraceful waste of money that this government is spending when it comes to building stadiums. They are not capable of building things on time and on budget.

In addition to that, as some of our speakers have already mentioned, the secrecy around the details of this cost are beyond belief. When the government is going to spend \$2.7 billion of taxpayers' money, Queenslanders deserve to know the details. Of course, when the Premier is asked any time for details about anything—not just this issue, but about anything—her media advisers have given her some down-pat answers that she must deliver which is to divert attention and ensure she does not give details in her answers at the time, not that I think she would know what the details are anyhow. What are they? On this particular project, a couple of months ago she said, 'We will release the details in a few weeks.' That has not happened. If that does not work, she will say, 'You have to ask the minister' who is relevant to that particular question. If that does not work, it is, 'I am going to get back to you shortly.' If that does not work, it is, 'I have to go to National Cabinet.' If none of those work, if she has no other option it is, 'Oops, I have to go to lunch.' These are all the answers given and the contempt with which the Premier and her ministers treat the people of Queensland.

The transport minister and the member for Macalister come in here and treat Queenslanders like fools in saying that the \$1.7 billion blowout is because we need to have disability access better than we have at the moment at the Gabba, and nor do we have female facilities. What the heck are those female facilities going to look like? Are we going to have silk toilet paper? Are we going to have gold-trimmed taps? It is absolutely ridiculous to come in here and treat us with contempt. We all know the Gabba needs to be redeveloped, but that cost is absurd. Without giving any detail and without any business case, they are treating the Queensland public with total contempt.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (5.53 pm): After the introduction of this motion tonight by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and his effort to pull off a bit

of a gag during the whole of the introduction, a gag that was up there with a rat on a shoulder, and particularly after the last contribution by the member for Everton, I am absolutely committed to supporting the Deputy Premier's amendment. In fact, before we get to some facts and details about this important project, I want to reflect very briefly on what we heard then from the member for Everton.

We heard from the member for Everton not only a whole lot of confected outrage—we are used to that—but also a whole lot of confected responses, descriptions and analysis of a whole lot of different stadia that are of a different nature, a different object, and were built at a time that is utterly different in terms of the building environment. The reality is that he even got the figure wrong in relation to Optus Stadium. It is a significantly higher figure than that. However, what I want to highlight here—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I would not trust the member for Everton on any of these matters because I happen to know he was recently at the Sport Climbing Queensland event and he demonstrated there that he did not know that sport climbing was an Olympic event.

Let's show the consideration of the new norms of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. One is for host cities to get the maximum use out of existing facilities. The use of the Gabba as the main stadium is absolutely consistent with this premise. The redevelopment of the Gabba, as we have heard from others already tonight, was planned by Stadiums Queensland prior to the confirmation of the Queensland government's proposal of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Gabba has not kept pace with enhancements or redevelopment of other major stadia in capital cities throughout Australia. That is the reality. That is why major events, not just in relation to the Olympic and Paralympic Games, are at risk if we do not see this redevelopment occur.

In 2018, the independent Stadium Taskforce identified that the Gabba was 'a tired venue in need of enhancement', particularly when compared to major upgrades at, say, the Adelaide Oval and the new Optus Stadium in Perth. The 2018 Stadium Taskforce report found that—

The introduction of a Cross River Rail station immediately adjacent to the Gabba will provide an unmatched opportunity to significantly improve accessibility and connectivity for the Gabba venue and precinct.

more broadly, and that—

There is strong potential for opportunity for the Gabba in the near future.

These proposals are about delivering that. Plans to bring forward that redevelopment of the Gabba for Brisbane 2032 will make the most of the Queensland government's investment in Cross River Rail and the most of Brisbane City Council's investment in Brisbane Metro and the Kangaroo Point pedestrian bridge.

The Gabba has been the home for Queensland sport, including particularly cricket and AFL, for some 126 years. Upgrading the Gabba will deliver decades of benefits, including for cricket and Australian Rules football. However, if you listen to those opposite, it would still be the same old-style cricket ground that it was close to 126 years ago. They would not have seen any improvements because they would not have had the vision.

The Queensland government has received overwhelming support for the Gabba redevelopment from particularly cricket and AFL who understand the legacy benefits that the games will enjoy from using an international-standard facility that is in fact state-of-the-art. I quote Terry Svenson, the CEO of Queensland Cricket, who said—

We congratulate you on aspirational and bold vision for sport in the redevelopment of the Gabba to become a world-class stadium for the benefit of sporting codes and fans.

Nick Hockley, CEO of Cricket Australia, said—

An integral component of hosting Olympic Games is the provision of world-class stadia and sporting infrastructure. Cricket Australia is delighted that the Queensland Government has announced a major redevelopment for the Gabba in preparation for Brisbane 2032.


Gillon McLachlan, CEO of the AFL, said—

The Gabba superbly hosted the first ever grand final played away from Victoria and no doubt will be a magnificent centrepiece for the Olympics. We will do whatever we can to support a wonderful event for Australia and for your state.

The Stadium Taskforce, the AOC, the IOC, cricket and AFL authorities support the redevelopment of the Gabba, but based on the opposition's motion, I fear, despite some protestations there towards the end, the opposition do not. What is their alternative proposal? It would appear that

they might be lining up with the member for South Brisbane in saying all we have to do is just improve the nature of the facilities that are there. The track will not fit! The 100-metre-long track will not fit in the stadium—

(Time expired)

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (5.58 pm): I may have lost my hair, but I certainly have not lost my sense of humour. I love going not too far from here to the Comedy Club and having a good drink and a good laugh, but, I tell you what, you only have to come here and listen to ministerial statements. There was another classic comedy club comment by the Premier yesterday during ministerial statements. I quote directly from *Hansard* where the Premier said—

Deloitte has recommended a Brisbane 2032 Coordination Office. It recognises the state government's existing expertise in delivering infrastructure like roads, schools and hospitals.

I have to say that being lectured to by the Premier on infrastructure and project management is a bit like a tourism welcome from North Korea. Honourable members should remember that this is the Premier who on FM radio about five or six years ago when she was asked, 'What's the GST rate?' had absolutely no idea. This is the Premier who about 12 years ago when she was the transport minister actually increased public transport fares by 15 per cent in three consecutive years.

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr MINNIKIN: When it comes to actually taking instructions about project management from either the Premier or perhaps the member for Lytton, I would rather refer to the expertise of those on this side.

I will pick up the thread of the member for Everton. Let's have a look at what the cost of the Gabba is really going to be in terms of the cost per seat. If we look at Optus Stadium in Perth, it is \$21,270 per seat. If we look elsewhere we will find that the Sydney football stadium is just under \$19½ thousand per seat. The Country Bank Stadium in Townsville is \$12½ thousand per seat, but wait for it, the Gabba, Brisbane—drum roll not required—is \$54,000.

Is it any wonder that the member for Miller is hot under the collar looking for a piece of the budget pie action? Maybe that is to bail himself out of his own mess called Cross River Rail. Every time he gets anywhere near a crayon, he tries to draw a big line between the stadium and Cross River Rail to try to spool in some of the money there. Is it any wonder because when we look at the existing projects and budget blowouts someone would have to be pretty special to have their own hashtag on social media. We have the situation with Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3A, which has a \$509 million blowout; there is Cross River Rail, \$2.6 billion; there is Coomera Connector, \$633 million.

In the interests of time I will simply round it up and say this. Out of the \$10 billion of budget blowouts in project costs, the department of the member for Miller, who received a 41 per cent primary vote and who desperately needs Greens preferences, has alone accounted for \$4.15 billion. We have a Premier who we know wants to make this all about herself and we have people in her cabinet who truly would be flat out telling the time. There is no backbench talent there at all, so what is the Labor Party going to do? Here is one other little tip. It is called economics 101. It is a little print called the time value of money. What I will do is literally multitask on the fly and do a little bit of budgeting ALP style where you do not even get a back of an envelope; you get a bunch of post-it notes. You just go, 'A billion there, half a billion there,' and keep going. They have absolutely no idea when it comes to budget management.

We have the situation now where, if they do not start to get it together, they will run out of time. There is one thing you cannot buy, and I keep saying it. You cannot buy time. The Lord Mayor was right when around three months ago he said he was getting concerned about the fact we are starting to miss the cue; we are starting to miss the essential drop points.

Mr Hinchliffe interjected.

Mr MINNIKIN: If anyone should be silent and not interject in this debate it should be the member for Sandgate. Here is the genius member who was trotted out so they had someone who could go up in an elevator to try to press the need for it. They actually had \$35 million in the 2019-20 capital statement to put towards the Gabba toilets.

(Time expired)

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

AYES, 48:

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

NOES, 34:

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

KAP, 1—Dametto.

Pair: Madden, Nicholls.

Resolved in the affirmative.

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

Mr SPEAKER: Ring the bells for one minute.

AYES, 48:

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

NOES, 34:

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

KAP, 1—Dametto.

Pair: Madden, Nicholls.

Resolved in the affirmative.


Motion, as agreed—

That this House:

- (a) notes that the Gabba redevelopment will provide a world-class stadium for the people of Queensland and visitors for the games and the future;
- (b) notes that the 2018 Stadiums Taskforce Report labelled the Gabba a 'tired' venue that would require major upgrades by 2030;
- (c) notes that the redevelopment will include extra seats, improved accessibility for patrons and dedicated change rooms for female athletes;
- (d) notes that an expanded PDA will increase opportunities for social and affordable housing, high-quality public transport and employment opportunities within the Gabba and South Bank precincts;
- (e) notes that a business plan was submitted to the International Olympic Committee as part of the normal requirements for a games bid;
- (f) notes that a Brisbane 2032 Coordination Office will be established, which has a shared governance model integrating all three levels of government and OCOG and will have appropriate reporting arrangements;
- (g) notes that under the former Morrison LNP government the Gabba would not have been owned by Queenslanders and could have been sold off;
- (h) notes that the Queensland LNP opposition has a hit list of projects they want to slash, which would see LNP want to cut, sack and sell in Queensland again; and
- (i) notes that the Auditor-General in a recent public parliamentary committee hearing stated 'there's definitely issues impacting on infrastructure not just in Queensland, but certainly in Australia'; and
- (j) calls on all members of parliament to back the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Failure to Comply with a Direction of the Speaker


 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (6.10 pm): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. Mr Speaker, it is my understanding that you asked the member for Logan to leave the chamber for one hour under the standing orders. I noticed the member for Logan in the chamber, by my recognition, some 30 minutes later. I will be writing to you about the matter.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY SAFETY BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 482, on motion of Mr Ryan—


That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (6.11 pm), continuing: In the few moments I have remaining, I want to say, so that the people of Toowoomba and Queensland are aware, that when we needed the Premier in January she did not turn up. That is when we needed the youth justice laws to be brought forward. We could have recalled parliament early and prevented more victims, but that was not the case. These are the consequences of Labor watering down the youth justice laws and, as I spoke about earlier, the evidence of that and the victims it has created in my community are indisputable. Despite numerous promises, Labor has failed to implement appropriate early intervention strategies including failing to improve school attendance. That is after they had a major general write a report in Townsville and another report in 2018. They have not listened to their own advice and they have not implemented it.

Labor has constantly viewed this as a political problem, not a crime problem, and that has created more victims. It has constantly put the rights of offenders before the rights of victims and Labor, driven by ideology, is not looking after Queenslanders; it is looking after its own political future when playing with this.

We have a 10-point plan in front of us. For the record, my reckoning is that, in addition to the other plans that were put forward in 2015, 2016, 2019 and 2021, all together we have 26 points in plans, none of which seem to be working, and a 47-point Youth Justice Strategy 2019-2023 that does not seem to be working. We owe it to the victims to get this right. If we get it wrong, we are failing the children as well. The LNP will have gold standard early intervention and rehabilitation. By the way, let's get the kids out of the watch house—it is not the place for them.

(Time expired)

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (6.13 pm): The Strengthening Community Safety Bill is a great bill, and the majority of the youth in Queensland are great young people. They are finding their way in life; they are growing into productive adults and enjoying what life throws their way. They are the future of our state. Unfortunately, there are a small number of youths who are prolific reoffenders, putting people and property at harm. The frequency and severity of this offending has worn the community down and we are collectively saying 'no more'. People want to be safe and to feel safe; they want their property to be protected. There is no room for serious violent offending in our community. Safety in the community is paramount. We do not want any more victims of crime.

The Palaszczuk government has implemented successful programs for at-risk youth, to help our young people find a positive path and to make good choices about their education, health and place in society. It is not good enough to just fund a program; the success of it depends on the teams running them having the ability to engage with youth and gain their trust and respect. There are great people such as this working at the Mackay PCYC; Youth Justice; Dee and Rob and their team at YIRS; the team at Kalyan House; and our local police officers. There are many more in the Mackay community looking out for our youth and helping them to get back on track.

I have been to graduations for Project Booyah—a program cut by those opposite—and also for Transition 2 Success. It is uplifting to see young people who were on a path to possible crime standing tall and proud at their graduations. They openly talk about their dreams for the future and, while there are those who have not yet made up their minds about what the future holds for them, there is one thing they are determined about: it will not be a life of crime.

For some youth, these programs have been great at allowing them to repair fractured relationships with their families and caregivers. This is so important to a young person. In the youth co-responder program, which works on our local streets, we see police officers and youth justice officers engaging with our youth who are at risk of offending or at risk of breaching bail. They are intervening before a potential offence has been committed.


When I was a QTU organiser I saw the effect of not having good programs in place to divert youth away from antisocial and criminal behaviours. A lot has been said by those opposite about cutting the programs. When they were in government they changed the way that TAFE funding was to be delivered and how colleges were paid for their outcomes. This had a devastating effect on the Townsville and Cleveland detention centre programs. There were teams of dedicated, experienced

teachers who taught TAFE modules in a way which enabled youth to easily transfer straight into a TAFE campus when they were released. This was an effective and positive pathway for them because, through their friends who had been released prior to them, they knew that TAFE was a place where they went to improve their lives. Once the funding changed, these pathways disappeared and those skilled TAFE teachers who had worked at Cleveland could no longer continue. The staff at Cleveland were devastated. Those opposite either did not get it or just did not care. Their reckless decisions have had long-term consequences.

The laws being debated in this bill will strengthen our already strong laws, making breach of bail a criminal offence for the first time this century. The laws will strengthen conditional release orders and declare serious repeat offenders, in some cases, to allow for tougher sentencing principles. This bill is about keeping the community safe. Laws alone will not break the cycle of crime in our young people's lives; it takes a whole community approach.

I want to highlight the work of a young Indigenous man in my community, Justin Gible. He, with the support of volunteers Blanch Sutherland, her mother Aunty Pat Corrie, and Justin's mum, Donna Leigh, worked without funding for a number of years. They survived on donations. They supported our youth who had been disengaged from education or who had been excluded from all schools, and some had been through the youth justice system. They enrolled them in distance education.

They were dealing with about 15 young people at a time. Justin had some good advice from Don Wilson. They applied for a special education school accreditation. Very experienced retired teachers came on board with the school to get it established. The school is now at capacity, with 62 students. The students are exiting school with positive pathways to apprenticeships, traineeships, Skilling Queenslanders for Work programs and they go on to further education. There have been two students who have achieved a placement at university level. These are 62 young people who would have been on the streets. Young people who were once disengaged from the community are now achieving. Some of these children are the first in their families to finish school and the first to go to work in many generations. The people working at this school are the heroes in my community breaking the cycle. Kutta Mulla Gorinna school is kicking goals. I support the bill.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (6.20 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023. Firstly we need to ask why we are here having this debate. It was the Palaszczuk Labor government that watered down the youth justice laws because being soft on crime is in Labor's DNA. In 2015 the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill removed breach of bail as an offence for children, reinstated the principle that detention orders should be imposed only as a last resort for the shortest appropriate period when sentencing a child, and reinstated into the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 that the principle of imprisonment is a sentence of last resort and a sentence that allows the offender to stay in the community is preferable, and look what happened. We now have a generation of youth offenders stealing cars, breaking into homes, stealing and assaulting victims and police. We now have a generation of youth offenders who do not know what consequences are for their actions all because this Labor government watered down the youth justice laws.

Despite the LNP calling for years for the return of breach of bail, Labor minister after minister lined up to say, 'They don't need that. It wouldn't work.' The tourism minister was saying exactly that the day before the government backflipped on opposing breach of bail. The Labor government is out of touch with victims and Labor's crime crisis and out of touch with what Queenslanders expect. Queenslanders expect us to pass laws that are required to keep our communities safe. There is not a better example of this out-of-touch behaviour than the Labor member for Mansfield. In 2019 when speaking on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, the member said in this House—

... the bill aims to reduce the reoffending rates of young offenders ...

Well, we all know that that is not the case, and I am sure the victims of crime are wondering why the member for Mansfield had so much faith in the 2015 youth justice bill to change and to reduce reoffending. The member for Mansfield went on in that debate to suggest—

... onerous bail conditions are likely to be counterproductive ...

She also said—

... I have seen young people who have committed a crime and then breached their bail conditions end up in far worse trouble than they had originally been in.

So they should be. The Labor member is out of touch with the community that she claims to represent and it is time for those members opposite to support consequences for actions and be on the side of the victims, not the criminals.

The LNP supports the Strengthening Community Safety Bill. The bill is not perfect. However, the LNP will not stand in its way. The bill could be significantly improved if the Labor government would accept the member for Burdekin's amendments to remove detention as a last resort and for the shortest appropriate time. What Queenslanders find most disappointing is the way the Premier has misled them on her 10-point plan. Her 10-point plan just after Christmas promised that 'violent juvenile car thieves will face 14 years jail in a suite of increased penalties aimed squarely at keeping the community safe'. What we know from the backdown by the Premier and her ministers is that the promise cannot override section 175 of the Youth Justice Act. The Youth Justice Act constrains magistrates and judges in sentencing juvenile criminals. The maximum sentences that courts will be able to impose is half what the Premier promised. The Premier misled Queenslanders in her 10-point plan and her untruthfulness has now been exposed. The Premier has not kept Queenslanders safe and her 10-point plan has been exposed as a sham.

After two years of campaigning, the LNP has had a win with the battle against youth crime. The government has agreed on our push for a breach of bail to be an offence for young offenders. In 2021 the LNP tried to move amendments to make breach of bail an offence within the Youth Justice Act. The government has copied our proposal word for word. It is a clear acknowledgement from the Palaszczuk Labor government that its decision to water down youth justice laws has created the crime crisis. From an LNP perspective, this is the first of many changes we are campaigning for.

The current youth justice system is failing at both ends of the spectrum. Removing the rule of detention as a last resort in sentencing as outlined by the member for Burdekin would have allowed judges to freely assess the most appropriate sentence for a youth offender. Given the government has spent around a billion dollars on youth justice, there is a need for an independent audit of early intervention programs, especially when we hear from advocacy groups these sobering statistics about repeat youth offenders: 60 per cent had experienced or been impacted by domestic or family violence, 46 per cent had had mental health or behavioural disorders and 38 per cent had used ice or methamphetamines. We must also get serious about early intervention services to help guide these young people back on to the rails before it is too late.

Getting serious about changing the law and having early intervention outcomes that are successful will help drive down the cost of living. I will expand on the cost to the community which I live in from juvenile crime. In Roma I have had a long list of businesses that have experienced break-ins. Roma is not the only community that experiences these problems; I see it in Dalby, I see it in St George, I see it in other communities that are experiencing a crime crisis. We have rural crime as well, something that often goes unnoticed because written-off cars have an impact in the media and on social media whereas missing drums of diesel or cut fences or destroyed tradesmen's tools do not have the same visual impact.

In Roma we have businesses that are boarded up because there is a shortage of glass in the town to replace the broken windows. Mechanic businesses have told me that it has cost them \$30,000 since Christmas last year from the break and enters that have occurred, convenience stores have lost up to \$40,000 worth of cigarettes from break and enters and some shop owners in the town that I live in now sleep at their business because they are so sick and tired of the break-ins and they are trying to deter the offenders. Retail businesses have had glass breakage to the tune of \$15,000. Sporting clubs have had over \$10,000 damage to equipment and their premises. Some have been broken into five times since Christmas last year. They are sick of this. Guests have had their cars stolen from outside motels. It is estimated that over 50 cars have been stolen in Roma in the last six months. Education Queensland had to employ a 24-hour security guard to guard the staff cars in Roma because of concerns about theft of vehicles.

This is all costing residents dearly, with increased insurance premiums. It is increasing our cost of living. The victims of crime are everywhere in my electorate. We are not immune to the impacts of the Labor government's weak youth justice laws that have failed our communities. Queenslanders deserve better than a Labor government that is extremely slow to act when it comes to the victims of crime and when crime is hurting in these communities.



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (6.29 pm): I rise in support of the Strengthening Community Safety Bill. I remain very concerned about instances of serious offending by young people. When these tragedies happen the community is rightly outraged. Victims and their loved ones carry the damage caused by these events for the rest of their lives. Despite what the members opposite would have us believe, and as is the case in other jurisdictions, we are seeing reductions in the number of unique offences committed by young

people overall. However, worryingly, we are seeing an increase in the proportion of offences associated with motor vehicles and we are also seeing an increase in the frequency and seriousness of offending by a small cohort of offenders.

It has been very clear that many in the community want the government to do more and want us to strengthen our responses. I gave a commitment to the Queensland people that we would do just that and the amendments in this bill give effect to our commitments of 29 December 2022. They give the courts the tools they need to issue appropriate sentences. These measures are firm, there is no doubt, and they have been put before the House in a swift and decisive manner, but they work hand in hand with a suite of funding and administrative issues that will also address the complex causes of crime. We made a decision to put community safety first and have balanced the rights of young people with those of protecting the community. These measures included in the bill are targeted fairly and squarely at those young people who have repeatedly had contact with the youth justice system. Specifically, increasing the circumstances where a presumption against bail will apply, the creation of a serious repeat offender declaration, consequences for breaching community release orders and the provisions relating to the breach of bail offence applying to young offenders. They also respond to the concerning trend of the offending behaviour being used to seek notoriety through posts on social media.

We also know that responding to the underlying causes of offending requires a multiagency response. Those who have the most contact with the justice system often have complex needs in several areas of their lives which can include unmet health needs, unstable or insecure housing and a disconnection from education, training or employment. The bill establishes a legal framework for the multiagency collaborative panels which bring together relevant government agencies and non-government service providers in locations around the state to assess and coordinate responses to the needs of serious repeat offenders.

As noted when we made the announcements in December last year, I would like to see continued investment in youth justice responses that are working and to that end we are also making a significant investment in responses to youth crime and its underlying causes. This comprises \$332 million over and above the nearly \$20 million announced in December 2022 for fast tracking sentencing and a trial of vehicle immobilisers. We are boosting resources for our policing response, including \$25 million for high-visibility patrols in known hotspots and \$30 million for a police social media monitoring and engagement team. We are investing in more community based initiatives targeting at-risk youth. We will provide recreational learning, mentoring and drug and alcohol support to help break the cycle of offending. We will target more young offenders, aged between 13 and 17 years, and their families to address their needs and thereby help break that cycle of crime. We are also rolling out more dedicated teams of police and youth justice workers to provide a rapid response, targeting young people at risk of offending and young people on bail. Expanding intensive case management helps stop the offending.

Everyone would prefer that there was less offending and fewer offenders rather than tougher laws, but we also know that when crime does happen more needs to be done to support those affected by crime or who feel unsafe. A new \$15 million initiative will be trialled in three locations across Queensland to help seniors with the cost of securing their homes. It will help subsidise practical home security improvements such as strengthening window locks and shutters, addressing design issues that enable ease of access and installing CCTV cameras. We are also providing \$10 million for a trial of vehicle immobilisers in Cairns, Townsville and Mount Isa.

Importantly, we recognise the impact that being a victim of crime has had on our community. Having personally met with people who are victims of violent crime I acknowledge their concern and I acknowledge their deep-felt trauma. We are providing \$9 million through Victim Assist Queensland to better respond to victims of property crime where violence or a threat of violence has occurred. I understand how emotional people are when this happens to them. We need to absolutely do more and that is why I do commend the report that was made by the committee. We will take up that recommendation of the Economics and Governance Committee to ask the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee to conduct a review of the Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009. Such a review will consider enhancements to better assist victims of acts of violence by providing support and assistance in a timely manner to avoid compounding the distress suffered by them and also to help them navigate the legal processes. We have listened very carefully to the victims of crime and this is what they are asking us to do further work on.

There have been critics of this bill who say it goes too far. There have been critics of this bill who say it does not go far enough. We think that means we have struck the right balance. The measures in this bill target those who have repeated contact with the justice system. They target concerning trends in motor vehicle offending and the use of social media to promote this offending behaviour. Our reforms

revolve around three key areas: targeting serious repeat offenders, tackling the complex causes of youth crime and supporting community safety. I would like to thank the member for Logan and the Economics and Governance Committee for their timely and thoughtful consideration of this bill. I know that community feelings are varied and this is a complex and many-faceted bill. The report was considered and very helpful so again I thank the committee and I commend the bill to the House.

Mr MICKELBERG (Buderim—LNP) (6.34 pm): Here we are debating the Palaszczuk Labor government's latest insipid response to Queensland's youth crime crisis, a crisis that is gripping communities from Coolangatta to Cairns, including communities on the Sunshine Coast that I represent. Our communities, despite what we might have heard from the Premier, are at breaking point. Queenslanders have had enough. Queenslanders have had enough of hearing about murders and stabbings on the evening news every single night, they have had enough of having their cars being stolen or their houses broken into and they have had enough of the vandalism and wanton violence that is besetting our communities.

Queenslanders should feel safe in their homes and in the community, but right now they do not. Right now, for good reason, Queenslanders feel abandoned by the Palaszczuk Labor government. What has the state government's response been to this cry for help? In early January, in the aftermath of yet another Queenslanders' tragic death at the hands of an alleged young criminal, what did the Premier do? When Queenslanders needed her what did Annastacia Palaszczuk do? She did not turn up for work in early January when Queenslanders needed her and she has not turned up to parliament with laws that the Queensland people need now—let alone the ones that she promised on 29 December. Perhaps if the Premier had listened to the community and had recalled parliament in early January and taken decisive and timely action to strengthen youth crime laws those Queenslanders who have lost their lives at the hands of alleged young criminals in the months since might still be alive.

Government members interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: Those opposite do not like it, but do members know who does not like it more? The people of Queensland! On 29 December last year the Premier promised that violent juvenile car thieves would face 14 years jail when they break the law. One would think that this bill would provide the legislative framework to implement that promise. Does this bill provide the framework for that? The answer is that this bill does not provide that legislative framework. The maximum penalty that violent juvenile car thieves will receive under this legislation is five years, not 14. The Premier and her ministers have the hide to come in here and defend the Premier's broken promise. It is a broken promise despite what we may hear.

Queenslanders know that the Palaszczuk Labor government is not genuine about tackling the insidious problem of youth crime. Queenslanders know that this tired, third-term Labor state government is more interested in how things look rather than how things really are. The Premier and her minions are more interested in spin than substance. Labor members like the members for Townsville, Thuringowa, Keppel and Springwood all ignore their communities' cry for help when it comes to youth crime and they come in here and attack the LNP with some ideological crusade.

Mr HARPER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Once again I find the member's contribution offensive and I ask him to withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Member for Buderim, the member for Thuringowa has found your comments offensive. Do you withdraw?

Mr MICKELBERG: I withdraw. The people of Thuringowa, the people of Townsville, the people of Keppel and the people of Springwood find the government's inaction on youth crime offensive and they are being held to account, held to ransom, by young criminals because this Palaszczuk Labor government will not act. They will not make the hard decisions. When the going gets tough people like the Premier go missing in action. Queenslanders deserve better. We do not have to look too far to see proof that those opposite do not have their heart in tackling the youth crime crisis. Why is it not the minister for youth justice or the Attorney-General bringing this legislation? After all, they are both directly responsible for the provisions addressed by this bill, while the Minister for Police is not.

Minister Linard's charter letter specifically states that she is responsible for leading 'the development of initiatives to prevent youth crime and improve outcomes and reduce demands in the youth justice system.' Therefore, Minister Linard is responsible for leading the government's response to youth crime but, because she does not really support these measures, it has fallen to the Minister for Police to introduce them.

Ministers say that their new-found support for breach of bail is in response to community feedback. As they do so often, those opposite are trying to pull the wool over Queenslanders' eyes. They do not believe in cracking down on repeat youth criminals, they do not believe in taking real action to stem the youth crime crisis and they do not believe in the very measures they say they now accept are needed in the form of a breach of bail offence.

Queenslanders do not have to take my word for it. Let us look at the Attorney-General's own words. In March of last year the Attorney-General said, 'We know what does not work when it comes to young people—and that is called the breach of bail offence.' In June last year, she said 'breach of bail did nothing to reduce crime'. What has changed or is the minister just going to vote in support of a breach of bail offence because it now suits her political objectives? What about the Minister for Youth Justice? In June last year, Minister Linard ruled out reinstating breach of bail as a crime, saying that most youth offenders who breach bail conditions were put in detention anyway.

So once again I ask, what has changed? The answer is that the political winds have changed. While those opposite might not be worried about tackling youth crime they are most certainly worried about their own jobs. That is why we are here today debating a bill that members of the Palaszczuk government do not believe in. They will vote for it anyway because if they do not they will be looking for a new job in 2024.

Queenslanders have had enough and residents in my electorate of Buderim have had enough. They want real action to tackle the youth crime crisis. It is good that the government have finally come in here and decided to make breach of bail an offence after saying for eight years that it would not work, but that is only one small part of the solution. We need to see real consequences for the small group of young people who choose to break the law. Serious repeat young offenders need to know that when they break the law they will be held to account. That is not happening now but it should.

The state government should be unshackling the judiciary by removing the sentencing principle that detention should be a last resort. Too frequently that principle is used to justify releasing young offenders when they should be held in detention both for their own benefit and to ensure that community safety is placed first. We should be ensuring that young offenders, alongside those who are at risk of offending, are given access to meaningful and effective early intervention programs. The government say that they are spending \$1 billion on such programs, but they cannot tell us what is working and what is not. It took the LNP to ask for the Auditor-General to review the government investment in early intervention programs and their effectiveness. That is not good government from this Palaszczuk Labor government.

We know that during the term of this government the percentage of serious repeat young offenders has increased from 10 per cent to 17 per cent so the problem is getting worse. The number of offences has increased. The offences committed by young offenders are becoming more dangerous, with 22 per cent of young offenders charged with acts intended to cause injury in 2021-22, which is up from 13 per cent in 2018-19. If we look at those young offenders held in custody we can see there has been next to no improvement in outcomes. The percentage of young offenders held in custody who were 'totally disengaged from education, training or employment' was 52 per cent in 2018 and it is 52 per cent in 2021. Despite the rhetoric of those opposite, on nearly every single measure things are getting worse, not better.

In my community, things are getting worse; they are not getting better. Last week, countless residents from Sippy Downs, Brightwater and Buderim took the time to meet with me at my mobile offices. Without exception, the No. 1 issue that they raised was youth crime and its impact on our community. In Sippy Downs, residents are sick and tired of young criminals stealing cars, breaking into houses and destroying important public assets such as playgrounds. Sippy Downs resident Matt told me about enduring years of drug dealing, car surfing, burnouts, brawls in the streets including instances where knives have been pulled, theft and wilful damage. Matt tells me that, despite reporting every single instance to the police and the department of housing, incidents in his street are 'increasing in frequency and ferocity'. Matt tells me that such instances are understandably highly alarming to the young families that live in Sippy Downs.


In Mountain Creek, local residents told me they are sick and tired of young hoons waking them up at all hours of the night and of close calls where young offenders have driven through median strips and down footpaths in stolen vehicles. In Palm View, residents spoke of drug use and assaults. In Buderim, local business owners are at their wits' end dealing with theft and drug dealing. Buderim business owner Hamish told me of cars being ransacked and tools stolen, and of almost daily calls to

the police asking them to deal with assaults, theft and drug use occurring in the vicinity of his business. Our community has seen police cars speeding past young kids walking to school as the police try to deal with young criminals who think that they are above the law. It is simply not good enough.

Our police are trying to do the best they can in a broken system. The courts are applying the flawed laws that the Palaszczuk Labor government have implemented in their reckless crusade to weaken Queensland's youth crime laws. The consequence has been an increase in the very types of crime that our community rejects. It is time for this state government to put community safety first. Bleeding hearts are not going to keep our community safe. Rather than media releases like this one, with hollow promises that will not be kept, the Premier needs to demonstrate real leadership and real action to tackle the youth crime crisis. Real consequences for action are what is needed which is why the—

(Time expired)

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Before I call the next member, I remind the following members that they are on a warning: the members for Mudgeeraba, Bonney, Redlands, Buderim, Nanango, Kawana and Currumbin.


 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (6.45 pm): Tonight I rise to contribute to the debate on the Strengthening Community Safety Bill. I acknowledge the work of the committee that was involved and thank those Queenslanders who made a contribution to its inquiry. The government understands the impact of youth crime on our communities and that is why we are taking new and tougher action to further protect the community and tackle the problem of the complex causes of youth crime in Queensland. This bill is about providing a stronger response and more consequences for young people who are serious repeat offenders. It is only one part of the government's \$322 million investment in addressing youth crime in Queensland. From Cooktown to Cloncurry, from Coolangatta to Charleville and at home in my community of Gladstone the aim of these measures is simple: to ensure that Queenslanders and their communities are safe.

These legislative reforms are targeting the small cohort of serious repeat young offenders who, as we have heard from many speakers, are responsible for a large proportion of youth crime and require intensive effort to change their trajectory. This bill contains reforms to strengthen the operation of some of Queensland's youth justice laws. Importantly, it also contains significant additional investment to ensure programs that divert children away from crime will continue in this state. This is about continuing the work to reduce the overall number of unique youth offenders. More than \$88 million will be available for programs delivered by non-government organisations and \$66 million will be provided over two years for priority police initiatives including extreme high-visibility patrols, online and engagement teams and specialist youth crime rapid response squads.

I want to speak about one change in particular that will see it become a crime for a young offender to breach a condition of their bail. There has been a lot of commentary and hysterics from those opposite calling for a reintroduction of former section 59A of the Youth Justice Act. I want to be clear: this was not a breach of bail offence in Queensland. The reality is that the LNP never legislated a breach of bail offence for young offenders when they were last in government. They did not do it. It is just another attempted retelling of the Newman government's history from those opposite. This bill amends section 29 of the Bail Act to expand the application to youth offenders. Section 29 of the Bail Act has worked effectively with adults in this state for more than 20 years.

My twin brother is a police officer in Gladstone. I have spoken with him about how these laws will impact his work in our community of Gladstone. It is simple: if the court has determined the necessary bail condition then those conditions and breaching them should be taken extremely seriously. Police officers will still have discretion and can use diversion options, but this is about the police having the necessary tools to deal with serious repeat offenders in our communities. This is about saying to those serious repeat offenders, 'If the magistrate says that you have to be home by nine o'clock then you must be and if you are not allowed to be with particular people then that will be enforced as well.'

This is about taking consequences seriously and keeping the community safe. We are talking about a very small portion of young people. There are very few young people who are offending and most young people who have contact with the youth justice system do not reoffend, but that minority accounts for half of all the youth crime. Queenslanders want those changes made, and that is what we are doing here tonight. Queenslanders expect to be safe in their communities and in their homes. Queenslanders expect governments to step up and handle these tough issues, which is what the Palaszczuk Labor government is doing. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (6.50 pm): This is typical of members of the Labor Party: they get up and talk about things but never follow through. The member for Gladstone has just told us that the people out there expect their government to take action and to get things done. They do. They want the government to get things done, but over the past eight years this government has completely and utterly failed them. For the member for Gladstone to say that we did not attempt to bring in breach of bail as an offence is just completely wrong, because in 2021—if the member for Gladstone wants to listen for a second—our shadow police minister tried to move an amendment that would do exactly that. This government blocked that amendment, saying that breach of bail did not work. Yet, in this legislation, it has copied that amendment word for word. It is exactly the same amendment that all members opposite blocked in 2021. Members opposite should not come in here and preach to us about being tough on crime because, quite frankly, this government is a joke. It is weak on crime.

Labor has been in government for eight years. If you listen to the people of Queensland, as I listen to the people of Queensland, you realise that they know that this government has failed. They know that it is soft on crime. The member for Currumbin and I have held two crime forums in our electorates in the past four or five years. We have listened to the people of our electorates while they have cried to us. They have told us about the impacts of crime on them. People have had their cars stolen, their work vehicles stolen, their toolboxes stolen. I understand that members opposite would not know too much about toolboxes. They would be more interested in being political apparatchiks or union members their whole lives. They have never actually done a job of work, but never mind. People have lost their livelihoods because some young hooligan has come in—

Ms Richards interjected.

Mr HART: I take the interjection from the member for Redlands.

Mrs McMahon interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Member for Macalister, cease your interjections.

Mr HART: I take the interjection from the member for Redlands. I am not sure; is the member for Redlands on a warning? I do not know. Maybe she is.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Redlands, I ask you to leave the chamber for an hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Redlands withdrew from the chamber at 6.53 pm.

Mr HART: The seafood buffet is on, member for Redlands; I have done you a favour. The previous speaker, the member for Gladstone, spoke about this legislation providing high-visibility policing. I would love to see some high-visibility policing in my electorate. I have been asking for more police in my electorate for the past seven or eight years. It has been falling on deaf ears, because we have had the same allocation of police in the Palm Beach police district, as far as I know, for the past eight years. In fact, because the morale in the police department is down at the moment, we have fewer police than we ever have had down there. We do not have any high-visibility police. I absolutely commend the police officers who are left there doing the job, because they are doing a great job.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh, please direct all comments through the chair.

Mr HART: The officers on the Gold Coast, in particular in Palm Beach, are doing a great job. They do not have much to work with, but they are doing a great job.

Many members on the other side of the House have told us that this is a very complex and hard issue. All they are doing is burying their heads in the sand. Provide consequences for action and we will fix this problem. As the Leader of the Opposition has already told us, we need gold standard early intervention. We need to intervene with our children a lot younger. We need parents who love their children, nurture them and want them to live a good life in the future. Some parents are not like that, unfortunately. We are seeing our children go to school where sometimes they have no discipline in school. We need that early intervention to give them that discipline to stop them on the tracks to start with. When eventually they do fall into the pattern of crime, there need to be consequences.

Mrs McMahon interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Macalister, you are now warned under the standing orders.

Mr HART: There need to be consequences. It is not that hard to provide meaningful consequences. How many times have we picked up the paper of a morning or watched the news of an evening and seen some 'recidivist' young child who has committed a crime—

Government members interjected.

Mr HART: Apparently when I slip up with my pronunciation that is a bad thing, but never mind. Recidivist young criminals are breaking into people's houses or stealing cars, going to court and coming straight out the other side. It is a catch-and-release system. We all know that. We all know that, even though there are laws in place, hardly anyone is getting the maximum sentence. Maybe it is time we considered mandatory sentences if our courts are not sentencing people with something that actually means a consequence. There need to be consequences. I will say it over and over again, because the people in my electorate are telling me exactly the same thing. They do not think that any of these criminals have any consequences, so let's give them some consequences.

For the Premier to say, 'Violent juvenile car thieves will face 14 years' jail in a suite of increased penalties aimed squarely at keeping the community safe' is just a joke. We have heard from lots of members on this side that the youth justice system does not allow these criminals to be sent to jail for 14 years; in fact, it only allows for these criminals to be sent to jail for five years. That is the law.

As the member for Buderim said, if the Premier says something you would think they would bring in legislation to achieve that, but they have not. They have completely failed at that. I have a question for the police minister to address in his reply to the second reading debate. Will any youth offender who commits the type of crime the Premier talked about ever be sentenced to 14 years jail?


We have had this government come in with a 10-point plan, a four-point plan, a five-point plan and another 10-point plan. We have heard every member opposite stand up in a conga line and say, 'This will fix everything. This will fix it.' We have heard them again this time say, 'This will fix it. This is the final thing.' The member for Maryborough said that this will fix this issue. I bet the member for Maryborough will be back in here in six months time when we are doing this again saying, 'Now we have introduced something that will actually work.'

We need early intervention; there is no doubt about that. We need to get rid of detention as a last resort because, quite frankly, there needs to be consequences; otherwise we are going to see these kids on Facebook promoting their crimes. The Premier seems more worried about seeing them on Facebook than seeing crime stop.

Debate, on motion of Mr Hart, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Everton Electorate, Traffic Congestion

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (7.00 pm): The north-west of Brisbane has a traffic congestion issue. Residents in my electorate are sick of traffic gridlock. They want to get to work quicker and they want to get home quicker. One of the solutions to easing that gridlock is to use a passage of land called the north-west corridor—a section of land that has been there for decades.

The Labor government, which has been in control of the transport department for 30 of the last 35 years, has made empty promises over the years—starting back with Paul Lucas—and still that tract of land remains vacant. Because of the lack of leadership by the Minister for Transport and the Labor government in general and letting this land sit there, the Brisbane City Council decided they needed to do something. They went to the federal government and got funding to do a study. That study has come out and has recommended a tunnel.

Since then the Minister for Transport has come out and panned that proposal because it—

A government member interjected.

Mr MANDER: I will take that interjection. Infrastructure Australia did because the Brisbane City Council did not consider a surface solution. Why did they not do that? The residents of the north-west suburbs alongside that corridor will not accept a surface solution. Had they acted 30 years ago that would have been fine. Because of their delay and inaction an ecosystem has developed along that corridor. As well, residents do not want their peace disrupted. The transport minister will not accept that. He has bagged that. Why? Because he wants a surface option considered. In his ABC interview he said—

Mr BAILEY: I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. I take personal offence at that comment and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr MANDER: I withdraw. The transport minister said in an ABC Radio interview that an idea would be a train link on the surface.

Mr BAILEY: I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. I take personal offence and I ask that that be withdrawn.

Mr MANDER: I withdraw. I know why he is so sensitive about this. I am wondering what the member for Aspley is thinking. I want the member for Aspley to come out and rule out a surface solution for the north-west corridor because the only solution is a tunnel. They will not come out and do it. We are going to tell the residents of Aspley that you want a surface solution, that you want a highway—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Member for Everton, direct all comment through the chair.


Mr MANDER: I take that direction.

Mr MELLISH: I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. I take personal offence.

Mr MANDER: I withdraw. Here is the test. Let the transport minister and the member for Aspley come out and make a public statement that the only solution for the north-west corridor is a tunnel that has a highway and railway through it. That is the only acceptable solution.

(Time expired)

International Women's Day; Dolphins

 **Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP)** (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (7.04 pm): I attended a number of International Women's Day events over the last couple of weeks. I was very proud to see so many incredible, intelligent and driven women in the Redcliffe electorate. Although there are a number of examples I could give, I would like to highlight Moreton Bay's Sergeant Sarah Grayson who held an International Women's Day event over the weekend in support of the Forgotten Women project.

In response to the tragically high rates of women over 55 years of age experiencing homelessness, the project's mission is to put a roof over the heads of as many of these women who are extremely vulnerable as possible. The Forgotten Women project was created and continues to be delivered by Redcliffe's very own Teresa Reed, who is the CEO at Mangrove Housing, a not-for-profit organisation that provides individualised and place-based housing support to those in need.

Ms Enoch interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: I acknowledge the interjection of the Minister for Housing.


I would also like to give a special mention to Redcliffe's Beris Pritchard. This month Beris has officially given 50 years of service to Quota. Beris is an inspiration to many members of our community. Beris's fellow volunteers believe she is full of energy, ability and warmth, and they have immensely appreciated her contribution over many years.

It is great to see women not only taking the lead in our local community but also giving back to the community and supporting other women to succeed. I thank them for the great work that they do in so many organisations. I thank the volunteers and everyone else who came along to that event.

I had a woman in her 80s who came to me, broke down and said, 'The truck is arriving to take all my stuff at midday tomorrow. I've got nowhere to go.' I thank one of our local short-term accommodation places that have taken her in temporarily while we source housing for her. She is very appreciative of the support that we were able to give her. I acknowledge my staff who work tirelessly to support the homeless in my community.

On a much happier note: congratulations to the Dolphins for the start of their NRL season—two from two. They are the only team in the league who have never lost a game. I acknowledge that they follow in the footsteps of the Redcliffe Dolphins who have been playing passionately since 1947. Kids on the peninsula and beyond have new heroes in Kaufuis and Katoa. We wish Jesse Bromwich and the whole team well for the season. I wish them well for Friday night's game against the Knights. There is one that we really want to win—the battle of Brisbane against the Broncos. We will have our fins up and we will be bringing the boys home.

Kenrose Street Bakery

 **Mr MINNIKIN (Chatsworth—LNP)** (7.07 pm): I rise to pay tribute to the resilience of a small family owned business in my electorate, the Kenrose Street Bakery. The wonderful aroma of freshly baked bread and pastries routinely awakens Carina locals who live near Kenrose Street. Ian, Laura and Kensi-Rose are the heart and soul of this small artisan bakery.

The past year has been challenging to say the least. A rainy morning on 22 February last year saw the bakery preparing tempting baked items and serving numerous coffees on a dreary day. Sadly, by 26 February, the bakery went well under water, with fish swimming through the building. The owners closed the bakery trying to assess the huge amount of damage.

By 10 March, a professional cleaning company had been employed to clean and sterilise the building and its contents, including all equipment. Once this process was completed, Ian and Laura were advised that the next stage could take up to two months. In the interim, and not to be deterred, they started work on creating a new menu. On 26 May, the family advised their loyal customer base that after facing more setbacks, the next stage of recovery could take up to another three months.

Whilst they were putting the pieces of their business back together, they visited local farms looking at produce and discussing the hardships faced by farmers in weather cycles. One farmer pointed at damaged crops and said that he just had to deal with the weather and keep ongoing and never give up. Those words resonated with Ian and Laura. August 2022 marked the 20th birthday of Ian's bakery career. He started from scratch in 2002. Due to the flooding circumstances, very sadly, he was pretty much starting from scratch again.

26 September marked the first day of demolition inside the bakery. It was now eight months since Ian had baked in a commercial kitchen. By 27 December the pieces started to come together and advertisements were placed for pastry chefs, bakers and shopfront staff. This is a small family-run business which provides uniforms, training, employment and opportunity; a small business that believes in pride in workmanship; a small business that believes in reward for effort; a small business whose owners start work at 4 am and are often there closing at 4 pm. In Laura and Ian's own words—

There is an image in our mind. People gather to share tables, food and laughter. These pieces are starting to be put back together. Thank you for joining us either as customers or as team members. You make these great days happen and we are excited to see you soon.

I am pleased to state that the Kenrose Street Bakery re-opened its doors last month in early February. Ian, Laura and Kensi-Rose, you have made this recovery happen and I sincerely congratulate you on behalf of the Chatsworth community. You provided not only jobs but strengthened the bonds in our community through adversity. I take this opportunity to salute you on your business resilience. I am always proud to represent small business in my Chatsworth electorate.

Miller Electorate, Development; Correction to *Record of Proceedings*




Hon. MC BAILEY (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (7.10 pm): The need for housing is well-known, and I have good news for the people on the south side of my electorate of Miller. The old animal husbandry farm is now being redeveloped. There are 24 townhouses under development on King Arthur Terrace, which I think the local community is very glad to see. There will be future stages, with more housing going into that part of Yeerongpilly near Tennyson. It is well located next to the Yeerongpilly train line, so that is good news. On the old Yeronga TAFE site we are seeing construction start on the Yeronga mixed-use precinct. There will be plenty of new housing there. The Yeronga Community Centre will get a permanent home there. They are at the core of the community around the Yeronga-Annerley area. They have helped so many people through the floods and the recovery process, and they continue to do that. They have been bumped around from different rental premises over the last few years. To have a permanent home there is something I wanted to achieve, and they will go in there when it is complete. It is great to see the Yeronga Community Centre there. It will be right next to the high school.

Other stages will include children's health services, townhouses, ordinary houses and some units. There will be a mix of freehold, social housing and affordable housing as well as an aged-care facility. We think this is a really well designed outcome by the Palaszczuk state Labor government. Other governments might have sold the block off to the highest bidder; we saw a great opportunity for community benefit. The community centre, local history group and model train people will have a home too. They do daily work helping vulnerable people in my electorate. We were very keen to make sure they had a permanent place right in the centre of our south side Miller community. I cannot thank Melinda McInturff and all of her volunteers and staff enough for what they do for less privileged people in our community. They reach out every day. They have also been a fantastic conduit to different agencies across government to help people who have been impacted by the floods. That construction is underway. It has taken a little longer to get there than we would have preferred due to the pandemic's impact, but we are seeing construction underway. I would like to place on record my appreciation for them. There is more housing coming that is well located next to schools and the upgraded Yeronga train station.

Just before I finish I would like to clarify something for the *Record of Proceedings*. Yesterday I referred to the Linkfield Road project being complete. I actually meant the Everton Park Link Road, \$31 million. It was just a slip of the tongue. The Everton Park Link Road has been a fantastic success story in the member for Everton's electorate, who wanted action not too long ago.


Coomera Electorate, Bus Services

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (7.13 pm): That was a lovely, uninterrupted speech by the transport minister and member for Miller. Let's see how I go. This is the first cab off the rank. In the last three weeks we have had kids and pensioners left behind by bus services on the northern Gold Coast. I have had kids who have been left at the station because a bus has been cancelled that morning. Parents, who have been unaware, have gone off to work and they have had to come back. It has taken them an hour to get back to their children to get them to school. Kinetic is not doing the job. They are cancelling services when there are limited services on the 728 and 729 in particular. There was a bus service, the 722, that was going in the wrong direction on two occasions. It was actually going in the wrong direction in two different directions: one was missing three bus stops; the other one was going to go back the other way and head back to Beenleigh after picking people up in Ormeau instead of going on to Ormeau train station. They are not doing their job.

This has been compounded by the fact that, despite the Gold Coast City Council having the money in the tin since 2021 and the budget of 2022 from this state government making the money available for those bus services to be increased, they have not been increased. They have been delayed. There were meant to be five new bus services on the northern Gold Coast or five increases. Two of them were increased; that is, 40 per cent of the bus services were increased. That is not on. The 728 and 729 were doubled to that number when we were in government back in 2014. Back in 2013 we had 10,300 kids; we now have 20,300 going to school in the Coomera electorate. Since 2017 the number of voters has gone from 37,000 to 52,000. That is up 40 per cent. Since 2016 we have gone from a population of 60,000 to 89,000. That is a 48 per cent increase, yet the 728 and 729 bus services have not been increased. All we have is a promise that sometime down the track the 728 and 729 are going to be delivered to us as an increased bus service.

The point is that the money has been there since June last year. Where has the planning gone? We need the bus service increased. We need it now. There are petitions for people to sign. We need the transport minister to find another bus transport company to deliver those services because Kinetic is not doing it.

International Women's Day Forum


 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (7.16 pm): Women's leadership matters and makes a difference to all of us. The Woodridge electorate is home to many strong, established and emerging women leaders—women who are shaping our communities into vibrant, diverse and inclusive places. That is why I was so pleased to host a special forum at Woodridge State High School last week to celebrate International Women's Day. Our guest speaker was Catherine Clark, the CEO of Paralympics Australia, who provided her insights on how gender equity lifts all of us. She was joined by a local panel of distinguished women from local communities across Woodridge.

I would like to thank our panel participants: Nadia Saeed, Nyaree Mewett, Laura Guthrie, Star Sharifi and Sacre Musabwa. Our participants represented the rich diversity of experience across the Woodridge and Logan communities. Nadia Saeed has advocated for domestic and family violence education prevention in young people through the R4Respect program run by respected local community organisation YFS. Nadia has also led intercultural dialogue with the Muslim community in Queensland and has helped deliver community services through her work with the Islamic Women's Association of Australia. Nyaree Mewett is a proud First Nations leader with extensive ties to community. She has applied her lived experience as director of First Nations Partnerships and Integration within the Brisbane South Primary Health Network. Laura Guthrie is an experienced executive and leader with Munster Services Group, an outstanding Logan business that supports over 200 people across 20 nationalities. Star Sharifi is a Queensland youth parliament member for Woodridge, a Woodridge State High School alumna and a student of law, government and international relations at Griffith University. Star has used her platforms to advocate for her community, the Hazara, for women's freedoms in Afghanistan and for greater support for refugees. Sacre Musabwa is the current Woodridge State High School captain and is a great role model for her fellow students.

It is up to all of us to support and to pursue gender equality and to act as agents of change. That is why it was wonderful to have so many emerging leaders share their experiences at the forum and contribute their vision for our shared future. Thank you to community services leader and Queensland great Gail Ker OAM who facilitated the event and its organisation. The event was also supported by hardworking Woodridge state high staff. Thank you to principal Kathleen Janacek, deputy principal Megan Landbeck, Teagan Barrett, Katrina Zagaglioni, Belinda Jentz, Peggy Chigeza and Katarina Zrakic.

I also want to express my gratitude and appreciation for the leadership that the women in our community display each and every day. On International Women's Day, we celebrate your achievements and thank you for being a positive and dynamic force for progress and change in our community.

Cooloola Great Walk

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (7.19 pm): The people of Noosa fought hard for their national parks and are vested in ensuring they are managed and resourced appropriately. Prior to 2013, the main and only objective of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 was 'the conservation of nature', often referred to as the cardinal principle. Conservation was defined as being the protection and maintenance of nature while allowing for its ecological sustainable use. This objective was amended in 2013 by the LNP government to allow the involvement of Indigenous people, as well as social, cultural and commercial use, which was removed in 2015 by the current government, retaining the section relating to the involvement of Indigenous people.


This sounds rightly appropriate in efforts of reconciliation. However, as we have seen in Noosa with the Cooloola Great Walk project, good intent does not overcome some concerns in our community. First is in the definition of 'conservation' and 'ecological sustainable development', which in the act talks about not diminishing the potential to meet the needs and aspirations of future generations. This is sufficiently vague, creating mistrust, especially when you add the complexities and confidentiality around the contents of Indigenous land use agreements and native title claims.

Second, Noosa is a compassionate and inclusive community and is extremely supportive of efforts that involve First Nations people. However, this support is at risk through a lack of finer detail in the Cooloola project itself, the Indigenous land use agreement and native title negotiations, poor communication from government and public conflict between local Indigenous factions. Currently, I am awaiting a response from the Kabi Kabi corporation in response to questions from Kabi Kabi women, as we have no state government avenues for some answers. Given we have just celebrated International Women's Day, which was wonderful in my community, it is appropriate that these questions be answered.

In addition, I have requested a meeting be convened between Kabi Kabi factions to find a common path to walk together. As I have been advised that it is inappropriate for non-Indigenous to attend such meetings, it is hoped that they would then consent to gathering afterwards with our community in order to clear the air about their conflict in a transparent, respectful and meaningful way. This is essential and, until this occurs, final approvals for the Cooloola Great Walk project should not be granted to ensure a future free of negativity.

Be assured that I remain supportive of Kabi Kabi efforts, as would the vast majority of Noosa residents. However, it is not possible to support processes and projects that lack open and timely communication from all involved. If we cannot get some truth-telling in relation to this, we are not providing the environment and framework necessary for a successful return to country for Kabi Kabi, nor endeavours such as Path to Treaty.

Mansfield Electorate

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (7.22 pm): I am delighted to announce last week's official sod turn of the new indoor sports facility at Rochedale State High School with my colleague the member for Springwood, the Hon. Mick de Brenni MP. I am proud of this \$16.1 million infrastructure, which was a Palaszczuk government 2020 election commitment. This investment supports the strong sports program of Rochedale State High School and will benefit local sporting groups. This is another great example of the Queensland government's strong focus on creating good jobs and better services to enhance our great Queensland lifestyle.

I was honoured to congratulate our 2023 school leaders at Rochedale State School, Mansfield State School, Seton College and Clairvaux MacKillop College. It was a pleasure to also meet the new Seton College principal, Alison Jeffries, and the Clairvaux MacKillop College principal, Wayne Chapman.

Many locals got their hands dirty for Clean Up Australia Day last weekend. Mansfield State High School students cleaned up their handball courts, and Mount Gravatt Lookout had a wonderful turnout of volunteers. I would like to thank locals Kelly Coverdale and Madonna Barraclough who coordinated the clean-ups at Tillack Park, Mansfield, and Bulimba Creek near St Paul's Uniting Sporting Club respectively.


It was a privilege to attend and speak at Bianca's Breakfast, an International Women's Day event hosted by the Lovewell Foundation at the Lovewell Cafe. Congratulations to Annie Stonehouse and the team for a beautiful morning.

I was also honoured to speak at the Newnham Hotel's International Women's Day networking breakfast. It was wonderful to see so many familiar and new faces and to listen to wonderful guest speakers, including Corinne Waters from Body Shop at Home and Helen Rays from Share the Kindness Inc. Congratulations to venue manager Michelle and the team for a successful morning.

I am a proud board member of the Red Rose Foundation, which hosted a successful high tea at the Emporium Hotel at South Bank to support survivors of domestic and family violence. Over 220 guests attended to listen to a sensational range of guest speakers, including the Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency the Hon. Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, award-winning journalist Madonna King and ABC breakfast co-presenter Loretta Ryan. It was fantastic to be joined at that event by my colleagues the member for Jordan, the member for Macalister and the member for Stretton.

Finally, I spent a wonderful afternoon with residents from Carinity Wishart Gardens. It was lovely chatting with locals about important issues, sharing stories and enjoying some of their home cooked treats. Thank you for a great week, Mansfield.

Fien, Mr RH

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (7.25 pm): Today our surf lifesaving community is in mourning. On 2 March, larger than life local surf lifesaving legend Raymond Henry 'Freddy' Fien tragically and suddenly passed away, and I want to dedicate my contribution tonight to him.

Freddy was a loyal and loving husband to Donna and adoring father to his girls Samantha, Taylor, Claudia and Olivia, and he was truly a phenomenal man. Freddy dedicated over 45 years to surf lifesaving. His contribution to our community spans a lifetime and is immense. Freddy mentored countless young lifesavers and helped to build and develop a number of surf clubs. He was a life member of Surf Life Saving Queensland, the Rainbow Bay Surf Life Saving Club and the Point Danger branch, but the one club that I know he was truly passionate about—some would say unashamedly promoted—was the Currumbin Beach Vikings Surf Life Saving Club.


As a former lifesaver at Currumbin Vikings, I know how much Freddy meant to the Vikings. I know how much he was loved, not just as a member or an office bearer, or the official at every carnival, but as a friend. Freddy would always be found at the Vikings, either helping out or drinking a beer, sometimes doing both. He was always at their functions. Whenever I saw Freddy at one of their functions, I knew that that is where the party would be.

His contributions to surf lifesaving cannot be overstated. He was a decorated surf lifesaver. Freddy was a volunteer of the year twice. He received SLSQ's Andy Frizzell OAM OBE Award and also received the Clive Hammond AOM medal. But his greatest achievement by far was raising his four beautiful girls alongside his beloved wife. His family shared that a highlight of his life—and where his big heart really showed—was walking two of his daughters down the aisle with pride in his eyes.

Freddy's death was so sudden and so unexpected, and he was still so young. There is still so much shock in our community over his loss, but his life was an incredible one and worthy of celebration. I am very grateful to Michael Hart, the state member for Burleigh, who attended Freddy's funeral service today on our behalf. Michael said the service was very moving and befitting of Freddy's character. The words of his daughters and his mates showed just how much Freddy was loved and how his memory will live on. On behalf of the Currumbin electorate, I express my deepest condolences to Freddy's wife, Donna, and to his four beautiful daughters Samantha, Taylor, Claudia and Olivia.

Freddy dedicated himself to surf lifesaving on the southern Gold Coast, and our community is far richer for his contributions and his great presence. I know our community will wrap their arms around Freddy's beautiful girls and his beloved wife and support them as they move forward in their lives with the memory of Freddy. Freddy will never be forgotten. Vale, Raymond 'Freddy' Fien.

Kurwongbah Electorate, Small Business

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (7.28 pm): I rise to contribute tonight on a topic I have spoken regularly about in this place because of its importance in my electorate of Kurwongbah and all over Queensland. I am talking about small business. I want to thank the representatives from local businesses who took time out of their always busy schedules to come along to my networking and nibbles event last Thursday. I give a shout-out to Narangba Valley Tavern for hosting us and catering the nibbles. We have never had a bad review. The place always looks after everyone, so I give a shout-out to them because they are fantastic.

This time I invited some local sports clubs to join in this event. We expect sports clubs to run like a business, although they do not have the wages, and it was really good that some of them came along. It helps to open up community partnerships and mentoring opportunities, so it was good that a couple of them came along.

I also want to extend a special thankyou to Queensland's new Small Business Commissioner, Dominique Lamb, who came to the event. As well as presenting a snapshot of what our government offers to small businesses as guest speaker, Ms Lamb took the time to speak to everyone individually to find out the issues that are at the forefront of the minds of all our local businesses. The conversations were really appreciated by everyone there.

I also want to thank Peter from the Small Business Commissioner's office, and Alana and Amanda from the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training for their attendance and the awesome amount of knowledge they were able to impart to our small businesses. I think we will see some really tangible outcomes as a result of the information which was made available to everyone on the day.

I will quickly mention some of the assistance that businesses can access through the Office of the Small Business Commissioner that we all found out about on the day. On any issues involving dispute resolution, including mediation for retail tenancy lease and franchise disputes advocacy, they can help small business to get a better deal broadly through policy development and on a case-by-case level, helping in negotiations with utility companies, for example. They also help businesses navigate through government processes, and we all know that can be sometimes a bit of fun. In regards to connections, they can provide a central point of contact connecting businesses with other services they need, such as a small business financial counselling program, the industry workforce adviser program or mentoring for growth—free programs funded by the government. They can help to get tax advice as well as other matters. Importantly, as we recover from the impacts of COVID-19, they provide access to Beyond Blue's free mental health coaching program, called NewAccess.

I want to conclude by encouraging every small business to check out the support that is on offer for them. There really is so much out there; you just need to know how to find it. Visiting the website qsbq.gov.au is an excellent starting point. I have run a few of these forums. They are amazing, and the businesses that come along always get value from it.

The House adjourned at 7.32 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Head, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Katter, King A, King S, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, MacMahon, 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