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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

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THURSDAY, 16 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

Conduct of Member for Logan, Apology



Mr POWER (Logan—ALP) (9.31 am): Recognising and responding to the matter raised by the member for Glass House yesterday, I wish to acknowledge that I was on a suspension from the House for one hour and, in thinking of documents I had on my desk, I absent-mindedly entered the chamber. Immediately after, I left the chamber and did not participate in any of the activities of the chamber. This was absolutely an error on my part, and I want to apologise to the House, but especially I wish to apologise to you, Mr Speaker, and recognise that it was an error on my part.

REPORT

Auditor-General



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from the Auditor-General *Report 11: 2022-23—State entities 2022*. I table the report for the information of members.

Tabled paper: Auditor-General Report 11: 2022-23—State entities 2022 [\[309\]](#).

PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Ruling, Referral to Ethics Committee




Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, yesterday evening in the debate on the Strengthening Community Safety Bill, the member for Redcliffe took a point of order on the grounds of personal offence under standing order 234. The Deputy Speaker in the chair at the time asked the member for Maiwar to withdraw the offending words, in accordance with that standing order. The member for Maiwar left his seat and moved towards the doors of the chamber. The Deputy Speaker advised the member that he had asked him to withdraw the offending words and, in refusing to comply with the Deputy Speaker's request, he was being disorderly and ordered that he withdraw from the chamber for one hour under standing order 253A. The member withdrew from the chamber, in accordance with the Deputy Speaker's order.

All members have a right to express their views during privileged debate in the House. However, members must do so in accordance with the standing rules and orders. I will be referring the member for Maiwar's refusal to withdraw the offending words for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee as to whether he committed the contempt of misconducting oneself in the presence of the House under standing order 266(11) and/or whether his conduct amounted to a reflection on the actions of the chair under standing order 266(23). I remind all members that standing order 271 now applies and members should not refer to this matter in the House.

SPEAKER'S RULINGS

Tabled Paper, Out of Order


 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, in accordance with previous rulings with regard to the tabling of documents, I remind members that the Queensland Legislative Assembly is very liberal compared to other houses of parliament. The particular distinction in this House is that members have an almost unfettered right to table documents, at least in the first instance. This very great privilege to table documents in a relatively unfettered manner must be balanced by the right of the chair, assisted by officers at the table, principally the Clerk, to ensure that the standing orders of the House, rulings of the chair and resolutions of committees around its proceedings are not transgressed or subverted by the tabling of documents or the contents of those documents.

In accordance with previous chair's rulings on this matter, the general principles underlying the tabling of documents must therefore in this House be as follows. Members have an unfettered right, in the first instance, to table documents. A document is tabled when received by the Clerk or the Clerk's delegate and noted as being received. Once a document is tabled, it is in the possession of the House and generally is at the pleasure of the House. The tabling of a document must not infringe the standing orders or rulings of the chair in any way and nor should the content of any document tabled be offensive to the rules of the House. I add to this the responsibility of members to ensure that, in tabling documents, the confidentiality of committee proceedings is not breached.

During the debate on the Strengthening Community Safety Bill yesterday, the member for Maiwar tabled a copy of a submission made by a member of the public to the Economics and Governance Committee's inquiry regarding the bill. The clerks at the table held over the processing of this document to ensure compliance with the standing rules and orders of the House. On the information available to me, I understand that the committee had resolved to make that particular submission confidential.


In considering this matter, I must balance the right of members to table documents alongside the rights of a committee of this House to maintain the integrity and confidentiality of its proceedings. Allowing the tabling of this submission will subvert and undermine the decision of the committee that its proceedings, in this case a submission made to the committee, remain confidential. Accordingly, I rule the document out of order and not tabled.

Tabled Paper, Out of Order

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, yesterday during the debate on the Strengthening Community Safety Bill, the member for Hinchinbrook tabled a bundle of media articles. Upon review, the articles refer to criminal matters that may offend the sub judice rule in standing order 233 and the member is unable to provide assurance otherwise. Accordingly, I rule the tabling of these documents is out of order and I have asked the Table Office to remove them from the database.


SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

School Group Tours

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Jindalee State School in the electorate of Mount Ommaney, Kimberley College in the electorate of Macalister, Stanthorpe State High School in the electorate of Southern Downs and Carmichael College in the electorate of Morayfield.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Johnson, Mr VG, OAM

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.36 am): I move—

1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this State by the late Vaughan Gregory Johnson OAM, a former member of the Parliament of Queensland and Minister of the State.
2. That Mr Speaker be requested to convey to the family of the deceased gentleman the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the Members of the Parliament of Queensland, in the loss they have sustained.

I would like to acknowledge the presence today in the gallery of Vaughan's children—Monique Grant and her husband, Bill Grant; Tanya Johnson and her partner, Christopher; Michael Johnson and his wife, Ariel—his wife, Robin Johnson, and Vaughan's granddaughters Molly and Emma with her fiancé, Robbie.

In Buderim last month, hundreds of mourners from all over Queensland came to say goodbye to the man and the politician they all knew as VG, or simply Vaughan. Such was the outpouring of respect and affection for the former member for Gregory, people even stood three deep along the sides of the funeral chapel.

Vaughan always had an abiding, genuine concern for people's struggles and he had a fierce affection for Western Queensland. Above all, he had a great love for his family and they for him. That deep affection was so evident at his memorial service, presided over by his three children, whom he had always referred to as 'No. 1', 'No. 2' and 'Best Friend'. On behalf of all members here this morning, I welcome Monique, Tanya and Michael and their mother, Robin, and Vaughan's grandchildren who are with us here in the public gallery.

Before we list Vaughan's many achievements in public life, it is his hand-numbing handshake that anyone who has experienced it will never forget. Tanya, or daughter No. 2, summed it up best in her eulogy to her father. Tanya described his handshake as 'warm, sincere and bone-crushing'. 'Men all over the state,' Tanya said, 'will breathe a sigh of relief that they never have to brace themselves again.' She told mourners, 'While you can all now relax and stretch your fingers, spare a thought for St Peter and our Lord himself as they experience Dad's handshake for the first time.'

Vaughan Gregory Johnson OAM was born in Bourke, New South Wales on 20 July 1947. As a young child, he moved with his family to Queensland in 1952. He was educated at St Finbarr's convent in Quilpie and St John the Baptist convent and St Joseph's College, both in Hunters Hill in Sydney.

After his schooling, Vaughan worked as a grazier and contractor. In 1970 he was elected as a councillor on the Quilpie Shire Council. He served on the council until 1973. Vaughan also had a long involvement with the Quilpie hospital board, serving as a member of the board from 1980 to 1989 and as the board's deputy chairman from 1983 to 1989. Vaughan's lifelong love of Rugby League as both a player and a supporter of the Canterbury Bankstown Bulldogs was also well known and he was heavily involved in the administration of the game in Western Queensland during the 1970s and 1980s.

In 1989, the then longstanding member for Gregory and National Party representative Bill Glasson decided to retire and Vaughan was selected by the National Party to contest the sprawling electorate of Gregory. Vaughan won the seat at the election held in December 1989. He then went on to serve as the member for Gregory until he decided to retire at the January 2015 state election, after having won eight further elections. During his 25 years in the House, Vaughan served in many parliamentary, political and executive government roles. There are too many to mention, but I know he enjoyed the role he played as Minister for Transport and Main Roads from February 1996 to June 1998 as part of the government led by Rob Borbidge. I note that Vaughan himself described that period as one of the great times of his life, and he was proud of the major initiatives in his portfolio that the government he was part of started, such as the building of the Pacific Motorway.

Throughout his time in this place and while in opposition, Vaughan served in the shadow ministry for many years, namely from 1992 to February 1996 and then again from July 1998 to November 2010. For the most part this was in the portfolios of transport and main roads but also at other times in the portfolios of police and corrective services, state development and small business, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander policy.

Speaking at the memorial service his only son, Michael, or 'Best Friend' as his dad referred to him, said that his father always held a special place in his heart for the men and women of the Queensland police 'force' as he always preferred to call them—so much so, Michael said, that, 'When he introduced speed cameras, which have contributed greatly to Queensland's coffers, we are certain, judging by the number of speeding infringement pictures of his own vehicle police sent him, Dad was their No. 1 sponsor.'

Following the 2001 state election, Vaughan was elected as Deputy Leader of the National Party and of the opposition and served in that role from March 2001 to February 2003. When the government led by Campbell Newman came to office in 2012, Vaughan was appointed as Chief Government Whip, and he continued in that position until his retirement in January 2015. Throughout his time in this House, Vaughan also served on various parliamentary committees. His eldest daughter, Monique, has said her

dad took great pride in having little or no LNP paraphernalia in his office. When people asked why, he would tell them he was voted in by the people and for the people. He was there for everyone and his love for the bush and for the people of Western Queensland needed no introduction.

Sadly, throughout his life Vaughan could never overcome his great fear of flying. As his children tell it, there are probably still planes in the air that have the imprints of their father's fingers in the overhead lockers and arm rests. If he needed a charter flight, there was only one pilot for the job and that was Johnny Mac and his two-engine aircraft. In their dad's mind, there was always a backup engine if one failed. As a final failsafe, there in the glove box of the plane Johnny Mac always carried a whistle, a party hat and a bottle of Bundy rum.

Following his retirement from the parliament, it was my pleasure in 2015 to proudly appoint Vaughan as a Wild Dog Advisory Council commissioner. Vaughan played an absolutely critical listening and representative role in this position. He was a fierce advocate for my government's cluster fencing initiative, which had a role in revitalising the sheep and wool industry in Western Queensland.

There was many a time when Vaughan joined the fencing contractors to ensure they were carrying out their contracts absolutely to the letter. I fondly recall inspecting the great progress on this cluster fencing with Vaughan and Minister Furner in Barcaldine in 2017. I also had the pleasure in 2018 of appointing Vaughan as a Queensland Drought Commissioner, through which he actively ensured my government was always very well informed of drought conditions and the assistance producers very much needed.

In 2020, Vaughan was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day Honours List for service to the people and the parliament of this state. This was a very fitting tribute to Vaughan for his length of dedicated service to the people of Queensland, and his family and friends have every reason to be enormously proud of his life.


When Monique sadly discovered that her father had passed away peacefully in the night after celebrating Chinese New Year at a lovely family dinner gathering, she was in no doubt he would be waiting already in heaven's 'Strangers Bar', where of course there would be no strangers to Vaughan Johnson.

I do not think it would be a stretch at all to say that Vaughan Johnson would have to have been one of the most popular members across all sides of politics to ever serve in this place. I am certain that he will be forever fondly remembered by the members who served with him during those times and also by the staff who worked here. Whether people lived in Birdsville, Bamaga or Brisbane, Vaughan was a down-to-earth, no-nonsense politician absolutely committed to helping people. He was a passionate man, a mate to everyone and an absolutely fierce advocate for regional Queensland.

Vaughan Gregory Johnson OAM passed away on 22 January aged 75 years, and a beautiful funeral service was held to celebrate his life in Buderim on 2 February. It was an honour to have been in attendance on that day along with some of my ministerial colleagues and members of parliament including those from the opposite side. Amongst the many moving words in the Memorial Ode Ben Johnson composed in tribute to his father were these—

I see you now, as I always have,
Your humble nature, with respect for self,
And all that surround you.
With humility you went about your days,
Ever friendly, ever kind,
And always so generous.

I place on record the government's thanks for the years of service Vaughan gave to the institutions of our democracy and to the Queensland community. On behalf of the government, I take this opportunity to extend my sympathy and that of this House to Vaughan's family and his many friends across Queensland.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.45 am): The opposition offers its wholehearted support for this motion recognising the life and contribution of Vaughan Johnson, former member for Gregory. The passing of a former member, particularly one who served in this parliament and served his community for over 25 years, is even more poignant because many of us regarded Vaughan not only as a colleague but also as a mate. Through his unique approach to parliamentary life, he managed to make our shared time here more fulfilling, more amusing and more grounded.

Vaughan Johnson, although born in New South Wales, was a genuine son of Western Queensland and of Quilpie. It was in Quilpie that he was educated at the local convent run by the Sisters of St Joseph, raised a family, worked as a grazier and contractor, and began his long and distinguished record of service to the people of the west. His local contribution included positions in the local and regional Rugby League, the Lions Club and the Pony Club. He served on the Quilpie Shire Council and was a member of the Quilpie hospital board, a solid grounding for his latest service to this parliament.

Upon the retirement of Bill Glasson, Vaughan was elected the member for Gregory in 1989. His quarter of a century in this parliament was taken up by championing the needs of the people of the west. His first speech, on 7 March 1990, highlighted the difficulties faced by the sheep and cattle producers of the region as well as demonstrating the potential of a new industry, tourism, particularly centred on the recently opened Stockman's Hall of Fame in Longreach.

Vaughan owed his loyalty to the people of Gregory. He pointed to the loss of economic importance, population and services in rural towns. The state of health, ambulance services and education were his high priorities and he was deeply conscious of the need to provide adequate services in the west to retain both the young and the elderly. During his six years in opposition, Vaughan built a reputation as a vocal and passionate advocate for the people of Western Queensland. His service as shadow minister culminated in his appointment as Minister for Transport and Main Roads in the Borbidge government from 1996.

In opposition from 1998 Vaughan served in various shadow portfolios and was appointed Chief Government Whip upon the election of the LNP government in 2012. It was in this role that I came to know Vaughan best and the value he placed on family. I recall going to him on one occasion with a request for leave from this parliament. He said, 'If you want to leave on Thursday to attend a breakfast meeting in your electorate, the answer is no. If you want to leave early and have breakfast with your kids, the answer is yes.'


Vaughan was not one for airs and graces. On a visit to Longreach he was lamenting that a new restaurant in town was trying to offer its clients a more up-market service, a more expensive experience. Accordingly, it had replaced VB with Crown Lager. Vaughan understood the objective, but he said, 'I'm happy to pay extra. I just want VB.'

If there was one word that can describe Vaughan's time in this parliament it would be 'colourful'. He was never afraid to say what he thought and he believed he was better off if he could share that wisdom with all of us. Former member for Warrego Howard Hobbs told the story in 2014 that his party was worried when Vaughan was first elected and sent a senior politician to pass on some instructions. Mr Hobbs said, 'He had to tell Vaughan to do three things: to stop swearing, to stop drinking rum by the gallon and to stop bloody fighting.' Honourable members can make up their own mind whether any of that advice was ever heeded.

Vaughan retired from parliament in 2015. In his post-parliamentary life he was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia and served in a number of roles including as a drought commissioner. It was in this role that he acted as a conduit for the challenges facing the people of the west.

Vaughan Johnson will be remembered as a true champion of the west. He gave unstintingly of his time and made efforts to help those people who lived in often challenging conditions. Any member of parliament today who develops a reputation as a community advocate as enthusiastic and committed as Vaughan Johnson will have much to be proud of. Vaughan has left a mark on this House. His unique style, his enthusiasm and his dedication will be remembered by all of us for a long time.

Despite the circumstances, we are pleased to welcome to the House Vaughan's former wife, Robin; his three children, Monique, who I first met running a hotel in Jundah—and how proud of you he was—Tanya and Michael; their partners, Bill Grant, Christopher Scott and Ariel Cao; two granddaughters, Emma and Molly Forsyth; and Emma's fiancé, Robbie Storey. We share their loss and are grateful to them for allowing Vaughan to spend the amount of time that he did with us. This parliament was the poorer for Vaughan's retirement; we are all poorer for his passing. Vale, Vaughan Johnson.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (9.51 am): Vaughan Gregory Johnson—I pause to say I have never heard a more prescient middle name for a member of this House, considering that, being born in Burke, he served the great electorate of Gregory and that region for 25 years. It is important that we recognise and honour that service.

I had the pleasure of serving with Vaughan Johnson in this chamber for two terms, but I had the pleasure of meeting him much earlier than that in other roles that I played associated with this chamber. I learned a few things. I learned more than a few things from Vaughan Johnson over the years, and he was pleased to share that knowledge and share those experiences. He was a true gentleman.

The thing I learned most particularly was how to try and avoid the crusher handshake, but that never really ended up coming off. You wanted to share that embrace and share that connection with Vaughan when you saw him. While you remembered it for a while afterwards—sometimes more physically than mentally—it was one of his great distinctions.

I also learned that it was a good idea to try to avoid getting into a lift with him. He did not particularly like small spaces, as we have heard in relation to his experience with air flight travel, and the high-rise lifts here in the Parliamentary Annexe were part of that issue. I am aware of an occasion where there was once a fault in the lift. I am sure that you, Mr Speaker, and the Parliamentary Service cannot believe that there would ever be a fault in one of the lifts here at Parliament House! But there was a fault, and he was in the lift with slightly more people than he was comfortable with. His character as a true gentleman of Western Queensland shone out, in that he did not like being in confined spaces with a large number of people, and he became quite agitated. I think those people who shared that lift with him—there might be some who are in the chamber now—were very relieved when matters resolved, the lift doors opened and they were able to escape, after letting Vaughan get out first, to look at the sky. I heard that he needed to go out and look at the sky as soon as he could.

There is one particular story I want to tell about learning from and seeing the way in which Vaughan worked with his community and represented his very broad, large and diverse electorate. The Premier and the Leader of the Opposition have referred to his service and experience of growing up in Quilpie. Being from Quilpie prepared him to understand everywhere across the whole of his very vast electorate, and it became more vast as his time as a member of this parliament went on. His connection with his community shone through, but above all else was his connection and love for his family. I acknowledge the members of his family who are in the gallery today. I was, alongside the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and others, very proud to have been able to share in the experience of his funeral service in Buderim.

The opportunity to see him in action in his electorate was a different experience to meeting him and seeing him here in the parliament. He was less comfortable here, and I think we can all appreciate that. I think some of the stories the Leader of the Opposition has told about the advice given by the former member for Warrego shows that he was not necessarily a man of this chamber but he was genuinely a man of Western Queensland.

Seeing him in action was quite an opportunity and I had that opportunity on a few occasions. The first opportunity was a great experience. I was in Western Queensland in 2007 as parliamentary secretary for planning. I was hosted by Vaughan Johnson as the local member and the then mayor of the Barcaldine shire council, Robbie Chandler, for a 5 am inspection of the Barcaldine Showgrounds. This was in order to gain an appreciation of how many grey nomads were camping at the showgrounds. We went early, before they all packed up and got back on the road. We were getting that appreciation and seeing it firsthand, and it was a great experience.

This inspection and visit were happening at a time when there was a matter of significant controversy around amalgamations of local government in Queensland—an underlying issue that Vaughan, and equally mayor Chandler, was keen to be pursuing at all times. During the inspection we saw a gentleman walking his small dog in front of one of the campervans—the walk you would want a dog to have first thing in the morning. He came across and he said, ‘You blokes look like you must be politicians’—that was this gentleman’s opening line—so we engaged with him and had a good chat. We clarified that he was from Victoria and was enjoying his time in Western Queensland, and what a good thing that was. He was praising the facilities at the Barcaldine Showgrounds—all good news.

Next thing he said, ‘Now, what’s this business about amalgamations that’s going on at the moment?’ My heart sunk. I could see the smiles on Vaughan’s and Robbie’s faces rise. He said, ‘I’m from Victoria and the only good thing Jeff Kennett ever did was amalgamate those councils!’ I could see the smile breaking out even more broadly, to be honest, on Vaughan’s face and him giving me a knowing look, knowing that I would be raising that with him again on some other occasion. That story is true evidence of the sort of person Vaughan was. The reality is that you would never die wondering about his view on a particular matter. He was a straightforward but true gentleman of Western Queensland. Vale, Vaughan Gregory Johnson.



Mr MILLAR (Gregory—LNP) (9.58 am): I never thought I would be in this place giving a condolence motion for a man who was simply a mentor and a friend. There is a great monument to Vaughan Johnson OAM, the member for Gregory for 25 years, at the Boulia Diamantina Shire Council boundaries, not far from the Northern Territory-Queensland boundary. It is called the Vaughan Johnson Lookout. It is a lookout on a jump-up that has an amazing and beautiful view of the vastness of the Channel Country. To put it into context, its views are as big and as beautiful as Vaughan's heart, his famous big hands and his handshake. Diamantina shire mayor Robbie Dare said that the lookout was named after Vaughan in recognition of his advocacy and efforts made towards the advancements of sealed road networks in Western Queensland.

Accepting the honour, Vaughan stressed the importance of the continued need to push for infrastructure in the outback in Queensland. He said that, while there were not many of us out there, we provide a lot of dollars for this state, if not the country. You only need to look at the Diamantina shire to see this. Whether it is broadband or bitumen, we need to continue the fight. Vaughan would not want us to be sad, but that is pretty hard. When I got the news that Vaughan had passed away, it was very surreal. I had spoken to him only a week earlier. He was full of life and quick wit and he made me laugh.

As the minister for transport and main roads in the Borbidge government, he is famously remembered for the time he got caught in gridlock on the highway between Brisbane and the Gold Coast. This was when the M1 was being built. He got out of his ministerial car and walked down the line of cars personally apologising to as many drivers as he could for the inconvenience caused. I can imagine the surprise of receiving a knock on the driver's door window by a big, stocky bloke from outback Queensland saying, 'Hello. I'm Vaughan Johnson, the minister for roads. I just want to apologise.' I can also imagine Vaughan picking up the phone to the planning department to share his opinions on the scheduling of the works during peak hour affecting so many people!

We all know Vaughan loved a yarn. It also got him into trouble. He just loved talking to people and listening to their concerns, and where it got him into trouble this time I will explain. Vaughan is the only politician to be sacked by the Longreach Meals on Wheels. Vaughan volunteered to do the Meals on Wheels lunch run with local coordinator and Longreach's loveliest lady the late Barb Morton. As members know, the secret to a successful Meals on Wheels run is to get the hot food, with only alfoil over it to keep it warm, in as quickly as possible and get back in the car for the next meal to be delivered. Vaughan's job was to be the runner while Barb kept the car running and ready to go.

Well, the first stop was Vaughan's downfall. The first stop, unbeknown to Vaughan, was an elderly good old mate of his from Quilpie who eventually retired in Longreach. Vaughan knocked on the door and the elderly gentleman opened the door and said, 'G'day, Vaughan. Haven't seen you for a long time. Come in.' Vaughan placed the meals on the bench and the elderly gentleman said, 'Come and sit down on the couch. Have a yarn.' You have to remember that during this time Barb is still out in the car expecting Vaughan to be back in the car in 30 seconds. The elderly gentleman said, 'How're you going? Haven't seen you for a while, Vaughan.' Vaughan responded, 'Great to catch up. How've you been? How's this person? What's happening down in Quilpie?' and so on and so on, reminiscing about old mates. About five minutes later there was a hell of a bang on the door. It was Barb, who yelled, 'Where the hell are you, Vaughan? The meals are going cold. What are you doing?' Vaughan replied, 'I'm just catching up with an old mate from Quilpie, Barb.' Barb yelled back, 'I'll give you catch up with old mate! Get back in the car! We have 50 meals to deliver and they're getting cold and I think they would like those lunch meals before four o'clock!'

Of course, as we have heard, Vaughan hated flying. There was the time when he was travelling back from the west on a charter on a hot summer's day with lots of turbulence and bad crosswinds. When the plane landed the pilot got out and opened the door and Vaughan stumbled out. The pilot said, 'How was the flight?' Vaughan said, 'Yeah, fine. You can have your armrest back now.' I remember over 20 years ago I flew with Vaughan from Emerald to Ayr in North Queensland for a rally with canegrowers concerned about the impacts of deregulation of the sugar industry. Vaughan wanted me to come along because my wife is from Ayr and I could introduce him to a few farmers. Flying up was okay, but at four o'clock in the afternoon the typical summer weather set in over Ayr. I quickly rounded up Vaughan and said, 'Mate, we need to go before this sets in.' We took off in bad weather. The pilot, who looked 17 but I am sure he was older, had no fear—straight into the clouds and into the turbulence. Vaughan was starting to look distressed to the point where he grabbed the other seatbelt beside him and wrapped it around his legs thinking that if the plane went down this would save him. Of course I am used to planes, growing up around crop dusters, so I could see his distress. I turned to the pilot and I said, 'Hey, Maverick,'—referencing *Top Gun* because he thought he was in *Top Gun*—'any chance you

could pull this plane up 500 feet and aim for that gap in the clouds and lead us into clear weather?' The pilot said to me, 'It's only a bit of turbulence and a bit of rain.' I said, 'I know, mate. I know, Tom Cruise, but if you don't this bloke behind me is about to rip the fuselage apart and we'll all hit the ground.'

I cannot do this tribute without extending my many thanks to Vaughan's family, especially Robin, Monique, Tanya and Michael and their grandchildren and their extended family. In public life, as we know, sacrifice cuts two ways. While Vaughan sacrificed much to serve Gregory and Queensland, his family also bore the cost of those sacrifices and deserve our deepest gratitude for that. Their love and support was a mainstay in his retirement and it was a joy.


I am personally so grateful for his friendship and for the advice and support he gave me when I became the member for Gregory. He has not only been a real friend but an inspiration. He brought energy, courage, shrewd intelligence and an authentic love for people to the job and he has made a lasting impression. While the fight goes on, the contributions will remain as an inspiration and a strength. Vaughan was a special bloke and he reminds me of Kipling's famous poem *If*. To quote just a part of that as a tribute Vaughan—

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

...

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!

Vale, Vaughan Johnson, OAM.

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (10.04 am): I also rise to offer my condolences to Vaughan Gregory Johnson and acknowledge his family in the public gallery today. It was such a pleasure to converse with them at his funeral in Buderim earlier this year.

The first meeting I had with Vaughan was at the Brisbane Airport. We were going our different ways—I think I was going to Canberra and he was travelling down to Sydney—but we got chatting and we were the only two in the lounge at that time. The moment you met Vaughan you could tell instantly that he was a man who was genuine—a straight shooter, a man who was an absolute gentleman, salt of the earth. He really cared for his community. He loved his family but also loved agriculture and our First Nations people. By the end of that conversation at the airport we exchanged our mobile numbers—something rare that you do when you first meet a person. That reminded me of how genuine he was and the trust we had in one another to have that ability to make that contact.


We kept in touch with each other over the years after that meeting, but it did not take long for our paths to meet again. As a wild dog commissioner he loved seeing the return of sheep in the west. He was infectious about it, actually. I remember the occasion that the Premier and I and Vaughan went out to inspect a newly constructed fence not far from Longreach. From that position he was accepted by the Premier as the drought commissioner. He championed those impacts as well. I remember him telling me to be brave and be bold when we introduced our drought reforms, and we see the beneficiaries now where many primary producers are producing drought preparedness initiatives to make sure their properties are drought proofed as much as possible.

He was quick with an opinion. He was very supportive of his role as a wild dog commissioner and at the time he said that he was very pleased to be part of this. He said, 'Rural Queensland is sick of being second-class citizens.' On drought he continued his travels and engaged with producers,

industry and government but also knew that he made a difference. He made a difference to everyone and made a difference as part of the solution as he urged anybody wanting to help to donate cash or visit affected towns.

His involvement with the Woorabinda Pastoral Co. was also another area where our paths met when I was the ministerial champion at the time. Along with his strong interests in seeing people's lives improved, he worked well with the Director-General of TMR, Neil Scales, a government champion of Woorabinda who continues to deliver for that community. It did not matter what side of the fence you were on; Vaughan stopped for a chat. He had a genuine love for his region of Queensland and all those who lived there. Throughout our years of friendship and conversations he always inquired how our Premier was—a true sign of a man who genuinely respected our Premier.

Queensland has lost a rural champion and Queenslanders everywhere will miss Vaughan, particularly his handshake, which has been remembered today by many. It is something that impresses upon me from the many occasions when I met him and something I will miss. Vale, Vaughan Johnson.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (10.07 am): What an honour it is to rise to contribute to this condolence motion for Vaughan Johnson, the former member for Gregory. He was a wonderful friend, colleague and as tough—I had to change my words here—as an old boot. Firstly, my sincerest condolences to Vaughan's family—to Robin, his children Monique, Tanya and Michael, to the extended Johnson family and to all of Vaughan's grandchildren. Emma and Molly, I know that he would be proud that you could be here today, but I know there are others. Monique and Tanya, I want to thank you because I was often in trouble because of you two with the then chief government whip. Your dad would look at both Lisa France and I and say, 'You girls, you're just like my daughters! I know what you're up to! You've got that look in your eye,' and then he would go on and continue to regale many stories of what you girls got up to. Lisa and I were nothing like you, I promise!

As we have heard today, Vaughan was a member of this House for 25 years and before that a councillor for his local region. That background certainly cemented his passion and his strong advocacy for rural and regional Queensland, and it was just so obvious. In his first speech Vaughan said—

The constituents of Gregory can rest assured that they will receive total and sincere representation. I pledge myself to represent and assist people, no matter what their political persuasions, to achieve the quality of life that they desire.

He did that in spades. He lived that promise throughout his time as the member for Gregory. In fact, he continued it until the time of his passing.

I cannot believe we have come this far in the condolence motion without talking about how many times he was kicked out of this chamber or threatened to take someone outside. When I was chatting to Michael earlier he mentioned to me he thought that maybe his dad had a permanent booking outside of the chamber for the times that he was not allowed back on the premises. Vaughan valued greatly his time in this chamber as transport and main roads minister. The whole time I knew Vaughan he talked at great length to me about it. I did always laugh at the taxi story. When Vaughan was the minister for main roads he actually took a taxi with a staff member and the taxidriver got a flat tyre. The staffer said to the minister, 'We are in a bit of a hurry. I will just call another taxi.' Vaughan said, 'Don't be stupid,' and got out and changed the taxidriver's tyre. That is the type of person he was. He was always there to help and he was happy to get his hands dirty.

It was a real honour to be in this chamber with Vaughan during my first—and his last—term. I sat between Howard Hobbs and Ian Rickuss with Vaughan Johnson right in front of me. It was a complete baptism of fire. As a new member of parliament, being very nervous about speaking—I am not sure that was ever the case—every time I would stand up and speak he would try to put me off by saying unparliamentary words. It was terrible. If he could not get out the unparliamentary word he would just simply say 'sheila' because he knew full well it would get the desired reaction. He knew exactly what he was saying.


One of the first times I met Vaughan I was campaigning at the Toogoolawah cattle sales. Vaughan came along with me because he thought I needed some advice as to how to wrangle some local farmers at a cattle sale and on how I should be elected. I spent ages talking to this one gentleman who had a real issue. He walked over to me and he said—he actually did say 'sheila' then—'You're spending too much bloody time with that bloke. He's going to vote for Labor anyway.'

Ms Grace: Yes!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: One of the few! He won them over with his handshake. As the Leader of the Opposition has mentioned, there was a softer side to Vaughan in the chamber. During my first term Saxon Rice had her baby and Lisa France had really young kids. Just recently Saxon was telling me that when she had baby Imogen here in the chamber she recalled that Vaughan did everything he

possibly could to support her with baby Imogen, including giving her a Tambo Teddy so she had something to cuddle. He also thought it was good for the tourism push that a baby in the chamber was holding a Tambo Teddy.

There is so much that Western Queensland can be thankful for, whether it is roads or the cluster fencing that I know Vaughan was so immensely proud of. Then minister Cripps always tries to take the credit for cluster fencing, but Vaughan pushed during that term to get that up. That area of Queensland has never been the same. It was a wonderful contribution to that part of Queensland. I am pleased that my colleague the member for Gregory mentioned the Vaughan Johnson lookout on the Bedourie to Boulia road because that is one place that the people of Western Queensland and his family and friends can go and remember the late, great Vaughan Johnson. In his maiden speech Vaughan referred to the men and women of his electorate as angels in isolation and he treated them as such. Vaughan, you fought the good fight. Vaughan, you made your mark, and now may you rest in peace.


 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (10.14 am): I rise to support today's condolence motion for Vaughan Johnson. Like many in the House, I did not know Vaughan in this House. I came in 2015 when the changeover in the seat of Gregory occurred. I got to know Vaughan in my role as a government MP, whether it was on a committee or as minister.

I am pretty sure my colleagues would attest to this: every time a minister went to Western Queensland, it did not matter what you were doing, Vaughan Johnson found you. Whether it was opening a fire station or something else, Vaughan would travel hundreds of kilometres because it was a great opportunity to have a chat to a government minister and there was always something that was on his mind. The main time I remember was as disability minister when Vaughan led the charge for the town of Longreach. There were, and still are to this day, around 60 to 80 people of the Longreach community who have NDIS plans but not one single NDIS provider. Vaughan brought Longreach representatives and leaders down to Brisbane to meet with myself and others to stir this up and to resolve this.

As many members have said before us here today, he was an absolute passionate champion for Western Queensland. He also reminded me that, if I chose to use it, Bill Shorten's mother-in-law actually comes from Ilfracombe. 'Feel free, Minister, to use that as you wish,' he said, which I did. I can assure the House that, through the advocacy of Vaughan, Longreach has received focus from the federal government, the state government and the NDIS and those services are starting to flow.

In the last couple of months before Vaughan passed we had a number of conversations about treaty and about what that meant for Western Queensland, what it meant for towns, communities, farmers and also the Aboriginal people of Western Queensland. He was quite a strong supporter of many of the First Nations leaders in his area. In the last meeting that we had—he actually travelled all the way down to Brisbane to meet me—we spent a couple of hours talking about this and at the end of that meeting he stood up and with that big handshake he said, 'Minister, you tell me what you want me to do and I will support you on this 100 per cent.' Unfortunately, I will never get to make that call to ask for his assistance.

I grew up on a farm in Victoria. I grew up with people like Vaughan. The big handshake was nothing new to me. I grew up with many people of Vaughan's stature in the community. The handshake was more than a greeting or a goodbye; it was a contract. When you looked Vaughan in the eye, shook his hand and agreed on something, you absolutely agreed on something; it did not need to be written down. With that, condolences to his family and to his friends. We have lost a great champion for Western Queensland.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (10.18 am): It is a great privilege to contribute to the condolence motion for Vaughan Johnson OAM, former deputy mayor of the Quilpie shire, former member for Gregory and former minister for transport and main roads. I acknowledge Robin, Monique, Michael and Tanya, their partners and extended family who are here today. I extend my condolences to you all and those of the former member for Warrego who served many years in this House with Vaughan Johnson. Vaughan was a larger than life character and so many of us were privileged to know him. Two weeks ago I was on Palm Island with former mayor Alf Lacey. Alf was unable to make Vaughan's funeral and asked me to pass on his condolences to Vaughan's family, which I said I would do in this condolence motion.

Vaughan loved his family and the people of the bush. He loved his football, which was an integral part of his pre-parliamentary life. He was a boy from the bush who built roads in the city. As the minister for transport and main roads, he oversaw the addition of lanes to and the rebuilding of the M1. There

are countless mayors and councillors who have recounted to me the roads that were maintained and sealed while he was in charge of the portfolio. Earlier I heard some recount his dislike of flying, but that was not the only reason that he drove endless kilometres around Queensland. He wanted to know about the state of Queensland's roads so he drove them and he knew them well. I would find him in a roadhouse at Miles, somewhere out at Thargomindah and in various other places around Queensland.

Vaughan also got up to some antics and some practical jokes. It was that sense of fun that made his character what it was. It started at an early age. There is a story about a local priest in Quilpie, a goat, Vaughan Johnson and his mates. Do not worry, Mr Speaker: it is parliamentary.

Years ago, when Vaughan was a young bloke in Quilpie, he and two mates tied a goat to the bell of the Anglican Church at about two o'clock in the morning. Then they let the goat go. Of course, the goat walked out to the end of the rope and the bell rang. Vaughan and his mates went up the road to watch the reaction of the local priest. The priest came out and tried to catch the goat, but he was not much of a stockman. Every time he tried to catch the goat, it ran to the end of the rope and rang the bell. This continued for some time with the church bell chiming away at two o'clock in the morning. The bell ringing woke the whole town of Quilpie. Vaughan and his mates were highly amused. Quilpie has never forgotten Vaughan Johnson.

In this very chamber Vaughan kept up the antics. Vaughan sat next to Ian Walker, the former member for Mansfield. Vaughan loved to play practical jokes on Ian whilst he was speaking. On one occasion, Vaughan poured a glass of water into Ian Walker's shoe whilst he was speaking in full flight.

Another story involved Vaughan Johnson, Howard Hobbs and Santo Santoro. Vaughan and Howard sat either side of Santo in the chamber. They both had a hold of Santo's coat-tails and held him down so that he could not make the jump to call Mr Speaker and, subsequently, missed his speaking spot. Afterwards, Santo gave both of them a lecture on their breeding.

Vaughan had some sayings that he used regularly like 'you're one pink feather short of being a real galah' or 'there's a few roos short in the top paddock'. He was certainly not vanilla.


Not long after I was elected, I was told that Vaughan wanted to give me some advice that I needed in relation to being a member of parliament. I thought, 'Well, this is going to be interesting.' I had to promise him that I would look after Lachie Millar, the member for Gregory. That is some task.

Honourable members interjected.

An honourable member: It's a work in progress.

Mrs Frecklington: How are you going?

Ms LEAHY: I take the interjection: it is a work in progress. One thing is for sure: Vaughan's legacy will continue for many years to come and his handshake will be remembered by all those who met him. May he rest in peace.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (10.23 am): I too rise to speak on this condolence motion for my mate Vaughan Johnson. Today we have heard from all speakers so far about that gruff exterior, the swearing and the hard handshake. I have to disagree with the Premier: that handshake lives on in his son, Michael. Western Queensland and Queensland will not escape that handshake for some time. Aside from that, as we have also heard, Vaughan was just a big teddy bear—maybe a Tambo Teddy.

I want to share one story and it is similar to what has been shared by my leader and also the member for Nanango. Members know this job is tough and ministers know this job is tougher, not on us but on our families. When the LNP won government in 2012, I basically left my amazing wife, Taryn, home alone with five kids aged under 11. On the day of Vaughan's funeral, I commented on my social media that both Taryn and I credit him with saving our marriage during those three years when we were in government.

Not every parliamentary Thursday, but most, as chief government whip VJ would come up to me after question time and quietly say, 'Go home.' We never expected it, but Taryn so appreciated those early marks. Vaughan did not expect anything in return but I can assure you, Mr Speaker, that every Christmas there was always a carton of VB for Vaughan from the Powell family. That left an indelible mark on my family.

After his retirement, Vaughan spent a lot more time on his Noosa hinterland property. One day, tragically, he rolled his quad bike on top of himself and ended up in Nambour Hospital. They were very dark days for him, both physically and mentally. Taryn baked biscuits, my kids made him cards and he often got a visit from the Powell family during his time in that hospital. I am glad he made it through that time.

All of us here have appreciated his contribution to the electorate of Gregory. We have all acknowledged his passion for regional and remote Queensland and for Queensland as a whole. However, I am particularly grateful for his care and concern for my family and me. I know he felt that for his own family, who are present here today. All I can say is: thanks, mate. Rest in peace.



Ms SIMPSON (Maroochydore—LNP) (10.25 am): I wish to add some personal comments to the tributes to my friend and former colleague the late Vaughan Johnson. He used to call me his little sister. In many ways, in this parliamentary world, he was like a big brother to me when I was elected in 1992 as the National Party member for Maroochydore. He was the National Party member for Gregory and had been elected only three years earlier at the election that saw the change of government from conservative to Labor.

There is a lot of sacrifice in public life, especially when caring for the people of the west in an electorate the size and scope of Gregory and many of our larger seats. Few of us really know just what that kind of sacrifice means. It means you cannot go home at night after a function in the electorate as home is hours away by road or a flight away. Vaughan's electorate, at 400,000 square kilometres, give or take 20,000 to 40,000 kilometres, was absolutely huge. Every community expects to see you and to be represented by you. Technology can only help so much. Technology is not personal and it is not the member.

Vaughan was one of those members who was always on the road or flying to do the job, to stay connected, to care and to help people. When there were floods, fires or droughts and when there were government decisions made many thousands of miles away that smashed people's lives and livelihoods and left them feeling disempowered and forgotten, the one who took up the mantle to speak, to advocate, to fight on their behalf, the one who carried the bigger challenge and burden was Vaughan Johnson. It was not a job; it was about a call to care. Vaughan was that person. He was always out there caring for people, regardless of their status in life. He cared deeply about his electorate and the people of Queensland, and he cared deeply about his family.

As we have heard, Vaughan was straight-talking, colourful, passionate and kind when he saw people in trouble. As the main roads and transport minister in the Borbidge-Sheldon government, he was outstanding. He understood the size of the state and the need to keep people connected with good roads and good rail. As someone who had built, owned and run a trucking company, he understood better than many what it meant to the economic lifelines of the state.

My colleagues have already outlined some of the key milestones in Vaughan's life. I thought I would add another anecdote. I recall he was speaking in the parliament, in full and passionate flight. In the midst of his speech he recounted that his mother would have washed his mouth out with soap if he ever swore. At that, he dropped his speaking notes and swore as he lent down to pick them up. It would have been a very game Speaker who pulled him up because it was quite funny. That was Vaughan. No-one could take offence at that.

Vaughan, you have served your electorate well. A big personality and a big man with a big heart, he was also a man of faith—a bushie's faith. Now he is in God's arms of love and care. Till we see you again, Vaughan. To your family go our love and our respect because you also walked alongside him and paid much of the price of sacrifice for Vaughan's life of service. I acknowledge Robin, Monique, Tanya, Michael, the grandchildren and the extended family. Vaughan, we will miss you until we meet again.




Mr KNUTH (Hill—KAP) (10.29 am): I was deeply saddened when I heard of the passing of Vaughan Johnson. I acknowledge Robin and all the family members in the parliamentary gallery today and those who are at home watching. I offer my sincere condolences. I did have the privilege to serve with Vaughan from 2004 to 2015 and knew him well before I entered parliament. Vaughan was probably one of the greatest grassroots politicians, on par with Jim Pearce and Vince Lester, who were very close to Vaughan. Vaughan was one of those rare politicians who could work across party lines. He had a relationship with and could work with people from all different walks of life and backgrounds. I remember when I was first elected to the parliament in 2004. Vaughan was on his feet viciously attacking a government minister for nearly the entire speech. I said to myself, 'Gee, they must dislike each other. This is irreparable damage.' Two days later, Vaughan and the minister were in the Strangers Bar, shouting beers. They were there not just for one hour or two; they were there for quite some time! Vaughan always believed in playing hard but having a beer afterwards.


Vaughan was a very well liked and very well respected person. As the member for Charters Towers I shared an electorate boundary with Vaughan and I would travel with him on different occasions. It was not uncommon for him to walk up the railway track, shake hands with the fettlers, attend the bull sale and then go to the Emerald agriculture show and open the show. This was all in a day's work. At the time, his electorate was 1½ times the size of Victoria.

One thing that sticks out in my mind—as I said, I knew Vaughan way before politics; I was in the railway for 20 years—is when I told Vaughan that I would be competing at the Brisbane Ekka in the Queensland Rail silver spike rail race competition in which some of the teams from his electorate would be competing. Vaughan turned up, as minister for transport, with an entourage including the media. He started the race and also handed out prizes afterwards. To our amazement, with just a few words of invitation, Vaughan would make the effort to travel hundreds of kilometres to be at a student leaders induction service at a school way in the outback at eight o'clock in the morning. He would do this all the time.

I do want to mention one of Vaughan's worst moments in parliament from his entire parliamentary career. That was when the parliament reduced the speaking time on bills from 20 minutes to 10 minutes. He loved a good, long, boisterous speech, and this change very much upset him. He said to me, 'They're trying to silence me, mate.' I was in the chamber when these changes were first introduced and Vaughan was on his feet and in full flight. The Speaker pulled him up and said, 'Time has expired,' to which Vaughan replied, 'But, Mr Speaker, I have only just started.' Condolences to the family. Vaughan was of a rare breed and those who knew him certainly are better people because of his influence. Rest in peace, Vaughan. God bless.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (10.34 am): I thought I would add my own personal reflection that so many people have been touched by Vaughan, because I think that was the whole gig. When I look back I realise that I had so many interactions—from being a little kid all the way to being an adult. My father loves telling stories. If there is a real character, you get a good story. He said, 'We've got this fellow in the party room now who's pretty interesting; he is pretty loose.' For Dad to say that! The story was that there was some negative interaction at the Polo Club in Brisbane and this bloke said, 'Polo Club! I'll get their polo clubs and stick them'—you know where. He was all fired up. Dad said, 'He was on a rant, so I didn't want to interrupt him to tell him that it was a polo club in name only.'

We had visits from Robin and Vaughan when I was kid. He employed my sister, who spoke so highly of him as an employer. I was at college with Michael here in Brisbane, so again I interacted with him as I was growing up. It was a bit strange being down here and serving with someone I had heard of ever since I was a little kid. The thing that sticks out to me the most about Vaughan is that I could say he was a friend, beyond parliament. We stopped being parliamentary colleagues and he stopped playing all these different roles in my life, but he became a friend and I enjoyed that friendship. I am very appreciative of that. Vale, Vaughan Johnson.

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Members, I have some remarks of my own that I would like to make with the indulgence of the House. I was honoured to attend Vaughan Johnson's funeral service and was pleased to host Robin, Monique, Tanya, Michael and the family for refreshments this morning. Many words have been said today about the former member for Gregory. He was indeed a larger-than-life character who was a fierce competitor in the parliament but a true gentleman outside of it. Very few people in Queensland politics did not recognise him simply by his first name, Vaughan. He did not just represent his electorate; he brought the spirit of his electorate, specifically rural and remote Queensland, more broadly to this place. Despite being on opposite sides of politics, he was a good friend to me and also to my father. We shared a love of Rugby League and it was always something that brought us together.

My dad, who was elected at the same time as Vaughan, told me that there was a difference between a parliamentarian and a politician. It is a difference that I have observed again and again during my time in this place. Vaughan Johnson was clearly a parliamentarian. He strongly advocated for his causes and his constituents; however, he could still respect others' views and their right to put them forward. It is a testament that, nearly a decade after his retirement, the respect and friendship shared by colleagues for Vaughan Johnson has not faded—not one bit. Vaughan was one of the great characters of this place but he was also a member of great character. Vale, Vaughan Johnson.

Honourable members, will you please indicate your agreement with the motion by standing in silence for one minute.

Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.

TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

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

[310](#) Electoral Commission of Queensland—Audit report on the conduct of preselection ballots, 2022 Callide by-election, March 2023

Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts (Hon. Enoch)—

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

Minister for Resources (Hon. Stewart)—

[312](#) Board of Examiners—Annual Report 2021-2022

[313](#) Commissioner for Resources Safety & Health—Annual Report 2021-2022

[314](#) Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee—Annual Report 2021-2022

[315](#) Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee—Annual Report 2021-2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Housing



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (10.39 am): Our government is taking urgent and effective action to address the housing needs of Queenslanders. The House will recall the Queensland Housing Summit our government held in October, bringing together over 200 stakeholders to find solutions to housing pressures. As a result, our government committed an extra \$1 billion to our Housing Investment Fund, doubling its value to \$2 billion, and increasing social and affordable housing targets by an extra 2,000 homes. We have also committed an extra \$56 million to 51 actions to deliver further housing supply and support.

Our government is delivering on its commitments. We have progressed reforms to allow the renting of granny flats to non-family members and small-scale rooming accommodation in lower density areas and streamlined approvals for new social and affordable housing developments. We have also announced reforms to body corporate legislation, making it easier to redevelop ageing units. We are rolling out millions of dollars to support Queenslanders facing acute rental stress and housing instability through our housing service centres and NGO specialist homelessness services and we are delivering more social and affordable homes, including a 42-unit development at Windsor to house around 80 tenants with \$20.5 million in funding from our government.

In December our government reached the milestone of 5,000 social home commencements since we came to government in 2015. Based on our commitments, we are projected to start 13,000 social and affordable homes by 2027. I am pleased to announce that on 28 March our government will reconvene with leading stakeholders at a housing round table to report on actions taken since the summit and discuss housing conditions and issues. Our record is clear: we are delivering more social and affordable homes.

Gateway to Industry Schools Program



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (10.41 am): Queensland's transition to a renewable energy powerhouse is well underway through our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. Regional Queensland is at the centre of this clean energy industrial revolution, unleashing 100,000 new jobs in hydrogen, renewables, manufacturing and critical minerals. Queensland's hydrogen industry alone is expected to grow by \$19 billion, creating an additional 4,350 jobs by 2040. We have the potential to be a hydrogen superpower, although we need the workforce to support this jobs bonanza so Queensland's workforce is primed and ready to go to capitalise on it.

We have invested \$50 million on four renewable energy and hydrogen training facilities at Pinkenba, Beenleigh, Townsville and Gladstone. I was in Townsville just the other week turning the sod on the Bohle TAFE facility. We have also announced that we are expanding our successful Gateway

to Industry Schools program to include hydrogen. We know that many of our future hydrogen industry workers are currently in our schools thinking about their future careers. It is critical we give them the tools, hands-on experience and a clear pathway to a career in hydrogen if they want it.

Today I can also announce that 32 schools have signed up for the program. I will not go through all of them, but I will give members a few examples. In the south-east it includes schools such as Ferny Grove State High School, Park Ridge State High School, Kenmore State High School, Southern Cross Catholic College, Springwood State High School, St Edmunds College, St James College, Stuartholme School, Sunshine Beach State High School, Trinity College and Wynnum State High School, just to name a few. On the Fraser Coast: Isis District and Kepnock state high schools and St Mary's College in Maryborough. In Central Queensland: Gladstone and Yeppoon state high schools, Trinity College, St Brendan's College in Yeppoon and Redeemer Lutheran College in Biloela. In North Queensland: Northern Beaches, Pimlico and William Ross state high schools as well as St Margaret Mary's College in Hyde Park. In Far North Queensland: Cairns State High School. In the south-west: Chinchilla, Dalby and Oakey state high schools. Around 2,000 students will be given this opportunity over the next three years. Our government recognises the significant potential of hydrogen to support our renewable energy targets, create jobs, attract investment and support exports. That is why we are training our future workforce today.

International Women's Day



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (10.43 am): Every March we celebrate International Women's Day and Queensland Women's Week with functions and fun runs held throughout the state. It is important to applaud the achievements of women and girls and reflect on the progress we are making every day towards gender equality. I thank all members in this House for continuing to champion the cause. This week will mark two years since Australian women took to the streets highlighting a decade of escalating sexism. I spoke of this at a UN International Women's Day lunch, where I also raised awareness of the plight facing women in Afghanistan and Iran.

In Mount Isa hundreds attended the Women in Mining Breakfast, which was my first engagement upon landing in the north-west after our regional cabinet visit in Townsville. The women there proved that the Google image of a miner is not just a man. Mount Isa Mayor Danielle Slade told the crowd that the women in the resources industry did not just knock on doors: they knocked them down.

On Sunday Australia's largest International Women's Day celebration, the Mater Fun Run, was held in Brisbane. The city's streets were awash with pink as the sold-out 20,000-strong crowd ran, walked and jogged to raise funds for breast cancer research and support. Our government also put forward \$15,000 to contribute towards research. It was lovely speaking to many women who have gone through their own breast cancer experiences who participated in that walk to continue to raise awareness of such an important issue for women across Queensland. Funds raised totalled more than \$2 million, and I thank everyone who participated. There were ministers as well as members of parliament.

St Patrick's Day




Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (10.45 am): Tomorrow is a very special day: St Patrick's Day. It is a great day for the Irish, and there is indeed much to celebrate. The Sunshine State and the Emerald Isle have shared special cultural, business and political bonds for centuries from our first governor in 1859, five premiers, and a long list of prominent business, industry and health leaders, along with everyday Queenslanders. Over the centuries they have been our doctors and nurses, our police and farm workers who pioneered the cane and tobacco industries in North Queensland. More than 567,000 Irish men and women call Queensland home. They are at the heart of communities throughout the state, valued and respected for their contributions to our modern multicultural society.

They say there are two types of people: the Irish and those who wish they were. I look forward to attending tonight's St Patrick's eve dinner to mark the 125th anniversary of the Queensland Irish Association—and I acknowledge that the Leader of the Opposition is also down to attend—and will join those smiling Irish eyes tomorrow to share their joy. Many will raise a glass or two or three, down a Guinness—two or three or four—and enjoy a spud or three. I am sure members join me in wishing them all a very happy St Patrick's Day.

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the next minister, I advise the House that the approximate start for question time will be 11.23 am.

Gabba Redevelopment; North-West Queensland Floods, Recovery

 **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) (10.46 am): The Palaszczuk government will rebuild the Gabba to support the long-term professional sport, community and entertainment needs of Queensland before and after 2032. Queenslanders, in particular cricket and AFL fans, deserve a world-class stadium that is accessible for the public and has the facilities our elite athletes need. The Gabba project is about much more than a stadium: it will anchor our vision for the future of the city and our region. It will meet our flagship heavy rail transport project, Cross River Rail, and the Brisbane City Council's Metro project. It will sit at the heart of Australia's biggest and most visionary urban renewal project, effectively extending that wonderful legacy of Expo 88 South Bank from the Gabba at one end to Kurilpa and the Brisbane Arena at Roma Street at the other.

Given the complexity of building on a constrained site, completely rebuilding the Gabba is the best value-for-money option to bring it to a truly accessible modern standard. This option also makes the Gabba fully compliant with the requirements of hosting Brisbane 2032 events. The cost to deliver—

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I recall there was a debate in the House yesterday about this. It is not appropriate to try and revisit that debate across the chamber. I ask the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition, and others, to cease their cross-chamber chatter.

Dr MILES: I suspect we will be revisiting that debate a fair bit over the next 18 months. The cost to deliver this project, as we have outlined, is estimated at \$2.716 billion. The Premier secured a similar matching contribution from the Albanese government to the Brisbane Arena. Let us be very clear: if you are unwilling to fund what it is estimated to cost you, you will not be able to build it and Queensland will miss this historic—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left.

Dr MILES: Sorry, Mr Speaker. Those opposite might have missed what I just said. If you are unwilling to fund what a project will cost, then you cannot build it—you will not build it—and Queensland will miss this historic opportunity to have a world-class oval stadium close to town and the urban renewal that will come with it. This estimate incorporates key design assumptions and significant price escalation through to construction completion as a result of the prevailing market conditions and risks and contingencies.

In 2020 the IOC required Queensland to respond to the Olympics host questionnaire in just a few months. We engaged world renowned, Queensland-based stadium architects Populous to provide a design. A cost estimate in 2020 dollars was included in the host questionnaire based on that design. The earlier indicative cost of the Gabba redevelopment was in 2020 dollars and excluded construction cost escalation and supply chain constraints—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr Janetzki interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Kawana and member for Toowoomba South!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Interjections will cease from both sides or I will start naming members.

Dr MILES: The earlier indicative cost of the Gabba redevelopment was in 2020 dollars and excluded construction cost escalation—

Mr Hart interjected.

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

Dr MILES:—and supply chain constraints, and other costs unknown at the time. It pre-dated the post-COVID increases in costs, the global inflation surge and the war in Ukraine—all events that were not predicted in 2020.

Significant further planning has occurred since winning the games. A project validation process is underway. The first stage of the PVR assessed and costed four different redevelopment options. The updated cost estimates were done independently by expert cost estimation consultants. The bulk of the cost increase was increased building costs in the years between 2020 and 2030. Inflation and building and labour costs alone account for most of the increase. That accords with what industry reports to us, including analysis from Infrastructure Australia.

The next most substantial contribution to the increase relates to allowance for six-star green rating. This venue will serve Queensland well past 2050 when we have committed to be net carbon neutral. We have also committed that the games will be carbon positive. It is important that the venue is as sustainable as possible within the capacity of current technology and product capability. That comes at an increased cost. The new estimate includes costs at the anticipated time of delivery—that is, 2026 to 2030.

Now that we have settled on a preferred redevelopment option, the Olympics and Paralympics infrastructure office within my department will now focus on completing the project validation report ahead of taking the project to market. It is due to be completed in mid-2023. Once the project validation report is complete, a competitive market process will be launched to allow the design of the Gabba to be developed and for the associated construction works to commence.

The Gabba will be the kind of stadium we on this side of the House believe Queenslanders deserve—one that is accessible for people with a disability, one that treats women athletes equally, one that you can catch the train or walk to—


Mr Janetzki interjected.

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

Dr MILES:—and one with the best spectator and athlete experiences anywhere in the world. It will serve the Lions and the Australian cricket team into the second half of the century. It is part of a visionary plan to build the homes, transport and attractions of the kind of world city Brisbane will be once we have hosted the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

As I reported yesterday, acting Queensland Reconstruction Authority CEO Jimmy Scott and incoming CEO Jake Ellwood met with the Burke shire deputy mayor and the Mount Isa mayor yesterday in Mount Isa. They report that they were impressed with the recovery efforts underway. I was pleased to receive a report from them this morning. One thing of note that they were particularly impressed with was the number of evacuated schoolchildren continuing their education in Mount Isa schools, which is wonderful to hear. Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements have been activated to provide assistance, and the Queensland government is continuing to engage with the community to understand their recovery requirements.

India Trade Mission

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (10.55 am): Queensland continues to lead the nation with export success. While our existing exporters go from strength to strength, it is vital that we continue to diversify our trade, providing more opportunities for more Queensland businesses. Tonight I will travel to India to promote Queensland to the most populous nation on earth as the right place to invest, the right place to buy from and the right place to visit. Queensland and India have a long and enduring partnership. India is the second largest destination for Queensland's export goods, with sales totalling \$21.4 billion in 2022. That represented an increase of 78 per cent, or \$9.4 billion, in a single year. Almost three out of every four export dollars Australia earned in India last year were earned by Queensland businesses.

Our relationship with India has grown stronger in recent years as India has risen through the ranks to become our biggest customer for metallurgical steelmaking coal. Coal exports to India have almost tripled in value since 2019 due to historically high coal prices and strong demand. I will be meeting a number of Queensland's major steelmaking customers to reinforce how much we value our relationship with them.

Other major exports to India include metals, agricultural produce and pharmaceuticals, along with wine from Clovelly Estate in the member for Nanango's electorate. Clovelly is one of a growing number of businesses that have cracked the Indian market with the help of Trade and Investment Queensland, selling its quality vintages to the Taj Hotel Group, one of India's premium hotel and hospitality chains.

Our government's decision to actively pursue the further development of our aerospace industry created the environment for Tingalpa-based engineering company, Ferra Engineering, to work on Boeing's Ghost Bat aircraft being developed for the Royal Australian Air Force. Ferra is also working to expand its existing presence in Bangalore, manufacturing high-end civilian and defence components.

Another great Queenslander doing well in India is Populous. In addition to working on India's bid for the 2036 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Populous designed the 130,000-seat Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, the venue for the fourth cricket test earlier this week. I hasten to add that, while Populous designed the stadium, they had nothing to do with the preparation of the pitch.

The Prime Minister's visit to India highlighted the growing importance of our relationship, building on the Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement, which came into effect at the end of last year. ECTA, as it is known, reduces tariffs on 85 per cent of Australian exports to India. It creates more export opportunities for Queensland companies, especially when it comes to agricultural commodities.

Queensland's share of international students from India has historically been low, so an opportunity exists to strengthen our profile there as well. This trade mission gives Queensland businesses the chance to access new export markets and new sources of investment, strengthening and diversifying our economy while reinforcing Queensland's vitally important relationship with India.

Student Wellbeing Package



Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (10.58 am): As we know, school can be a wonderful time in children's lives, but it is not without its challenges. As minister, I am acutely aware of the challenges facing students and their mental health and wellbeing. That is why the Palaszczuk government went to the last election with a game-changing \$100 million student wellbeing package. Our nation-leading commitment was to directly employ during this term up to an additional 464 frontline health and wellbeing professionals so that every student in all state schools will have access to a professional to support their health and wellbeing. In addition, the wellbeing package includes a pilot of GPs working in selected state secondary schools one day a week to provide students with access to free, confidential health support and advice.

I am pleased to report on the progress we are making on both elements of this commitment. As at the end of February, the department has employed 333 wellbeing professionals. Considering the current challenges with recruitment in the health sector, this is a great result. The 333 are made up of 131 psychologists, 79 guidance officers, 112 social workers and 11 youth workers. In relation to GPs in schools, our original commitment was to pilot GPs in 20 schools, but given the interest we expanded the pilot to include 50 schools. With 42 GPs in schools now up and running, we have already met and exceeded our original election commitment.

The feedback from those 42 schools has been extremely encouraging. In the 2022 school year, students at those schools attended nearly 5,000 GP appointments. The benefits reported by students at two of the pilot schools—Murgon State High School in Nanango and Deception Bay State High School in Bancroft—included easy access to a GP for timely and convenient health care; immediate treatment of injuries; better access to other wellbeing and health services through referral and GP advocacy; and students feel safe and comfortable to talk through their concerns. One year 11 student at Deception Bay commented—

Having a GP in school is really convenient. The staff at the school clinic are really nice. They are so helpful and friendly.

Every child deserves a world-class education and if they are experiencing health and wellbeing issues we are delivering on our election commitment to make sure that they can get the expert and timely support they need.

Cairns, Health Services



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (11.01 am): Before I address my statement, I want to acknowledge and congratulate Minister Grace for the great work in partnering with the health sector in what we are doing in the education space. It will make all the difference. That is what prevention and early intervention are all about.

Ensuring that Queenslanders in regional and rural parts of the state continue to have access to world-class health care has always been a priority of the Palaszczuk government. That commitment was underlined as we made two announcements in the past week in relation to the expansion of health services in Cairns. The first of these saw the member for Cairns open a purpose-built facility for patients

requiring subacute care and rehabilitation. This facility will expand Cairns Hospital's Older Persons Sub-Acute and Rehabilitation Unit by an additional 45 beds through an agreement with Infinite Care's Edge Hill Orchards lodge. Located just 4.5 kilometres from Cairns Hospital, the Edge Hill Orchards lodge facility is perfectly suited to provide care to older persons and those requiring rehabilitation. It includes capacity to provide care for those living with dementia and has the full support of a team of nurses, allied health professionals and specialist doctors on site covering the facility 24/7. We announced this 45-bed subacute expansion project in our Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan, and I know the Treasurer will be delighted that we have delivered this. We said it would be operational by the second half of this year, but I am thrilled that it has now already opened.

Earlier this week, we announced that the new surgical centre that is part of our \$250 million Cairns Hospital expansion project will be constructed on the corner of Charles and Digger streets, close to the Cairns Hospital campus. The new building will be adjacent to JCU's Cairns Tropical Enterprise Centre and will form part of the Far North Queensland Health and Innovation Precinct. The proximity of our new state-of-the-art surgical centre to JCU will allow for stronger linkages for teaching, learning and research. The precinct will also accommodate the future Cairns Health and Innovation Centre, which will involve a purpose-built education, training, research and innovation centre and is critical to the hospital's transition to becoming a university hospital. The Palaszczuk government has provided more than \$4 million for the detailed business case for the Cairns Health and Innovation Centre to progress detailed planning, with the business case expected to be completed by the end of this year.

In addition to the new 32-bed surgical centre, our \$250 million Cairns Hospital expansion will also deliver a major refurbishment of the hospital that will provide a further 64 extra beds. It will also create around 611 jobs during construction, supporting the local economy and North Queenslanders.

The Palaszczuk government is also delivering the \$70 million Cairns Hospital mental health unit, the \$26.4 million Cairns Hospital emergency department expansion, and the \$11.5 million drug residential rehab and treatment service, with 10 beds for youths, in Cairns.

Only the Palaszczuk government can be trusted to deliver the infrastructure projects we need to meet the ever-growing demand for health services in Cairns and throughout our great state.

Queensland Women's Week



Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (11.04 am): Enabling women and girls to achieve independence and equality is why the Queensland government established Queensland Women's Week. Not satisfied with just one day, we took the opportunity to expand International Women's Day celebrations to a week-long, statewide series of events to celebrate and recognise the achievements and successes of women and girls across Queensland. This year's theme for Queensland Women's Week was 'Empower her voice; secure her future'. It acknowledges the fundamental rights of every woman to be safe in all areas of society—at home, at school and in the workplace.

Last year we made some important milestones: we signed a statement of support for the Wiyi Yani U Thangani report, recognising the rights, needs and aspirations of First Nations women; we hosted the inaugural women's investment summit to advance the economic participation of women through entrepreneurship and investment; and we provided free sanitary products to students in Queensland state and non-state schools via the installation of Dignity Vending Machines.

Last week we also released the gender equality report card for 2022. The report card shows that incremental change is occurring. It was positive to see that women's workforce participation is up and that the gender pay gap has narrowed slightly. However, the report card shows there is still much more to do. Only 27 per cent of women feel safe walking home alone in their area at night, compared to 60 per cent of men; women remain three times more likely to be killed by a partner; and almost nine in 10 victims of sexual assault are women. The numbers are unacceptable.

That is why we are continuing our comprehensive reform program to strengthen our response to violence against women, guided by the recommendations of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Linda Apelt, who has overseen the government's implementation of the task force's recommendations as the Independent Implementation Supervisor over recent months.

I am extremely pleased to announce that Cathy Taylor has now been permanently appointed to the role of Independent Implementation Supervisor. Ms Taylor has over 20 years experience as a senior public servant in Queensland and South Australia, working across different areas and with all sides of

politics. She has a proven track record of leading significant reform and driving change across government agencies and led Queensland's response to the 2015 *Not now, not ever* report. Following a nationwide recruitment process to identify candidates with relevant expertise, an independent selection panel, which included the Hon. Margaret McMurdo AC, recommended that Ms Taylor be appointed. She will commence in the role in the coming weeks. Ms Apelt will continue as the interim supervisor until then. I have no doubt that Ms Taylor will be well suited to this position, and I look forward to working with her as she oversees these crucial reforms to keep women and children safe.

Vietjet Flights

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (11.07 am): Queensland's \$200 million aviation war chest has landed its 16th international airline arrival. This is the Palaszczuk government's Towards Tourism 2032 partnership with Queensland's four international airports at work. From June, Vietjet will be touching down twice a week in Brisbane direct from Ho Chi Minh City. Vietjet will add 31,000 extra international seats a year to Brisbane International Airport's arrivals board. Nonstop from Vietnam, this new service will support another 240 good Queensland jobs. For tourism operators, accommodation and hospitality providers and local retail, Vietjet represents a \$25.6 million investment in our visitor economy. This is a strategic service and it is history-making. Vietjet is the first carrier ever to fly direct from Vietnam to Queensland.


Vietnam's economy is growing quickly and that means new opportunities for Queensland tourism and education exports. Vietjet will make it easier and affordable for Vietnamese visitors to visit Queensland for family reunions. We are seeing more Vietnamese looking to travel and we want Queensland's great lifestyle and world-class visitor experiences at the top of their bucket list.

More Vietnamese students are also making Queensland their study destination of choice. With Study Queensland on the ground in Vietnam to support local students with Queensland study options, we have seen a 42 per cent increase in Vietnamese student arrivals. These new direct flights to Brisbane will be critical to fast-tracking recovery and growth in education exports and Queensland's international visitor economy.

There is another important reason why the state's \$200 million aviation war chest is backing Vietjet and that is the airline's commitment to building flight frequency. Vietjet anticipates doubling services to four a week by the third anniversary of its first Queensland flight.

Vietjet is an example of the state's growing trade relationship with Vietnam. Vietjet also joins a strong line-up of Asian airlines from Korean Air to the Philippines national carrier making a commitment to Queensland on our runway to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Gateway to Industry Schools Program

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (11.10 am): The Treasurer told us yesterday about the recent ABS data which shows that Queensland's economic performance leads the nation. The Palaszczuk Labor government has made its intentions clear. We are the nation's job creator and we intend to remain so.

We are implementing plans that will sustain our long-term economic growth by creating high-value, secure jobs and the skilled workers to fill those jobs. One such plan is our fee-free TAFE plan which removes participation barriers so all Queenslanders can access job opportunities and which this year alone will deliver free training for 37,000 Queenslanders to get the skills in the industries most in demand. Other such plans are Good people good jobs: Queensland Workforce Strategy 2022 to 2032 and our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, which sets a target of 70 per cent renewable energy by 2032 and will produce 100,000 jobs.

When it comes to planning for the renewable energy workforce in this country, we are leading the way. The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan outlines an investment of \$90 million to establish two new regional transmission and training hubs. We were the first state in Australia to develop a hydrogen industry roadmap to define the skills we need for this critical industry in the future. We committed \$56 million in training infrastructure that will skill Queenslanders for the future renewable energy industry, including the new \$17 million renewable energy training facility and advanced manufacturing skills lab at the Bohle TAFE campus. As the Premier said, the members for Townsville, Thuringowa and Mundingburra joined the Premier, the Treasurer, the Deputy Premier, the ministers for energy and regional development and me to turn the sod on these facilities along with some fantastic TAFE

apprentices. These facilities are in addition to the \$17 million for the Electro Group's renewable energy training facility at Pinkenba, a \$20 million investment in the Hydrogen Training Centre of Excellence at PICAC at Beenleigh and \$2 million to upgrade training facilities at the Gladstone State High School.

In addition to making sure we have the facilities to upskill the existing workforce, we know we need to attract a new generation of workers. That is why we have this year added the hydrogen sector to the 10 priority sectors already covered by the Palaszczuk government's successful Gateway to Industry Skills Program. Last year the program helped set more than 30,000 Queensland students on a career path towards industries that are of greatest priority in Queensland. I am very pleased to reiterate the Premier's earlier statement that the original offer to 30 skills has been a roaring success, with 32 skills accepting the offer and more on the waiting list. If Energy Skills Queensland had more capacity, they would take them on. This means that over 2,000 students will have experience in the hydrogen industry and will be more likely to pursue a career in that absolutely critical industry.

As a government we will continue to support initiatives like this that will support good jobs for Queenslanders. We will provide the means and the facilities to create a workforce with the skills and capability that industry needs now and in the future.

Migrant Engineers; Multicultural Affairs, International Women's Day



Hon. LM LINARD (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (11.13 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring Queenslanders from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds have the backing they need to thrive. Recently I launched a new guide for Queensland businesses and employers to attract and retain skilled engineers from migrant backgrounds.

Overseas born engineers living in Australia make up close to 60 per cent of Australia's engineering workforce. However, they have a higher rate of unemployment, take longer to find employment in engineering occupations and are more likely to be underemployed than Australian born engineers. Research also shows that 48 per cent of skilled migrants are not using the skills or experience they gained before arriving in this country. They face barriers including language, cultural misunderstandings and a lack of relevant Australian experience. At a time when skills shortages are impacting sectors across the economy, we must better utilise their skills.

The guide titled *Attracting and retaining engineers from migrant backgrounds* is the culmination of a partnership between Engineers Australia, my department and Minister Farmer's Department of Employment, Small Business and Training. It explores ways of maximising employment opportunities for underutilised migrants and refugees that can help to address industry workforce shortages in the engineering industry in Queensland. Its development shows that together we can build stronger connections and improve access to local and global skills while recognising the economic benefits and opportunities that come from embracing the unique skills and experiences that migrants bring with them.

The guide has been well received by industry. I spoke to a number of engineers at the launch who are already connecting with potential employers. The guide is available for download from the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs website. I encourage members to encourage their employers to access the guide.

Last Wednesday was International Women's Day. I was thrilled to speak at the Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland Women's Ethnic Network's inaugural breakfast. I would like to thank ECCQ Chief Executive Officer Lisa Ward and the two masters of ceremony, Elijah Buol and Claudia Sahba, for an excellent event. This important event celebrated women from many diverse backgrounds across Queensland who are in corporate organisations, government and the multicultural service sector. With an initial expectation of 100 attendees but with 240 in attendance and many others who wanted to come, I know this event will continue to grow.

Women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds have made, and continue to make, significant contributions to the social, cultural and economic wellbeing of Queensland. When women come together, support, celebrate each other and unite in purpose, the capacity for change is limitless. While there are many layers to the challenges women face, there is also much to celebrate as women continue championing their rights and roles in society. We are stronger when we are united and together we must continue bringing attention to ongoing issues here and abroad such as gender equality, reproductive rights and violence and abuse against women.

It is now more important than ever to keep striving for communities free of bias, stereotypes and discrimination so we can see women thrive—indeed, all thrive—no matter where they are from. My sincere congratulations again go to the Women's Ethic Network. It is a pleasure to work alongside them.

M1, Upgrade; North-West Queensland Floods, Roads



Hon. MC BAILEY (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.17 am): The M1 is the economic artery between Brisbane and the border, getting hundreds of thousands of Queenslanders home or to work every day, to holidays or to the beach on the weekends. We also know that Queensland is the place to be, with a decade of growth and infrastructure on the horizon and we have more people moving here than ever before. Population growth in turn is putting pressure on the M1. That is why the Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering a record level of investment into the M1 and also the second M1. All up, we will be delivering more than \$5 billion worth of upgrades over the next four years. I repeat: \$5 billion. This is headlined by the second M1, or the Coomera Connector, its official title, a brand new motorway secured by this government, funded by this government, that will deliver increased capacity between Gold Coast and Logan.

There is also the \$1 billion upgrade happening on the southern Gold Coast from Varsity Lakes to Tugun, with the first package between exits 85 and 87 already complete and open. This upgrade will six-lane the full M1 to Tugun, allowing more Queenslanders to use the M1, bigger interchanges, more capacity and a brand new active transport link. Then there is the \$1 billion Daisy Hill to Logan Motorway upgrade. It is the next stage after we have delivered the \$750 million upgrade currently being constructed from the Gateway Motorway to Springwood in the electorates of the Minister for Energy and the Attorney-General.

We have built and opened the \$218 million upgrade from Mudgeeraba to Varsity Lakes. We have built and completed upgrades to exits 45, 54 and 57, and the upgrade of exit 41 will be opening in the near future. I am happy to report that works are advancing well on the exit 49 interchange upgrade, doubling the capacity in these growth areas. There is a record level of investment is being poured into the M1 under the Palaszczuk Labor government. It is in stark contrast to the Newman government, which did not spend a single new dollar on the M1.

On a separate topic, I will update the House on the situation in the north-west of the state. The flooding event has seen road closures on the Flinders, Barkly and Landsborough highways, the Burke Developmental Road, Karumba Developmental Road and Gulf Developmental Road—in fact all gulf roads, including the Wills Developmental Road. I am glad to say that the Landsborough Highway is now open. We have stood up response crews from the Department of Transport and Main Roads, who have been working hard to keep the public safe up there, to start the extensive repair work that is needed. They will be assessing the damage and making repairs as quickly as they can as floodwaters recede. They are receding quite slowly, given the extent of the flooding and the flatness of the terrain.

My thoughts are with those who are experiencing this disaster in the north-west. Transport and Main Roads will certainly be there to help them. We will certainly be working with the member for Traeger to help his constituents as they recover from the situation.

Critical Minerals; World Mining Congress



Hon. SJ STEWART (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (11.20 am): As many in this House are aware, Queensland is blessed with some of the best deposits of critical minerals anywhere in the world.

Ms Pugh: Hear, hear!

Mr STEWART: Thank you. These minerals are key ingredients in renewable energy technologies like batteries and electric vehicles; however, we need to let the world know that Queensland—particularly the North West Minerals Province—has what it takes to be a global leader in critical minerals production and that we are open for business. That is why a special delegation from my department travelled to Canada earlier this month to attend the Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada, PDAC, annual Mineral Exploration & Mining Convention.

A government member: That is a mouthful.

Mr STEWART: Absolutely. The four-day event attracts up to 30,000 attendees from 130 countries—the combined population of Mount Isa and Cloncurry. Our Queensland delegation is part of a larger Australian minerals team shining the global spotlight on the state's critical minerals deposits, infrastructure and environmental, social and governance credentials. The delegation met with exploration and mining companies with investment interests in Queensland, along with government representatives from our key trade partners, to explore investment opportunities in this great state.

Following the Palaszczuk government's recent announcement that we are investing \$5 billion in CopperString, I could not think of a better time to show off our critical minerals on the world stage. Through CopperString 2032, resource companies from around the world can have confidence in the development of critical minerals projects and the broader North West Minerals Province. Speaking of global stages, this trip helped to spread the word that Queensland will soon be the centre of the mining world when we host the World Mining Congress in just three months time. We will host delegates from around 50 countries, with 400 presenters, 26 exhibitor nations and more than 1,000 organisations in attendance. Hosting the 2032 World Mining Congress is our opportunity to show the rest of the world that Queensland is the place to be when it comes to exceptional mining services, infrastructure, safety and environmental, social and governance credentials.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.23 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 28 March 2023.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, question time will conclude today at 12.24 pm.

Crime



Mr CRISAFULLI (11.24 am): My question is to the Premier. Does the Premier admit that decisions made by her government in its first term have led to higher rates of crime across Queensland today?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I said very clearly the other day, and I will say it again: issues in relation to crime are being felt across the state. They are the facts. As we said very clearly, this government has invested over \$1 billion to address the issue of youth crime. Our stronger laws are before the parliament so I am not going to comment on those laws, but I will say—I said it last night—that we will accept the recommendation to conduct a review of victims assistance legislation. We are clearly listening—

An opposition member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We have actually added more money—\$9 million. Those opposite are supporting our stronger laws. They have been out there publicly saying that they are now finally supporting them. It has taken three months.

An opposition member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The whole parliament is supporting it; it is great to see. We are putting more police on the front line and giving them the tools they need—unlike those opposite, who sat around the cabinet table sacking senior officers.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I know that is true, because when I was leader of the opposition I met with some of the senior officers they sacked. I know about that, because I met with them.

A government member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will take that interjection—110. We will also build a brand new police academy in North Queensland; the 1300SMILES site will be perfect. Those opposite wanted to sell it off—remember the asset sales? It was not just the power assets but the police academy as well.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Clayfield should not be interrupting: he was the mastermind of it. The apprentice, the member for Broadwater, is now the Leader of the Opposition.

An opposition member: Labor sold the assets.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take the interjection. We kept our energy assets in public hands. We know that if those opposite were in power, the first thing they would do is to sell off our assets. They have form. The first thing they would do is cut staff. They would cut the nurses, the doctors and the paramedics. They would 'fix the system'. We know that the member for Mudgeeraba is going to 'unshackle' the health system.

(Time expired)

Crime

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Premier. The Premier went to the last election promising to keep Queenslanders safe. How has the crime epidemic impacted this promise?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, I did go to the last election promising to keep Queenslanders safe, because we had a global pandemic called COVID. Those opposite wanted to open the borders. How many thousands of Queenslanders could have lost their lives if those opposite had their way? I am glad to give this history lesson again. I was proud to stand up for this state against Scott Morrison and all of the LNP cronies who came out attacking me day in and day out. I managed this state through a pandemic with the Deputy Premier, the Treasurer and the health minister.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: What we said to Queenslanders is that if we had a strong health response we would have a strong economic response. That is what we have: a very strong economic response. Queensland has the fastest growth rate in the nation. Well done, Treasurer. Because of that, we have big ideas for our state. We have the Energy and Jobs Plan, which will create 100,000 jobs for the future.

There are no ideas over there. There is no policy. The Greens have introduced more private members' bills in this House than all of this lot. What a joke! What a complete and utter joke! I am excited about what our state can do. I am excited by the people who are in work. I am excited about CopperString and what that will do for Townsville and the entire north-west. I am excited about us getting the biggest mining conference coming to Queensland, showcasing the North West Minerals Province to the world. I am proud that in our primary schools and high schools we will be training them for the jobs of the future in hydrogen and in renewables. That is what I am proud of.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: You are supporting the laws.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Premier, direct your comments through the chair, please. Members to my left will cease their interjections.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will take the member for Kawana's interjection: they are supporting our strong laws. They are supporting them but we will go further, and that would help fix things even more. I will stand up for this state every day, unlike those opposite.

Infrastructure Projects

Ms PUGH: My question is of the Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Can the Premier please update the House on the Palaszczuk government's big build infrastructure program and is the Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Mount Ommaney for the question, because on this side of the House we have the big ideas for the big build for our big state, and we are getting on with the job. We said that we would build the Sumners Road overpass—delivered in the seat of Mount Ommaney. Next up for Mount Ommaney is the Centenary bridge.

Dr Rowan interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: What is happening? Under you lot it would be shut! That is right: new releases—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Oh, I am so glad those opposite are interjecting because we know very clearly that yesterday they released the list of their cuts—of their building cuts. That is what they released. I am very proud of our \$64 billion pipeline of infrastructure projects across Queensland, including the Gabba. That is going to be a world-class facility and those opposite voted against it last night in this chamber. They voted against it.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Kawana.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They voted against the Gabba. Well, do not go and turn up to any events if you do not even support it.

Mr Bleijie: That's what it's about, isn't it—attending events?

Ms PALASZCZUK: We are getting on with the job.

A government member: That's it: they're not invited!

Ms PALASZCZUK: We all know the member for Kawana is just disappointed he did not get invited to *Elvis*. We know that. That is where it all began: crying on his little pillow with his little rat—the little stuffed animal—having a little cry. Let me tell—

Ms Grace: Jealousy's a curse.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Jealousy is a curse; I will take that.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Let me say this: the screen industry is about jobs in this state, and I will stand up for jobs in this state.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is about his dancing! Let me say very clearly that we are getting on with the Gold Coast Light Rail. That is right: another great Labor government initiative building the light rail on the Gold Coast. We are getting on with the Varsity Lakes to Tugun section. The M1 upgrades are being delivered by this government. Oh, and then of course who is building the Cross River Rail? We are, not them—not one single dollar from them. Oh, the Townsville Stadium? Who built the Townsville Stadium? Not them. No ideas. Oh, my goodness. If I was those opposite, after hearing the contribution from the member for Gregory he should be the deputy leader over there.

Government members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Put some common sense in there.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members!

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: I will wait for silence, members. Are you okay, member for Gregory?

Honourable members interjected.

Police Service, Personnel

Mr LAST: My question is to the Premier. During the last election the Premier promised Labor would deliver 1,450 extra police to keep Queenslanders safe. The most up-to-date workforce document shows there are 12 fewer full-time frontline police on the beat than two years ago. Does the Premier concede that these figures prove Labor's police promise cannot be kept?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. We have been through this a couple of parliamentary sittings ago or the last parliamentary sitting, but I am happy to keep going. On this side we back our police. We back our police. We give them the resources they need and at the last election—

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry, Premier. Can we please have three minutes on the clock?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I can go for longer; that is all right. Let us talk about their commitment at the last election. The LNP, the Liberal National Party, should split, really, if it wants to be—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Honourable members interjected.

A government member: Unshackle us!

Mr SPEAKER: It really is Thursday.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will take that interjection: unshackle the LNP. Member for Mudgeeraba, unshackle it; just rip it apart. Let it stand for something. Just one idea would be a help.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: You could bring back Deb. The member for Nanango is interjecting. Bring back Deb!

Mr SPEAKER: Use correct titles please, Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Member for Nanango. The policy of those opposite in the LNP at the last election would have meant that today there would have been 1,000 fewer police—not one, not two, not 10 or 20 but 1,000 fewer police.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: Fewer police.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Nanango—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Okay. Pause the clock. Member for Nanango and member for Pine Rivers! Member for Pine Rivers, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Nanango, the conversations you used to have with the former member for Gregory were not meant to be instructional. Please cease your interjections. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I travel across this state I speak to senior police officers and junior police officers and they are doing a remarkable job, and the police are undertaking a recruitment campaign for even more police. As we know, there are challenging circumstances in workforces not just across Queensland but across Australia. It is actually a fact.

An honourable member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will take that interjection. We will be encouraging more and more police recruits. That is absolutely needed. We also give them the resources that they need to do their jobs. There are now mobile police beats across different parts of Queensland and being able to get around to those hotspots is absolutely necessary. We give them the equipment that they need to carry out those jobs. As I said, we are planning on building two new police academies.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left will cease their interjections. The Premier is being responsive to the question as asked.

Ms PALASZCZUK: When those opposite were in government they did not have much regard for the Police Service at all. They saw fit to cut senior officers from their ranks and once again decimated the Police Service.

(Time expired)

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Infrastructure

Mr HEALY: 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. Could the Deputy Premier advise the House on the Palaszczuk government's commitment to Olympic and Paralympic Games infrastructure and is the Deputy Premier aware of any other approaches?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Cairns for his question. I know that he shares the Palaszczuk government's vision that hosting the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games should deliver a real lasting legacy for every part of the state, including in Cairns. Cairns will benefit from a major upgrade of Barlow Park which will be the home of the Olympics in Cairns. A tourism city like Cairns stands to benefit from having an upgraded stadium. The extra events and sports that they will be able to attract will attract people to visit Cairns. Imagine the other benefits that will accrue to Cairns from the global recognition, the global promotion, that will come from the Brisbane 2032 games. Imagine the

number of people who will visit for the games but will want to stay on to see those amazing world-leading natural assets that we have in the state's Far North: the reef, the Daintree, Kuranda, just to name a few.

I can advise the House that, like everything, the cost of Barlow Park has gone up since 2020, but because we want to deliver it we will fund it. Those opposite will cut it—just like the Toowoomba Sports Ground. The cost of the Toowoomba Sports Ground, a major permanent upgrade that Toowoomba needs and deserves, has gone up since 2020 and those opposite will cut it. The people of Townsville are lucky we have already built their stadium. It is too late for those opposite to cut the Townsville stadium, the home of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Townsville that those opposite opposed.

Last night they opposed the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. We know they tried their very best to cancel the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, even going so far as to get legal advice as to whether they could get out of the host contract. They have no vision for our state. They have no ambition for our state. They do not want to see our state on the world stage. I have to say that today I agree with the *Courier-Mail*: they have no vision. All they do is whinge and whine. All they want to do is to cut and to sell, whereas on this side of the House we have bold ambitions for our state because Queensland deserves the legacy that it will get from hosting the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Beaumont, Mr A

Mr PURDIE: My question is to the Premier. I refer to repeated requests for a meeting by the Beaumonts following the death of their son Angus. Has the Premier taken the time to meet with Michelle and Ben?

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, please cease your interjections or you will be warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: My understanding is that the Attorney-General has met with them. Our strong laws that we are passing this week are a direct response to a number of tragedies that have happened across our state.

Infrastructure Projects

Ms HOWARD: My question is to the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. Will the Treasurer update the House on how the Palaszczuk government's capital program is delivering infrastructure for our growing state and is the Treasurer aware of any other approach?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Ipswich for her question.

Government members interjected.

Mr DICK: I'd be walking out too. The member for Ipswich understands the importance of investing for future growth. The capital program I outlined in the December budget update continues to deliver on our infrastructure guarantee: \$50 billion over the forward estimates, which we have delivered in every budget since I delivered the economic recovery plan for Queensland. That guarantee has been absolutely essential, as the member for Ipswich knows, to giving confidence and jobs to our construction industry, a pipeline that ensures skills and capability remain within Queensland, because our state has become a magnet for the rest of Australia, leading the nation with the highest interstate migration.

We are investing more in schools, hospitals, sporting infrastructure, electricity transmission and more in community safety like police stations, ambulances and correctional facilities. For example, CopperString 2032 is now bigger and better than ever, a 500-kilovolt line, to run from Townsville to Hughenden. At Browne Park in Rockhampton, the spiritual home of rugby league in Central Queensland, we are investing more money to improve lighting and broadcast facilities as well as improved facilities for girls and women who want to play rugby league. At the Southern Queensland Correctional Centre, we are delivering a 50 per cent increase in capacity for only a 32 per cent increase in cost. More money, more jobs, more capacity. Our increased investment in major projects is all good news for regional Queensland unless the Leader of the Opposition gets his way because every one of those projects and many more are on the Leader of the Opposition's hit list that he released yesterday.

We hear a lot of tough talk on crime from the LNP, yet the Leader of the Opposition actually wants to cut 500 beds out of the Southern Queensland Correctional Centre. It is no wonder, because he has to find \$3 billion to progress his coal royalty tiers. It is not just prisons: CopperString cut, new satellite hospitals cut, facilities for women rugby league players at Browne Park cut. One only had to

listen to the member for Everton in the House last night who complained that we were spending too much money to upgrade the Gabba for women who wanted to compete in sport. This is what he said: spending on female facilities was for gold-trimmed taps. I think women who play sport in this state deserve more than they get from the member for Everton, they deserve more than they get from the member for Broadwater. Only this government will invest in infrastructure and not cut like the Leader of the Opposition.

Gabba Redevelopment

Mr BLEIJIE: My question is to the Premier. What costings was the Premier relying on in April 2021 when she said the redevelopment of the Gabba would cost \$1 billion and why was disability compliance and female change rooms not included in the initial announcement?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Obviously the member for Kawana did not listen to the ministerial statement—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No, unfortunately you did not listen to the statement made by the Deputy Premier. Let me put on the public record that last night those opposite voted against the Gabba. We won the Olympics based on the fact that all three levels of government were going to work together and there was a bipartisan approach. Last night those opposite voted against the Gabba redevelopment. They should hang their heads in shame.

We were given roughly a three-month window to provide the host questionnaire to the International Olympic Committee. Prior to that a comprehensive study was done on the stadiums which showed that the Gabba was reaching end of life. Now we have done the project valuation where it has come in and it will—

Mr Minnikin: Oops!

Ms PALASZCZUK: You are so rude and childish—just childish.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am giving a comprehensive answer and you are making baby noises.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you members, there is only one person who has the call and it is the Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We heard a lot from those opposite, whingeing and whining again, not supporting the Gabba redevelopment. As we heard from the Deputy Premier, this will be a world-class stadium linked into our Cross River Rail, a completely linked project, which goes all the way through to South Bank and to Kurilpa. The legacy from this project will benefit generations to come. It will be, once again, the signature stadium that will be showcased to the world. For the first time people will be able to walk from the Gabba over to Brisbane Live and to other facilities around Brisbane. I come back to what the Deputy Premier said: those opposite wanted to axe the Commonwealth Games. A former Labor government—

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on standing order 118(b), relevance. My question was specifically about the costings of the billion dollar Gabba and was disability compliance and female change rooms in the original announcement.

Mr SPEAKER: I think the Premier has been responsive as I have listened to the answer. Premier, you have 27 seconds remaining.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The LNP have a track record of wanting to cut the Commonwealth Games. They wanted to axe it. That was the signature event that made the world think that perhaps Brisbane and Queensland could host the Olympic Games. Rather than sniping from the sidelines, get on board. This is a big, bold vision for our state and—

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier's time has expired. You will resume your seat.

Women

Ms BUSH: My question is to the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Can the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is supporting Queensland women in schools and in the workplace, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member Cooper for her question. She is an excellent female role model, as all females on this side of the House and others in this House are too—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms GRACE: I said on this side 'and others'. I said 'and others'.

Dr Miles: It's just that there's only a few 'others'.

Ms GRACE: There are not many of them over there. I cannot help it: they have six out of 34 and there are more on this side. You cannot be what you cannot see and it is great. I congratulate the member's daughter Albie who is doing NAPLAN. I wish all of the students doing NAPLAN this week all the very best.

Last week we celebrated International Women's Day, which is now International Women's Week. That is fantastic. We are so proud to be part of the Palaszczuk Labor government that had the first majority female cabinet in Australia's history. We are working hard in schools.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms GRACE: I am really surprised that they are interjecting. I would have thought they would be busy wiping the egg off their faces over the Gabba development. Given the misfire that happened over there, I would have thought they would be wiping the egg off their faces. They let the cat out of the bag about all of the—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Clayfield and member for Chatsworth, you are both warned under the standing orders. You have had a good go today.

Ms GRACE: I would have thought that, especially given that they have let the cat out of the bag about all of their cuts to projects. Their heads are buried in the sand, not realising what is happening post COVID with schools. They will throw anything into the mix. We air conditioned all of the classrooms six years ahead of anything they had planned. Under those opposite, schools would be waiting another six years for air conditioning but we delivered it.

We have Share the Dignity, the Respectful Relationships Education Program and girls in STEM. The Leader of the Opposition should take time out. Wipe the egg off your face. That is what you need to do—

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair, please.

Ms GRACE:—instead of interjecting. We have 10 days paid domestic and family violence leave, portable long service leave and it goes on and on.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms GRACE: In the racing industry, 80 per cent or 42 of 52 current apprentice jockeys are female. That is absolutely fantastic. We are seeing more and more women involved in the industry.

I often reflect on the Leader of the Opposition leaving Townsville and becoming the member for Broadwater. When you look behind him, there is the member for Southport—no, he is a man. There is the member for Mermaid Beach—no, he is a man. There is the member for Burleigh—no, he is a man. He thought, 'Who can I go after? Let's go after the member for Broadwater.' She was the one woman they had on the coast. When I look over there, I—

(Time expired)

Queensland Family and Child Commission, Report

Ms CAMM: My question is to the Premier. It is one month since Kerri-Ann Conley was sentenced for the deaths of her daughters who were left in a car. With the appeal period ending yesterday, will the Premier release the full Queensland Family and Child Commission investigation report by the end of today?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will be seeking advice from the children's commissioner and the Attorney-General about that. We gave a commitment that we would do that after everything has been finalised. We will get an update on that matter.

Townsville University Hospital, Workforce

Mr WALKER: My question is of the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Can the minister inform the House about the Townsville University Hospital workforce and alternative approaches?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for his question. Last week it was a pleasure to be back in Townsville for community cabinet where the member and I visited the Townsville University Hospital to see the great work that is happening there. While I was visiting the hospital, I was able to see where most people do not go and certainly where the public do not see. I went down to the hospital's basement and I met the staff we rarely hear about. It is a part of the hospital that patients do not see but it is every bit as important.

The basement houses the laundry services where linen is folded and stored and the mailroom where trollies are decorated to bring a smile to the faces of patients and staff. I met workers who take delivery of and distribute all the equipment and consumables that the hospital needs to run. I spent time in the kitchen where a team of workers prepare, cook, plate up and deliver hundreds of meals, three times a day. Without those workers, our hospitals would collapse. They are as important as anyone working on the floors above. I take this opportunity to thank them for their ongoing dedication.

I am worried about what would happen to staff like those if the LNP were to get into government. Earlier this month in Townsville, the opposition leader was asked a simple question about the health workforce. He was asked: is the LNP guaranteeing that they will actually boost those numbers if they are elected next year? The answer should be a simple, yes. Instead, it took the member for Broadwater 188 words to say nothing.

Time and time again, when we talk about the legacy of the LNP when in government and the 4,400 health jobs that they cut, we hear interjections such as, 'We fixed the system.' My question to the opposition is this: if they think that sacking 4,400 health workers fixed the system, what would they do if they get back in? Will that be their fix again? We already know we would have 3,270 fewer nurses and midwives and we would have 750 fewer doctors, 860 fewer allied health professionals and 155 fewer paramedics if the LNP had got in in 2020. That is not even taking into account the figures if they had been re-elected in 2015 and did not repair the damage that they had done. There would be thousands and thousands more.

However, we know this is their DNA. They talk of NDIS cuts to find savings. That is what the LNP stand for. If you want to fund Defence, find the savings in the NDIS! That is what their federal leader is saying.

(Time expired)

Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service, Obstetrics and Gynaecology Services

Ms BATES: My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Can the minister rule out if the Health Ombudsman is undertaking any investigation into obstetrics and gynaecology services in the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for the question. I would have thought that the member, with her extensive experience in the health sector, as she reminds us of on a daily basis, would know that I would not be aware of all the investigations that the Office of the Health Ombudsman is undertaking. Those investigations can come from a whole lot of referrals. I would not have direct knowledge at all times about the investigations that they are undertaking.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba, you have asked the question. I would like to hear the answer.

Mrs D'ATH: As I was saying, I am sure the opposition knows that and I am sure the shadow health spokesperson knows it. Are they playing pure politics by asking this question or are they deflecting from the fact that every time I have stood up this week I have pointed out how many health workers we would not have in Queensland if they were elected? We know the damage that would have been done to the state of the health system if the opposition had been in government throughout COVID. We know what they would have done to this state. They would have opened the borders, put our health workers at risk and put the community at risk and we would have seen more deaths as a consequence of COVID. That is what they would have done if they were in government.

Ms Bates interjected.

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

Mrs D'ATH: They should never be put in charge of Health. Queenslanders knows that the LNP cannot be trusted when it comes to delivering health care in this state. They do not need to just look at what they did between 2012 and 2015; they can look at their election commitments since then. They can look at what their leadership says they would do at a federal level, which is to attack the most vulnerable.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: I take that interjection from the Attorney-General. The person that they claim they would put in charge as the health minister if they were in government—maybe they would not put her in charge—actually says that we only employ duds in the regions! They have the nerve to stand up and ask me about regional hospitals when the person who asked the question says that we only employ duds in the regions. She shakes her head: 'No, no.' I have never heard her stand up in this chamber and say that that was an incorrect statement. She will not, because we all heard it. We know exactly what the member said. In this chamber she called regional health workers 'duds' and we will not let her forget it. Nor will we let Queenslanders forget what the LNP did to health workers in the past—not that we need to remind them, because they remind me every day. They are still out there. They are now back working in our health system under Labor. They are out there in the community. Some of them had to move interstate to find jobs at the time, and they remember. They will keep remembering and we will remind them what the LNP would have done if it had of been in charge after the last election.

(Time expired)

M1, Road Safety

Mrs McMAHON: My question is of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Tens of thousands of Queensland motorists have recently faced a hazard, with low-altitude take-offs causing issues on the M1. Can the minister outline what the government has done to improve safety, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the member for her question. She is a member genuinely committed to the M1 and to road safety. What we see here—I think it has been well reported—are migratory birds. There has been a lot of low-altitude flying by our feathered friends onto the M1 from the nearby mature vegetation. The low-altitude flying of these migratory birds represents a real hazard to M1 motorists. TMR has been working with environmental specialists to remove the habitat and the eggs in a sensitive way, to get the ibises out of harm's way and to reduce the road safety threat that they have been to everyone who uses the M1.

We are putting billions into upgrading the M1, as I outlined earlier. We have seen a lot of poorly judged take-offs, low-altitude landings and flight paths—it has been a real mess down there. Another example of that low-altitude flying would have to be the Leader of the Opposition, who migrated from North Queensland to near the M1. He left home base to find better habitat—to do the numbers on the youngest women ever elected to this parliament—on a record of never spending a single new dollar on the M1 when he was in power. He was the local government minister, but there was not a single new dollar on the M1 when he was local government minister. The member migrated down there, doing a lot of low-altitude flying and a lot of low-altitude landing. What we see today in the *Courier-Mail* is a lot of crashes going on. The Leader of the Opposition is so lacking in credibility that now the *Courier-Mail* is bagging him.

Further to that, it is even doing a poll on how the LNP is doing. It is well accepted that the readers of the *Courier-Mail* are generally fairly conservative people. This is their home base. How many people think the Leader of the Opposition is doing a poor job? Sixty-five per cent! Two out of three *Courier-Mail* readers think the Leader of the Opposition is doing a poor job. Why? It is because he does things like taking over a seat from a young woman; deserting his home town and, at the connivance of LNP headquarters, getting a new habitat; and criticising us for blowouts, but has he ever criticised the Lord Mayor of Brisbane for an 80 per cent blowout on Metro? No, of course he hasn't! He is happy to invent figures on this government, but even the *Courier-Mail* and 65 per cent of its readers are seeing through his spin.

(Time expired)

Local Government, Councillor Conduct

Mr DAMETTO: My question is to the Deputy Premier. In the case of inappropriate conduct, local governments are responsible for determining the penalty for councillors they refer to the Office of the Independent Assessor. Will the Deputy Premier advise if the government will amend the Local Government Act 2009 to remove the referral of instances of inappropriate conduct by councillors back to local governments for punishment and penalty and, instead, give that power to the OIA?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for his question and for his interest in local government integrity matters. The member is right: in the first instance, the OIA assesses complaints made to it. Those that are determined to be in the range of inappropriate conduct are referred back to the relevant local government for their investigation and assessment. That has been the case through various iterations of the local government integrity system. I understand that that matter was considered in the recent very comprehensive inquiry that the parliamentary committee did into the system, including the Office of the Independent Assessor. There were not recommendations made to change that, largely because it was assessed that local government is best placed to understand all of the circumstances and to be able to consider those lowest grade disciplinary matters—and also because, as the member would be aware, the integrity system is already challenged in terms of the number of complaints that are made and the resources required to properly consider all of those complaints. To ensure that the resources can be applied to the highest levels of misconduct, allowing the local government to consider the lowest levels increases the resources available to deal with the higher levels of misconduct.

I do understand, though—I have this feedback from various local governments—that sometimes that puts them as decision-makers in awkward situations in having to make assessments of their colleagues, whether they are colleagues they are aligned to or not. Either way, it can create concerns from them. I can advise the member that in most cases local governments will determine that an apology or training would be an appropriate response to those low-level concerns which would be things such as a breach of policy or behaviour in the council chamber. Where a local government is concerned about its ability to properly consider, it could seek advice back from the local government department about what an appropriate penalty would be. I am advised that the local government department would be in a position to say that in other circumstances local governments have applied this kind of penalty, often in the range of an apology or some training or refreshing on those policies and procedures. If there is a specific instance that the member has had raised with him, I would urge him to go back to the people who raised it and ask them to contact the local government department. It can give them that advice.

Mr SPEAKER: In addition to the schools already acknowledged, we are visited today by school leaders from Harristown State High School in the electorate of Toowoomba South.

Gateway to Industry Schools Program

Mr O'ROURKE: My question is of the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development. Can the minister please update the House on the Gateway to Industry Schools Program, and are there any alternative approaches?

Ms FARMER: I thank the member for his question. I know how enthusiastic he is about opportunities for young people. When I was up in Rockhampton a few weeks ago, the member for Rockhampton, the member for Keppel and I had such great conversations with local stakeholders about just that very thing.

The Gateway to Industry Schools Program, or GISP as we call it, is a great success. We know that if students are exposed to real, practical insights into industries they are more likely to pursue a pathway into that industry. This is why we had the program running across 10 priority sectors—sectors that we know will have high demand for jobs in Queensland. The top ones are agribusiness, mining and energy, and ICT. Rockhampton State High School has an ICT GISP in it. It is so important to address labour shortages. It means that, last year alone, over 30,000 students were more likely to be heading into that industry.

Under our Workforce Strategy, last year we announced that we were going to add hydrogen to those sectors. The Premier and I both talked today about how important that is. We went out with an offer of 30 schools but have 32 schools. It means that more than 2,000 students are more likely to enter the hydrogen industry. It is such an important industry. It is initiatives like this—in fact, all initiatives under the Workforce Strategy—that will be critical in addressing the workforce shortages facing every sector and every region. It is exciting.

If the LNP were in government we would not have a hydrogen GISP. We know that they think that hydrogen is a big worry. They do not want to go there with renewable energy. We know that when they were in government they pretty much trashed our international reputation when it comes to the environment. The hydrogen industry is worth a projected \$19 billion, but we have the very famous LNP futurist Colin Boyce who rails against it all the time. He said, 'Hydrogen is really dangerous. You know in 1937 the zeppelin exploded.'

We know that when the member for Nanango went to the last election as leader they said that our renewable energy target of 50 per cent was risky. What do they do when they are in government? They cut. How many people did they cut from the environment department when they were in government? They cut 33 per cent of the staff in the environment department and they trashed every policy.

The scary thing is that they do not believe in jobs. Workforce shortages—the one thing every business and every community organisation mentions—has not been mentioned once by the LNP. We are about jobs and we are about Queensland's future.

(Time expired)

Mackay Base Hospital

Mr ANDREW: My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Will the minister assure the House that all critical incidents involving patient harm that are happening at the Mackay Base Hospital, including in the obstetrics and gynaecology department, are being reported and fully investigated by the Queensland Police and the Coroner?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for his question. What I can say on behalf of the HHS is that for any complaint that is brought forward there are proper processes in place to progress it. For serious incidents that includes internal reviews, referrals to the coroner and referrals to the police if that is appropriate in relation to the individual circumstance. That is the proper process.

We are all very aware of the sad situation that we reported on last year in terms of obstetrics and the harm that was done to mothers. We have committed to implementing all of the recommendations from that report. We have also committed to implementing statewide changes in relation to escalation. Where staff believe that they have not been listened to by someone within the HHS or hospital that matter can be escalated so that it can be progressed and properly investigated. We are committed to implementing changes around the culture in hospitals of having a fear of reporting. We also want to make sure that patients feel comfortable to come forward and when they do that those issues are properly considered and investigated. That was all part of those recommendations and we committed to implement all of those.

Water Infrastructure

Mr SMITH: My question is of the Minister for Water. Will the minister please update the House on how the public ownership of our water assets benefits Queenslanders and if there are any alternatives?

Mr BUTCHER: I thank the member for the question. He is a passionate supporter and strong voice for water security throughout his region. We saw last week the Leader of the Opposition claim that water prices are driving up the cost of fresh produce. He might ride a tractor when he gets out and about or he might visit a fruit shop for his TikTok, but when was the last time he talked to irrigators in the regions or even talked to his shadow water minister? If he had, he would know that since the last election the Palaszczuk Labor government has offered eligible horticulture growers a 50 per cent discount on their water, which is on top of the 15 per cent discount for all eligible irrigators right across the Sunwater and Seqwater schemes. That is a discount for our irrigators.

Today, I can advise the member that we are now also extending the 15 per cent irrigation water price discount to 2024-25. That is an extension of the commitment made by our Premier and Treasurer during the last election. Some 6,000 irrigators in regional Queensland will benefit from the extra 15 per cent discount for another 12 months under that program. We can do this because we keep water assets in public hands.

The Leader of the Opposition claims building more water storages will bring prices down. It is hard to take advice from the LNP which delivered not one water infrastructure program when in government—that is right; zero. They actually canned a dam in their time in government. They must have forgotten. The Leader of the Opposition was too busy at Campbell Newman's cabinet table plotting the next round of cutting, sacking and selling.

In the WaterQ document they released—their blueprint for cuts and privatisation across the water sector—they said—

New regional bulk water storages will have to be developed by the private sector.

I was not surprised when I saw reports that the New South Wales government hired consultants to start the process of selling off Sydney Water. It does not matter where in Australia the LNP are, all they want to do is sell off water assets. That is even the case in Queensland. It is still in their DNA to cut, sack and sell.

On this side of the House we will always keep our water assets in public hands. We will continue to back that in with our \$4.5 billion in investment in water infrastructure that has created 2,940 jobs in Queensland. There is only one thing we can rely on with the opposition and that is that they will continue to cut, sack and sell.

Housing Investment Fund

Mr MANDER: My question is to the Minister for Housing. How many Queenslanders on the social housing register have been allocated a home funded by the Housing Investment Fund to date? If none, when will the first Queenslanders be housed from a Housing Investment Fund project?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. If he had been paying attention to the fact that we have been able to establish the Housing Investment Fund in this state he would know that it was established just a year ago. We have been able to double the funding so that funding is now at \$2 billion, which is incredible. I thank the Treasurer and acknowledge his great work in that regard.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, I would like to hear the answer.

Ms ENOCH: I acknowledge the great work of Treasury in establishing the Housing Investment Fund and delivering that fund. Since then—

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Treasurer and member for Glass House, I cannot hear the minister because of your interjections. You are both warned under the standing orders.

Ms ENOCH: Since establishing the fund, the Treasurer has been able to announce quite a number of projects that have been able to be entered into as a result of that fund. Some 1,200 new properties commenced with the Brisbane Housing Company, for instance. We will see some of those in Redcliffe and in other places across the state.

That is the result of that incredible investment. We continue that investment beyond the Housing Investment Fund and into the work that my department has been doing. Since we came to office in 2015 we have commenced over 5,200 new social and affordable homes. That is because of the innovative way we are establishing our investment. What did we see—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Everton, you have been consistently interjecting all day. You asked a question and the minister is responding. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms ENOCH: When the member for Everton was the housing minister what we saw from him was very little investment. In fact, what we saw from him was an attempt to offload 90 per cent of housing from government—essentially privatising social housing so that it was no longer the government's problem. That was his plan. Some 90 per cent of it was going to be offloaded out of his department and from government. On top of that, they treated those people in social housing as second-class citizens. In fact, when the member for Everton was the housing minister he was trying to tell little old ladies that they had to share their properties with other people—

Mr MANDER: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b). My question was very specific about the Housing Investment Fund. When will people be housed from projects in that fund?

Mr SPEAKER: The minister has been responding to terms of the general issue, but I would ask the minister to come back and address the question directly.

Ms ENOCH: I am very pleased to say that we are actually building social and affordable housing because of our investment, and we will see those houses being built and people housed in those houses as they are completed. Those completion dates are on the horizon into next year, which is fantastic. In the meantime, we continue to build more social and affordable housing. In fact, we have completed more than 4,000 homes, and in 2024 we will see the Housing Investment Fund come to fruition in those properties we have already commenced because we have had the innovation and sense to invest in social housing in this state—unlike those opposite, who cut funding and cut construction—

(Time expired)

Critical Minerals

Ms KING: My question is of the Minister for Resources. Will the minister please provide an update to the House on what the Palaszczuk government is doing for Queensland's critical minerals sector?

Mr STEWART: I thank the member for Pumicestone for her question. She understands the importance that critical minerals will have in our renewable energies. Critical minerals are the unsung heroes of modern society, providing the raw materials we will need to power everything from smartphones to solar panels. When it comes to critical minerals, Queensland is sitting on a gold mine. That is why the Premier and I revealed the secret ingredient to Queensland's next mining and manufacturing boom: CopperString 2032.

This record \$5 billion investment into energy infrastructure for our North West Minerals Province will help unlock more of the critical minerals the world needs to decarbonise. This announcement came after we revealed that we are putting Australia's first ever critical minerals demonstration facility into Townsville. This \$57 million facility, located at the Cleveland Bay Industrial Park, will process a range of critical minerals—vanadium and potentially cobalt—and rare earth elements. We are about the building blocks of the SuperGrid—batteries, the wind and the solar farms which support our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan.

When it comes to those opposite, they have no plan, no real vision and no real idea about the future of our resources sector. In a desperate move to seem relevant, their federal counterparts have decided to go for the nuclear option. This is despite not touching nuclear energy in the nearly decade they were in office themselves. Not even two months ago, in what I can only describe as a bizarre and insensitive video, their federal shadow minister for energy, Ted O'Brien, stood at Hiroshima to spruik the benefits of nuclear power. Let me quote what 'Sensitive Ted' said. Standing at Hiroshima he said, 'Despite actually having two atomic bombs land on it, Japan is firing on all cylinders on nuclear energy.' 'Mr Sensitive', hey? That is not a quote from the *Betoota Advocate*; this is the leadership Queensland can expect from the LNP. Those opposite are too busy spewing toxic talking points about nuclear energy. Instead, they should be throwing weight behind our critical minerals sector and jobs and the opportunities it will provide to all Queenslanders.

The Palaszczuk government will not take Queenslanders' wealth of critical minerals for granted. With its investment in Australia's first critical minerals demonstration facility, we are creating a range of good jobs, from mine to manufacture rather than from pit to port, that will power—

(Time expired)

Timber Action Plan

Mr PERRETT: My question is to the Premier. In 2019 the Premier promised to complete the timber action plan by November 2021. When will the government deliver on its promise?

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

MOTION

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders; Order of Business



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (12.24 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

1. That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended to enable debate of committee reports to be postponed for this week's sitting; and

2. That, notwithstanding anything contained in the business program motion for this week's sitting, so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended to enable, for the Strengthening Community Safety Bill:
- (a) the minister to be called on in reply by no later than 4.55 pm today;
 - (b) a maximum of one hour for the minister in reply and consideration in detail; and
 - (c) at the conclusion of one hour, and by no later than 5.55 pm, the processes set out in part (2)(a) to 2(d) of the business program motion agreed to for this week's sitting and in sessional order 4(3) to be followed.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.


Motion agreed to.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY SAFETY BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 15 March (see p. 504), on motion of Mr Ryan—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (12.24 pm): I rise to speak on the Strengthening Community Safety Bill. To echo the words of the member for Macalister, we are here speaking to a bill such as this because something has gone wrong with a small number of our young people.

I am the daughter of a retired police officer, so the principle of consequence for action is not lost on me. Our communities rightfully deserve to feel safe. I am also lucky—lucky to have grown up in a family free of violence, filled with love and the supports that both my brother and I needed. The unfortunate truth is that young people who have a childhood exposed to trauma, addiction, crime and neglect are significantly more likely to come in contact with the criminal justice system. That does not excuse their behaviour, but it does provide context to a problem that is more complex than the three-word slogans we have continually heard from those opposite.

I find some of the comments made about gold standard early intervention particularly disingenuous when we know the track record of those opposite. They slashed \$10 million from the youth justice budget, cut 224 child safety staff, cut the Murri Court, cut the Drug Court and cut Skilling Queenslanders for Work. In fact, the Leader of the Opposition, who was a cabinet minister at the time, has the nerve now to say that they want programs reviewed to ensure money is being spent effectively when his government spent \$16.7 million on a program, delivered by an LNP donor, that was the subject of a scathing Auditor-General report. They also cut youth justice conferencing without consultation—a program that had a 98 per cent satisfaction rate and provided an important diversionary option. In fact, the member for Kawana, who was at the time the attorney-general, said, 'The Labor Party set up all these programs and they did not work,' which I found interesting since the program was actually set up by the then LNP Borbidge government in 1996.

Our government reintroduced restorative justice conferencing, which has seen a significant number of participants go on to not reoffend, and it is this government that continues to invest in the early intervention programs that we know work, programs like Transition 2 Success, which we have on the Gold Coast—a vocational training and therapeutic service that has seen more than 480 young people graduate. Sixty-seven per cent of participants did not offend or reoffend within 12 months.

We also have intensive case management targeting chronic young offenders aged 13 to 17 to help them and their families break the cycle of crime. It also addresses multiple factors that impact chronic juvenile offending, including substance abuse, and aims to enhance family and kinship connections and promote engagement in education and training. We also have multiagency collaborative panels, where government and non-government organisations are working together to coordinate service delivery and address systemic barriers that contribute to high-risk young people's offending.


We have youth co-responder teams, with dedicated police and youth justice workers who patrol the streets and engage with young people at risk of offending and young people on bail. We have community youth response and diversion programs and services with after-hours support, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural mentoring, bridging to education programs, and intensive case management. We also have intensive bail supports for young people and families. We have On Country programs, working with First Nations communities to make sure that is delivered in a culturally appropriate way. We have Project Booyah, which I know has assisted so many young people in my

community. I have had the privilege of going to a number of graduation ceremonies—ceremonies, I should note, that I have never seen the Liberal National Party attend. Those programs have a real and meaningful impact in the lives of young people.

These programs across the board have seen a 37 per cent reduction in the number of offenders aged between 10 and 16 since 2017. We know the statistics show us that the overwhelming majority of young people who come into contact with the youth justice system do not go on to reoffend because our early intervention programs are working, but I acknowledge, we all acknowledge, that those statistics mean little to anyone who is the victim of crime. I want to put my thoughts on the record to anyone who is the victim of crime. I acknowledge the comments that have been made by a number of people in this House around how we can improve on those systems to make sure that the voices of those victims of crime are heard throughout the process.

We are also committed to giving our frontline services the resources they need, which is why we committed to 2,025 additional police personnel by 2025. Let us be clear: for all of the LNP's tough-on-crime rhetoric, there would be 1,000 fewer police officers across Queensland if they were elected in the 2020 election.

Youth justice is a complex area with no simple solution. There are many contributing factors behind what leads a young person to make a wrong and sometimes devastating decision, and the pain of victims is real. We all acknowledge that and that is why we are here today. These issues are hard, but our youth justice strategy aims to tackle them head-on in breaking the cycle of offending, for our communities but, more importantly, for the next generation of young Queenslanders.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12.31 pm): Can I say at the outset on debating juvenile justice laws in the state of Queensland that Queenslanders absolutely deserve better than what they have at the moment. When reflecting on the speech given by the senior minister of the Palaszczuk government, I note that she could not utter the words 'breach of bail', yet if we listen to the Premier and the police minister 'breach of bail' is now the cornerstone of Labor Party policies to fix this issue in Queensland. However, the left wing of the Labor Party, like the minister we have just heard from, could not utter the words 'breach of bail'. She talked about therapeutic programs and this and that for the kids, but she could not mention 'breach of bail'.

We know why. It is because they have spent eight years campaigning against breach of bail, and now it is in their legislation. We attempted to introduce an amendment in 2021, but they rejected our implementation of that. They denied us the opportunity to do it but now they have copied it word for word. It was the quickest amendment that parliamentary counsel have had to draft because they just grabbed the LNP amendment from 2021 and gave it to the Labor minister to introduce.

Promises are hollow in this Palaszczuk government. When we talk about youth crime, we talk about victims. We talk in the LNP about the impact that youth crime and all types of crime is having on the victims in Queensland. I am known for always putting the rights of the victims before the perpetrators, and I will continue to do that in this bill today with my contribution.

Who could forget the statement issued on 29 December 2022? The Premier was under all this pressure to have something. Just before she got on the plane and travelled to Paris for five weeks, she had to have something to announce so they rushed the Premier out just after Christmas and announced this 10-point plan that they developed on the back of an envelope. This is not a 10-point plan for victims of crime; this is a 10-point plan for a political fix for a Labor government that is known to be soft on crime. The very first sentence of this press release states—

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

It is there in black and white in the Premier's press release that she issued—'juvenile car thieves will face 14 years' jail'. Now we find out—and the government did not want to tell anyone—that the Youth Justice Act does not apply to that because they cannot give a 14-year maximum sentence. Why did the Premier not disclose that to Queenslanders when she made that announcement? Why did she not tell the people of Queensland that that promise could not be kept? Guess what. I suspect the Premier did not even know because this was rushed so the Premier could announce it before she jumped on the jet to travel to Paris where she could drink Chandon. That is the priority of Annastacia Palaszczuk, the Premier. Her priority was a political fix on 29 December before she jumped on a jet and left Queensland for Paris. That was the reality of it and that was what that announcement was all about.

Premier Palaszczuk said that the 10-point plan is all about keeping people safe. Well, it is not. Premier Palaszczuk promised to keep Queenslanders safe. There is nothing more unsafe than a Palaszczuk Labor government promise, and that is what has been exposed. The very first test of their laws failed. Even the Attorney-General has not stood up and explained to Queenslanders this untruth, this mistruth—

Ms Fentiman: Yes, I did.

Mr BLEIJIE: Oh, you did explain the mistruth, did you? I take the interjection when the Attorney said that, yes, she did explain the mistruth in the press release. Thank you for the honesty, Attorney-General, in saying that the Premier did tell a big white fib in her press release issued on 29 December. What the Premier announced on 29 December will not apply to juvenile offenders in the state of Queensland. This big tough approach that Minister Ryan keeps going on about is a falsity, just like he conned the Pullen family when he said he was going to have tough laws for their family and it worked out they did not apply. That is exactly the same here. They promise these big tough laws and they will not even apply in the situation.

The reason juvenile justice is out of control in the state of Queensland is the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill from 2015. What were the policy objectives of that bill? To remove breach of bail as an offence for children and to reinstate the principle that detention should be a last resort. That is when the Palaszczuk government watered down the youth justice laws in the state of Queensland and that is why Queenslanders are suffering the consequences of those weak laws eight years later. Make no mistake about it: they have spent eight years weakening the juvenile justice laws in the state and now our communities are living in fear. People in our communities are afraid to go out at night. They are unsure of where to leave their keys at night—at the front door, in the garage, on the bedside table or just left in the car so the criminals can take the car because they do not want to be broken into so their car keys can be stolen.

This was a political fix for a Premier who has a big problem. She was the one who championed through this parliament the weaker laws we have seen in the last eight years. We have seen broken promise after broken promise. Nowhere in Queensland is immune to this, including my own community in Kawana. Since this debate started three days ago, I have again looked at all of the community forums—Meridan Plains community board, Bokarina Beach, Wurtulla West Neighbourhood Watch. All have had stories from the last three nights of young people trying to break into cars, homes being broken into, bus shelters being smashed and destroyed, and young kids running amuck at midnight. That is the society we are living in at the moment.

We have had knife attacks in Kawana. I met a victim recently who after two years has still not got funding from Victim Assist. They say there is a two-year wait now to get any assistance that he is owed in my community. We are seeing cars being broken into. We are seeing antisocial behaviour from young people. We are seeing businesses in the Kawana community being terrorised by young kids. Graffiti is up. We have had crime issues in Wurtulla, Bokarina Beach, Bokarina, Minyama and Meridan Plains. The list goes on. We have hooning. I have attempted to get CCTV cameras on Creekside Boulevard but it is state government versus council. Who is responsible? I do not care. Someone just fund it and get CCTV cameras on roads like Creekside Boulevard so we can stop the hooning and the car accidents because someone will lose their life on that road.

We have the Balin Stewart Foundation. Young Balin was killed tragically in a knife attack. His parents, Michael and Kerri-Lyn, have set up this foundation and the #binthebladeforbalin campaign. I absolutely support that foundation and the incredible work they are doing since their son's death in trying to spread the message around knife crime and to #binthebladeforbalin.

We are seeing all our communities across Queensland being terrorised by young offenders. It is time that there are consequences for actions. Yes, we are supporting these laws, but we think they should go further. We believe that if a young person is before a judge and the judge believes they should go to jail, then they should go to jail. The magistrate or judge should have the option to send that person to jail. However, under the Labor laws which they weakened and introduced in 2015, detention was reintroduced as a last resort so that a judge or a magistrate has to look at anything but detention—therapeutic camps, wellness camps, maybe send them to Wellcamp; I don't know. Anything but jail. There has to be consequences for actions absolutely—

Mr Harper interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: Every member of the Labor Party, including the member interjecting, should hang their head in shame—


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): The member for Thuringowa will cease interjecting.

Mr BLEIJIE:—that they all voted to weaken the laws from 2015 which have led to the youth crime crisis we have in the state of Queensland. It is time to put victims before perpetrators. It is time for perpetrators to accept responsibility and have consequences for their actions.

Mr Harper interjected.

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

Mr BLEIJIE: It is time for the Labor government to admit that they got it wrong when they got rid of provisions like breach of bail and detention as a last resort. Those are the issues that Queenslanders want talked about. It is time to stand up for victims in this state!

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (12.41 pm): I rise to support the Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023. Before beginning my contribution, I must reflect that on a comprehensive nuanced bill that this is—it is quite ironic to have to follow the member for Kawana who lacks any sense of self-reflection, any sense of nuance at all when it comes to criminal law reform. The member for Kawana, in a few questions this week, has quoted the Auditor-General's opinions or reports with no self-reflection of what the Auditor-General said about the member when he was attorney-general—the worst attorney-general ever. There was the blowout in costs for boot camps under the LNP, in addition to the cost of the member's helicopter flight. It is not just the report itself, but it is the response from the member for Kawana, or lack of response, and the disdain he showed to the Auditor-General, only for the Auditor-General to say, 'without any paperwork of evidence-based decision-making; I can only assume there was none.' That is paraphrasing, but that is close to a quote of what the Auditor-General said about the member for Kawana and his approach to youth justice.

He displays no self-reflection when his own party leaked 'Operation Boring' where they had to keep him quiet six months before an election, and it did not work. That is a matter for their partyroom and their promotion of the now Deputy Leader. What does that say about them? He is the man who leaked confidential conversations with heads of jurisdiction.

Government members interjected.

Mr SULLIVAN: Unbelievable. Cut funding.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr SULLIVAN: Exactly.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr SULLIVAN: I do not take the words of the member for Kawana seriously because nobody in law does. I want to move onto the bill.

In contributing to this bill, I recognise the two key separate but complementary targets of this bill, and that is recognising the importance of early intervention and trying to steer young Queenslanders away from a pathway of crime. It also recognises correctly that, despite the best efforts and best intentions of families, the education system and the justice system, there are a small number of young offenders who form a cohort who disproportionately commit a significant percentage of the crimes committed by young Queenslanders.

We know there are multiple issues going on here. It is not to excuse it; it is to understand it so that we can fix it. There is entrenched poverty, generational trauma, housing issues, disengagement with education, drug and alcohol abuse, domestic and family violence, and mental health issues, just to name a few. The point is that while we are talking about this as a youth justice issue, it is not merely a youth justice issue; it is across portfolios. We are talking about the work that our ministers are doing in housing and in education and re-engaging kids in the education system. It is about training. It is about health care, whether it be alcohol and drug addictions, mental health, or health care full stop for these young offenders. That is what we are dealing with here. We are getting serious about this across portfolios in a whole-of-government approach, and I am proud to associate myself with those efforts.

It goes to matters beyond what those opposite might describe as youth justice issues. It goes to programs like Skilling Queenslanders for Work, giving people who are otherwise disengaged from the community or workforce the training and skills they need to have the confidence to get the experience and to provide for their families, and to contribute to their community and to our society more broadly. That is a whole-of-government approach. Those opposite made cuts to the community sector when they were in government. They cut Skilling Queenslanders for Work and then took cutting Skilling Queenslanders for Work to two elections in a row, as if that was something to be proud of.

We cannot talk about the next generation of young people going forward, trying to give them a chance in life, without considering those broader things that we as a Labor government provide. I said as early as my first speech that I think when it comes to youth justice we need generational change, so let's make it this one. Those opposite, even in this debate, or in the media, and as we have heard this morning from the far-right members like the member for Kawana, engage in name-calling in this space—

Ms KING: Misogyny, too.

Mr SULLIVAN: Yes. In regards to calling people grubs or crims or whatever it is those opposite want to say, as I said in my first speech, if there is name-calling, what I want to see in 20 years, if I am lucky enough to still be here, or perhaps not, is that we call them taxpayers. Wouldn't it be great that 20 years from now the people we are talking about here have received education and training, gone on to build a career, contributed to their families and contributed to our communities? If we can agree that that is where we want to be in 20 years, let's have a serious conversation about how to get from here to there, rather than just this mindless, 24-hour news cycle, revelling in people's grief as those opposite like to do when it comes to crime, and health for that matter.

That is what early intervention is all about and that is what this bill delivers in recognising recidivist offenders. In respect to the high-repeat offenders, this bill deliberately targets those who do not take the early chances to correct their behaviour, those who give others a bad name and continue to harm our people and our community. This bill shows that a Labor government can do what those opposite cannot, and that is walk and chew gum at the same time. This delivers on our philosophy of supporting victims, reducing crime, turning the lives of offenders themselves around and indeed preventing offending in the first place. Surely we can all agree that we are all better off if we are not talking about youth offenders, if we are not talking about crime, but that we are actually talking about a reduction in that behaviour.

I wish to reflect briefly on one particular element of this bill which I think is really important and reflects our current scenario and that is the approach when it comes to social media. I think it does reflect the culture of young people these days. I am really glad that the bill has specific elements for higher penalties when it comes to the offender publishing material advertising their involvement in or of the offending on social media. It is a contrast to those opposite again when they were in government who thought it was funny or tough to name and shame, as they called it. That actually just encouraged people. When people are trying to post on social media, when they are trying to get infamy, when they are trying to show off to their mates, as sad as that is, by committing crimes, naming and shaming actually encourages that behaviour. It is so antiquated and so self-debilitating to take that approach, as opposed to trying to restrict people recruiting their mates via social media, on showing off to their mates on social media, and on how they are living their lives with their friends, cousins or other perpetrators when they are committing these sorts of crimes. That is what this bill tries to address, and I thank the ministers for that approach.

I do want to reflect that whilst obviously introduced by the Premier, this bill reflects the hard work and collaboration from ministers across portfolios. I thank particularly the Attorney-General, the police minister and the Minister for Youth Justice along with, as I said, other ministers who go to the nth degree when it comes to supporting the broader work that is required in this space and in housing, education, health and so many other areas. This is a serious issue that affects all of our communities. We can either go outside and yell at the breeze or come in here and be mature adults. We can provide legislation that provides for the prevention of crime and early intervention to give people's lives back and put them on the right pathway. It can also recognise the serious offenders who have chosen not to take that second chance in life.

I am really proud to be part of a government that is prepared to take those hard decisions and take a comprehensive approach to what is a very difficult area. There is no silver bullet, but I am really proud to be part of a government that is delivering this legislation. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr ANDREW (Mirani—PHON) (12.50 pm): I rise to speak on the Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023. The bill seeks to target the small cohort of serious repeat young offenders who engage in persistent and serious offending. It contains amendments to the Bail Act 1980, the Youth Justice Act 1992 and the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000. The bill also amends the Criminal Code to increase the maximum penalties for certain offences related to the unlawful use or possession of a motor vehicle, aircraft or vessel.

As a representative of a regional electorate in Queensland I can say that the issue of youth crime has long been a major focus of mine. Every day it seems I hear stories that would raise the hairs on anyone's neck, of children of 12 being burnt alive in stolen cars driven by another 12-year-old and old ladies being viciously bashed in their own homes. According to the latest Productivity Commission figures, Queensland spends more on youth justice than any other state or territory in Australia. Since 2017 the government has invested more than \$550 million in new youth detention centres, staffing, beds and early intervention programs. For the 2021 year alone the state allocated \$296 million to this issue.

A great deal of this multimillion dollar splurge on tackling youth crime, however, is being spent on services that are neither well targeted nor community driven. Local community leaders are simply not being given a voice when it comes to exactly what programs and services they most need to address their region's specific situation.

This is also true of our Aboriginal communities. Many traditional owners I have spoken with say current child centred service models are failing their young people, who need much more community driven solutions with a focus on the empowerment of families. They do not want top-down 'one size fits all' solutions. They want to be involved in a lot more closely designed tailored solutions that match their specific problems and needs.

In a 21 February joint statement from the Queensland Premier, police minister and youth justice minister the government said it was making good on the 29 December promise to 'make tough laws even tougher'. To that end, the bill before the House includes provisions extending the period of conditional release orders from three to six months, providing courts with the ability to label a child as a serious repeat offender and subject to tougher sentences.

Currently, section 29 of the Bail Act provides that an adult defendant must not break any condition on which the defendant was granted bail. It is an offence punishable by a maximum of two years imprisonment. Clause 5 of the bill removes the restrictions within this section which prevent it being applied to children. This will mean that children can be charged with an offence and imprisoned for two years if they breach their bail conditions. These new provisions show the government's ongoing attachment to a 'one size fits all' bandaid model when it comes to addressing the problems in the region.

Courts need to have the ability to tailor bail conditions to a child's particular circumstances. These conditions can range from drug rehabilitation, work placements or participation in youth or country programs. Others include banning children from a particular location, taking part in a drug rehabilitation program or even joining a local sporting group. Such programs introduce structure and self-discipline into a child's life, often for the first time, sadly.

Clause 8 of the bill will increase the maximum penalties for unlawful use or possession of a motor vehicle and other forms of transport. Where the offence is committed at night, the offender is liable to imprisonment for 12 years. Offenders who use or threaten violence will be liable to imprisonment for 14 years. As victims of crime have said in their submission on the bill, these sorts of tough-on-crime provisions amount to little more than smoke and mirrors on the part of the government. If the maximum penalty for murder is currently 10 years, there is no way a judge is going to give a juvenile 14 years for unlawful use of a motor vehicle. What point is there in increasing a maximum penalty when the judges are not even prepared to enforce the existing ones? Unless the government is prepared to legislate for minimum sentences, the whole thing is a waste of time.

Clause 8 also creates new circumstances of aggravation for cases where an offender publishes material relating to their crime on social media. Under the provisions in this bill, such an offender will now be liable to imprisonment for 12 years. That seems extremely excessive to me. What is the true intent of such a provision? If it is about stopping people from advertising their crimes on social media, would it not make more sense to simply ask social media platforms to not post the items in the first place? As the Queensland Law Society, the QLS, points out in their submission, these sorts of social media posts are actually extremely useful to the police as an evidentiary tool. Another concern—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Member for Pine Rivers, that sound you just made was quite unparliamentary. I have heard you make it a number of times before. You are currently on a warning. Member for Pine Rivers, you will please leave the chamber for one hour under standing order 253A.

Whereupon the honourable member for Pine Rivers withdrew from the chamber at 12.56 pm.

Mr ANDREW: Another concern relates to clause 14 of the bill, which extends the use of electronic monitoring devices to children as young as 15. As the QLS pointed out, at 15 children are still subject to mandatory school attendance and, therefore, applying such a measure to a school-going child is

inappropriate and unjustifiable. I am also not happy with the bill's provision extending the program for another two years. By all accounts, only eight per cent of offenders were fitted with the devices during the last trial, rendering it impossible to determine what benefits, if any, were derived from the initial program. Surely the money spent on the program would be better spent on other measures that might actually help deter crime and enhance community safety.

According to the Productivity Commission's recent report, Queensland has by far the worst recidivism rate in the nation and this has now become a systemic problem for which there will be no easy fix. Unfortunately, once incarceration rates in the community reach a certain level, there is a tipping point where imprisonment fails to reduce the offending and starts actually contributing to it. When every family and individual within a certain area knows someone in prison, offending and imprisonment become just a part of the socialisation process. As imprisonment becomes normalised in this way, the prospect of going to prison loses much of its deterrent effect, becoming instead a fact of life or even a rite of passage in some communities. When detention no longer has a deterrent effect, increasing maximum sentences by a year or two is just pointless. Do not get me wrong; youth crime is without doubt a massive problem in regional Queensland and something needs to be done. However, without meaningful interventions and targeted programs, bills like this one just speak to the growing apathy on the part of the government, an apathy that is starting to border on negligence.

To reduce juvenile crime, programs need to address the underlying reasons why young people are offending in the first place such as boredom and a lack of appropriate role models. As victims of crime say, the absence of programs to address the aimlessness and boredom of young people in the regions has played a big part in the high rates of juvenile offending. This is a huge problem in the regions, with many people stealing cars because they have nothing better to do. Such kids attend school infrequently and can be found roaming the streets in gangs at all hours looking for something to alleviate their boredom. I have to say the vast majority come from broken family units, mostly ones with no male present. It is not just me saying so but the overwhelming conclusion of some 40 years of research on youth crime.

Drugs are another huge factor that is not being properly discussed or addressed. Many young people in the regions are on drugs. Some are even using their lunch money to buy ice. Violent video games and exposure to online pornography are another two concerns that many people in the regions have spoken to me about. All these issues are having a hugely detrimental impact on young people's behaviour, something that cannot be separated from the high rate of crime and imprisonment in Queensland.

Bills such as this one simply show the government's complete lack of engagement with regional communities on this issue, and I am sure of that. Programs and strategies need to be properly targeted. The problems facing rural and regional towns when it comes to youth crime are multifaceted and entrenched. There is no 'one size fits all' solution here.

Debate, on motion of Mr Andrew, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

CFMEU and Office of Industrial Relations; Gabba Redevelopment; Comments by Member for Kawana, Apology



Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): For years I have been talking to workplace health and safety officers in the Office of Industrial Relations in Queensland, and they have been giving me and the Crime and Corruption Commission information. They have been brave whistleblowers. Today their concerns have been vindicated by the Office of Industrial Relations. On 6 March, Queensland Industrial Relations Commission Vice-President O'Connor handed down a judgement with regard to senior officer Helen Burgess. I have raised that name on many occasions, in Estimates and in parliament. The judgement states—

Ms Burgess accepts that on 6 July 2021 she received a text message on her personal mobile phone from Beau Seiffert, Construction, Forestry, Mining & Energy, Industrial Union of Employees, Queensland (CFMEU) which consisted of five photographs—

complaining of a business in Queensland. It continues—

Ms Burgess also accepts she then forwarded the text message from Mr Seiffert from her personal mobile phone to Mark Houston's (Operations Manager, OIR) personal mobile phone.

The workplace health and safety officers have been vindicated. We have been saying this has been happening for years; now a judge has confirmed it. Ms Burgess appealed the decision that was handed down, but one of the allegations was substantiated. I am relieved for all of the workplace health and safety officers that Ms Burgess has been found to have liaised with the CFMEU using her personal mobile phone.

The judgement also reflects that the respondents—the minister's own department—expressed concern to Ms Burgess that using her personal mobile phone to communicate with the CFMEU may cause distress in the community that the office is not independent. I have been saying this, and warning Minister Grace about this, for six years.

On another matter, we see the government today scrambling away from the costings for the Gabba. We asked them specifically today what costings the Premier relied on for the Gabba announcement of \$1 billion. Nothing—zip, zilch. There has been nothing from the Premier with respect to accountability and transparency with respect to the Gabba. They picked this number out of thin air and announced it to get on the world stage and the red carpet. What a disgraceful lack of appreciation for Queensland taxpayers' money. The government must respond with more answers.

In the time remaining, I raise an issue that has been brought to my attention. On 21 February I said in the debate of the business program motion that the opposition and crossbench could not amend a business program motion. That is not correct. What I was referencing at the time was after the House has already agreed to it. I certainly did not intend to mislead the House, and I unreservedly apologise to the House.

Rockhampton



Mr O'ROURKE (Rockhampton—ALP) (2.03 pm): There are numerous reasons Rockhampton is a great place to live, work and play. Living in Rockhampton offers a relaxed and laid-back lifestyle. It has a welcoming community, with friendly locals who are always willing to lend a helping hand. One of the significant benefits of living in Rockhampton is its fantastic climate. With more than 300 days of sunshine each year, residents can enjoy a wide range of outdoor activities. It does get a little warm in summer, but it is better than the cold any day. Rocky is also located near beautiful beaches, national parks and the Great Barrier Reef, making it an ideal location for outdoor enthusiasts.

Rockhampton is steeped in history, with many heritage-listed buildings dating back to the 1800s. The town was founded in 1858 and played an important role in Queensland's early development. You can explore the town's history at the Rockhampton Heritage Village, which is a living history museum. Rockhampton is also an excellent place to work. It is a regional hub for business and industry, with a diverse range of employment opportunities.

Rockhampton is great for the outdoors enthusiast. You can go hiking in the nearby Mount Archer National Park, fishing on the Fitzroy or kayaking in the Keppels. The town has many parks and gardens, including the Botanic Gardens and Kershaw Gardens, which are perfect for picnics and leisurely strolls. Rockhampton is home to a vibrant arts and cultural scene, with many festivals and events taking place throughout the year. Visitors can catch a performance at the Pilbeam Theatre or immerse themselves in the local art scene at the Rockhampton Museum of Art.

For the sports enthusiast Rockhampton has just about every sport available and we hold a range of sporting events. The city is home to the Capras Rugby League team, a feeder club to the Redcliffe Dolphins. There are numerous sporting clubs catering to various interests such as hockey, basketball, cycling, soccer, tennis, swimming and netball to name a few. Best not forget that every three years we also host Beef Week, which brings tens of thousands of people to the region.

Rockhampton is an excellent place to live, work and play, with its reasonable cost of living, fantastic climate and a range of employment and leisure opportunities. It is no wonder that many people choose to call it home. I encourage everyone to take the time to come and visit. It is a great place to come and visit. Take care.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Ministerial Staff; Unitywater, Trade Waste Permit Fees



Ms SIMPSON (Maroochydore—LNP) (2.06 pm): At a time of record cost-of-living hikes, our red carpet Premier has another cost blowout in her government's ministerial staffing budget. Official government workforce data shows there are 12 fewer police on the frontline beat under the Palaszczuk government compared to two years ago, but the Premier has no trouble recruiting ministerial staff, who are paid a lot more than the average police officer.

The Premier has a reported 30-plus media spin doctors and communications people working in her government team, yet we have seen a blowout in the last six months of eight per cent—over \$1 million up from the previous six months—with ministerial expenses going up from \$16.278 million to \$17.649 compared to the six-month period in 2021.

Ironically, the government's excuse is that it needed more money spent on ministerial staff due to—I kid you not—additional governance rules in order to ensure transparency. Where? We had a motion in the parliament last night calling for the government to release the figures and the business case for the Gabba, which has blown out from \$1 billion to \$2.7 billion, but, no, the government voted against that motion. They are not 'letting the sunshine in', as Coaldrake called for; they are spinning a web of arrogant obstruction to stop the truth being released.

I want to talk about another important matter. In the midst of soaring cost-of-living pressures, Unitywater is slugging small and other businesses with a 750 per cent increase in trade waste permit fees. Mum-and-dad businesses are warning that they have to cut staff and some may not survive. Others do not know how they will cope, with some businesses finding their fees going up from \$350 to \$3,415 per year. I know of one business that is getting a bill for an extra \$20,000. This will hit fish and chip shops, restaurants and non-food businesses such as car washes, laundromats, mechanics and workshops—the list goes on.

People want to be and are passionate about being environmentally compliant, but what about a fair go and engaging with businesses before you ring them up and say, 'By the way, you're getting a bill for an extra \$3,000, \$4,000, \$6,000 or \$20,000'? It will cost jobs, and that is what these businesses have said to me. After the impact of COVID, you would think they would take care to be transparent and explain what they are doing. Do not whack people with these unsustainable price hikes; work with them. I talked to restaurant owner Tony Kelly, who employs 400 staff. He said that they got a random call last Friday to explain that there would be a price hike for services.

Fish Tagging




Hon. ML FURNER (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (2.09 pm): Australia's volunteer fish-tagging database, Infofish, recently became the first citizen science tagging program in the world to tag one million fish since the program began in 1986. Earlier this year I was glad to join Infofish and partners in their celebration of this huge achievement. I want to recognise Bill Sawynok, the secretary of program partner Suntag Australia, for his commitment and hard work which have greatly contributed to the program's success. Community based fish tagging has made a significant contribution to our understanding of the movement, patterns and growth rates of many fish, particularly freshwater species such as Australian bass and silver perch. The data provided by recreational anglers as part of the Infofish program is often used in combination with targeted biological data and fisheries information collected by Fisheries Queensland to inform the assessment of some of Queensland's most important recreational species.

To promote the Stocked Impoundment Permit Scheme, the Freshwater Fishing & Stocking Association of Queensland is running a pilot tag fish competition in Northern and Central Queensland where anglers can share up to \$50,000 in prize money for catching one of 100 tagged fish—less of an instant scratch-it, more of an instant catch-it! The fish, including bass and barramundi, have been tagged and released across five participating impoundments in the Wide Bay-Burnett and Central and North Queensland regions, specifically in Lake Tinaroo, Lake Proserpine, Kinchant Dam, Lake Callide and Lake Cania. Of the \$50,000 up for grabs, three lucky anglers have already shared in \$35,000 for reeling in three of the prize-winning fish. There is still \$15,000 up for grabs, so I encourage all keen fishers in those regions to get out there and drop a line.

Fish tagging has been historically used to collect data on growth rates, movement and survival of a number of key fish species of recreational interest which has contributed to fisheries management and the protection of endangered fish. The Palaszczuk government's priority has been and will always be securing the future of our Queensland fishing industries for our children and our grandchildren. That is why the Palaszczuk government has invested \$46.49 million to date to our sustainable fisheries strategy to ensure a sustainable fishery is there for our children and our grandchildren. It is possible that the LNP might one day catch on to the importance of sustainable fisheries, but the chances really are one in a million.

Burdekin Electorate, Health Services


 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.12 pm): Perhaps one of the most important services, regardless of where one lives, is health. Time after time I have stood in this place to speak about the lack of health services throughout the Burdekin electorate. If we take Clermont, for example, the last medical superintendent left in September 2018—that is right: 4½ years ago—and we are still waiting for a permanent doctor in that community. Let us not forget that it was this government that closed the doctors surgery at Clermont and it was the Mackay Hospital and Health Service that has not delivered on any of the promises made to the community at a public forum to address this very issue. I want to add to that today by talking about the provision of health services in Collinsville. Today I table a collection of letters addressed to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition regarding unfilled health positions in Collinsville [\[316\]](#).

There are a total of 232 identical letters signed by Collinsville residents, and that represents over 15 per cent of the Collinsville community. The requests from the people of Collinsville are simple. They are requesting a second doctor and a permanent QAS staff member for that community. Despite the comments made by the Deputy Premier and others, health services in Collinsville are lacking and are putting people at risk. It is not just the residents themselves being put at risk; more than 18 months ago concerns from the community about ambulance services were raised directly with the minister. Residents spoke of the QAS staff member at that time looking exhausted and suffering from fatigue and residents were genuinely concerned for that staff member's health and welfare. What has changed? Nothing, and it is the same with the doctors. Despite repeated assurances, Collinsville still has only one doctor. Residents, just as they did for the QAS staff member, have expressed concerns regarding fatigue and the effect on the doctor's health.

Let us be very clear: the nearest backup for both the doctor and QAS staff is 100 kilometres away. In a medical emergency, minutes matter and fatigue can be deadly. I ask all members, just as I ask the minister, to put themselves in the shoes of a Collinsville resident who needs to call for an ambulance and has to hope that there has not been another incident that means that the response to their call could literally be over an hour away. The people of Collinsville deserve to be heard and deserve to have their concerns addressed. It is an honour to represent a community that stands up for the people who care for them in an emergency and it is an honour to represent a community that will stand together to demand their fair share. It is not too much to ask for a second permanent doctor at Collinsville and for two permanent ambulance officers to be based in that community, particularly when there are two significant coalmines in that community employing several hundred personnel and that at any given time there could be a call on emergency services to provide an emergency response.

Pumicestone Electorate, Small Business Awards

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (2.15 pm): I am always impressed by the support that our Pumicestone community shows to our local small businesses, but last week when I launched for the very first time our 2023 Pumicestone Small Business Awards I was absolutely blown away by the response. In just one week we have had a total of over 1,000 nominations of small business people nominating businesses for the Small Business of the Year Award, people nominating new businesses for our newcomers award and people nominating individual employees of small businesses for an outstanding customer service award. It really does speak volumes about the incredible support that people in Pumicestone show to our small businesses.

As a former small business owner myself, including working for quite some time in delivering small business set-up services to get small businesses off the ground, I know how much that support means to our small businesses. They are incredibly dedicated, they produce great products and services day after day, week after week and it is such a great feeling to know that they are feeling the love from our community as so many of them have been nominated for a 2023 Pumicestone Small Business Award. It is an opportunity for our community to celebrate our many dedicated small businesses and really spotlight what they do. We have included categories like best trades business, best retail business, best hospitality, best health and fitness, best hair and beauty as well as best new business and Small Business of the Year. I am asking everybody in Pumicestone to look around at the small businesses that they love and support and consider nominating them for a Small Business Award or nominating a special employee for a customer service award. Just by nominating, people will go in the draw for a \$200 small business voucher.

The time line of our Small Business Awards are that nominations will remain open until 31 March. The 10 businesses in each category with the most nominations will become our finalists and between 5 and 17 April the community will be available to vote to choose the winning small business in each of

those categories. We are going to hold our first-ever Pumicestone Small Business Awards on 28 April, just in time for Small Business Month, and I really do acknowledge and appreciate Minister Di Farmer for agreeing to come and be part of that event. I also particularly want to thank the member for Mount Ommaney, Jess Pugh, for her generous support and her leading light in this matter of small business awards. She has generously shared her approach with my office and I know her small business awards have been exceptionally popular in her community. We can only hope to do as good a job as Jess does. This is a chance to support our small businesses and I am calling on every single community member to nominate a small business for an award.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Inspector of Detention Services



Mr NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (2.18 pm): Where is the Inspector of Detention Services? That is the question being asked of this government and this Attorney-General. Yesterday ABC journalist Ellen Fanning, noting that the legislation had not been proclaimed, went on to say that she had been contacted five times by the Attorney's office to pass on the message to her listeners that nonetheless—

... they think it's an important role, it's vital though that the Ombudsman has the appropriate staffing, training, procedures and other administrative arrangements prior to commencing inspections.

But just what has been happening with the inspector of places of detention? Let us just remember that the bill was introduced on 28 October 2021. That is 17 months ago. The committee tabled its report on 21 January 2022. Debate began on 26 May 2022 and the bill passed on 30 August 2022. It was assented to on 7 September, and let us not forget the Attorney-General's media release of 30 August saying that all is going to be sweetness and light. In the budget last year there was \$9.4 million over four years and \$3 million per annum to establish the Inspector of Detention Services. Here is the problem: it is still not running. It is still not running 17 months after the bill was introduced, eight months after passage and after it was first promised in 2017.

This is important because it helps explain why this government is not only failing to protect Queensland victims of crime, it is also failing to address the causes of youth offending. Those members on the other side continually extol this Labor government's early intervention programs. The reality is far different. Yesterday I relayed the experiences of the young girl held on remand at Mount Isa. She was separated from her siblings and put into care with a known juvenile offender. The Labor government's failures left the magistrate no option but to remand her in police cells. Two recent cases highlight how badly this government is failing young people. Jack, a 13-year-old Indigenous Australian boy, who, according to reports, over a period of 60 days on remand spent 45 days in solitary confinement, including 22 days straight in isolation, while being held for minor offences. He flooded his cell with water from the toilet in desperation at a situation after allegedly being denied drinking water.

Ms GRACE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I have a vague idea that that matter is before the magistrates court. I do not know whether the sub judice rule is in play here. Can the member confirm that that is not before the courts at the moment?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Member, can you assure the House that it is not a problem?

Mr NICHOLLS: The matter has been dealt with by a magistrate and judgement has been delivered. On Radio National this morning the youth justice minister either could not or would not clarify the details, but when the report of this treatment came from the court itself, and it is the government's own department that provides the information to the court, serious questions of competence arise. The second case involves another boy described as TA and this is what the court said in its judgement—

For 78 of 87 days (that is, for the overwhelming majority of the time you have been at CYDC on the last occasion) you have been confined in your cell for 20 hours or more each day.

Scott McDougall, the state's Human Rights Commissioner, has said these cases may even breach Queensland's Human Rights Act. The failure of this government to implement the Inspector of Detention Services is yet another reason why this government is weak on crime and weak on the causes of crime.

Stafford Bowls Club



Mr SULLIVAN (Stafford—ALP) (2.22 pm): I rise to talk about a significant issue for our local community and that is the fate of the former Stafford Bowls Club site. It sits on Brisbane City Council land, but for years the LNP council has let it fall into a state of disrepair—and that is putting it mildly. I am trying to be parliamentary. The core problem with the LNP council's handling of this issue is their absolute lack of transparency. They are treating our community like mugs.


This issue goes back well before my time in this place. I do want to pay respect to my predecessor, Dr Anthony Lynham, for his advocacy on this issue. I remember the old bowls club fondly, going well back even before that, attending many events there over the years, including going back to my days in retail at Stafford City Shopping Centre co-located next to the club where we often held charity fundraisers and other community events.

My understanding is that the previous application for development on the site is still listed before QCAT, yet now there is the latest application that was approved by the Brisbane City Council without a tender process, without community consultation and without community organisations having the ability to submit or, indeed, resubmit their proposals. Having kept locals in the dark, when the LNP councillor and Lord Mayor heard about locals concerns what did they do? The mayor called them fake. They called them Labor operatives. The council blocked them on social media for trying to have a say. I have met with those locals and, short of some advanced hologram technology, I can assure the Lord Mayor and the councillor that these people are real.

The council seem to also suggest that only people who live in the specific suburb of Stafford are the only ones who are allowed to care. Does the councillor think that a new club would not serve people from Kedron or Stafford Heights or Chermside or the Grange? It is ridiculous. Does the Mayor think that people from other suburbs do not come to Stafford City? Does the councillor not know that families from across the northside flock to Gibson Park from all over the northside for footy or for cricket or both?

The LNP council either have no idea about what goes on in our community or they are deliberately trying to silence the voices of locals across the northside. It is so sad now that the local councillor is trying to claim credit for community services in other wards outside of her own ward—services I have supported and visited, but she has not even known about until she is searching for political protection on this issue. In contrast, I have advocated on behalf of my community and sought genuine community input. To that end I am proud that the independent Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming has given my request consideration and has opened public consultation on the applicant's licence. We cannot cover off on the LNP BCC's approach, but this is a genuine community process. To that end, OLGRlicensing@justice.qld.gov.au.

Regional Forums


 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.25 pm): As a regional member of parliament and the shadow member for regional development, I am passionate about supporting the people of rural and regional Queensland. It is at the core of everything that we on this side of the chamber do because this city-centric Labor government continues to overlook and underestimate regional people and their communities. Our road networks are failing, our health system is understaffed and in crisis, women cannot give birth in our major centres and primary producers are constantly being demonised and challenged by excessive red tape.

One would think that anything that this government could do to put a focus on regional communities would be a positive, but when it comes to Labor's regional community forums I have had long-held concerns. Yesterday's media release about the next round of forums heralds how fantastic regional community forums are. It spruiks about listening to regional Queensland, developing discussion themes and creating positive outcomes. What a load of rubbish! They have been running since 2019. There have been no outcomes, no achievements and nothing that anyone knows about. The regional forums are another example of how this Labor government is more worried about what things look like rather than what actually goes on. The forums are chaired by Labor members. In the case of the Darling Downs and South-West they are chaired by Ipswich MPs and in the case of Western Queensland it is the member for Pine Rivers. Members on this side of the House who actually represent regional Queensland are not even invited and our communities know it.

In August last year I asked the Premier a question on notice about these regional forums. I asked: who was on each of these forums; what is the selection process; where are the minutes of the meetings; and are they transparent. This question has forced the Premier, kicking and screaming, to provide a little bit more information. We now have the membership of those committees but we still have no details about meetings, no outcomes and we do not know what is being discussed. We do not know what is being put forward on behalf of our regions. There are one paragraph summaries of what members heard about. For example, the forum members heard from ministers and senior government representatives; the forum members heard about regional achievements; the forum members learnt about the role of renewables in Queensland. Hang on, I thought this was actually an opportunity for the government to hear from regional members across the region, not for the government to tell them how good the government is. Apparently forum members are progressing various priorities identified from

their respective forum action plans. What are the priorities? What are the action plans? Are they representative of our broader communities? Are they representative of what our communities need—and that is an LNP government!

Redlands Electorate

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.28 pm): The two weeks since the House last sat have been action packed with events across so many different spheres of our Redlands community. I want to thank our Redlands Coast Chamber of Commerce, the host of our regional jobs committee. Monday a week ago we held a futures forum. I thank Minister Farmer for coming out and joining us on that day. It was fantastic. We had students from across the Redlands. Not only did they have the networking experience, they did bus trips down to Transdev to see the great work happening there and the job and career opportunities. At Hub 68, which is a fantastic, up-and-coming medical precinct, students got to see the opportunities for careers in health care. I am proud of our government's investment in those regional jobs committees as they are translating into greater connections with our young people, and an understanding of the pathways and the skills and job opportunities that are available.


I also am so proud of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. I attended the launch of the current round of new trainees who are coming into conservation management across our Southern Moreton Bay Islands. To Chook and the team from Running Wild, thank you for letting me share that launch. I got to share an awful lot about me. There was an activity where you had to reach in and take a whole heap of pieces of paper and for each of the pieces of paper that you took you had to say something about yourself. There was quite a lot of oversharing by me, but the trainees equally got to share a lot. These are the sorts of programs that we are seeing our young people engaged in that are providing them with the opportunity to obtain skills and take that next step while having the benefit of wraparound support.

There was a huge turnout for Clean Up Australia Day right across the Redlands. I am sure it was the same across many parts of the state. It was fantastic for everybody to get in and help with that clean-up.

We also celebrated International Women's Day, now International Women's Week. I am sure everybody in this chamber had as many action-packed events as we did. I thank the Soroptimists for the breakfast that they held. Our VIEW club hosted a lunch. The Zonta Club held a dinner. The Centre for Women & Co. also held a dinner. This year is their 30th anniversary so I give a huge shout-out to the Centre for Women & Co. and acknowledge all of the work that they do in our community. Our high school held a fantastic breakfast that was attended by female teachers from right across the Redlands. That was lovely. This year I was proud to again support the YMCA in their Food Fiesta. That was a terrific community event and a great evening was had by all.

Finally, the netball season has kicked off. Last Saturday I got out my whites and my whistle. I am a little bit rusty, I have to say. I nearly forgot to call a centre pass. It was great to see the kids playing. We also launched the AFL season at the Sharks. There is great work happening in the Redlands.

Energy Prices; Gas Supply

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (2.31 pm): I rise to speak about a number of issues plaguing Queensland's energy sector. As we have heard this week, the default market offer for electricity prices will be rising by between 19 per cent and 27 per cent yet this Palaszczuk government and the energy minister, Mick de Brenni, continue to claim that Queenslanders' electricity bills are reducing. The latest rise in wholesale electricity costs will be passed onto consumers and will further exacerbate the cost-of-living crisis that both state and federal Labor governments are imposing on Queensland families.

The Premier's response is to point to her so-called rebate but we must call that out for what it is. The government own the energy assets in Queensland so when you pay more for your power bill it is the government that is the beneficiary. Instead of the government driving down the wholesale prices from the government owned generators, their response is to give a handful of the money that customers have paid back to the customers. The minister has already disclosed that the refund will not equal the price rise. The Premier is pulling the wool over the eyes of Queenslanders with those so-called rebates.

Even the Auditor-General has confirmed that electricity prices are rising, noting in his December report that Queensland saw the steepest increase in the nation. The Auditor-General also confirmed that a lack of supply from unplanned maintenance in power plants such as Callide had been a primary factor in driving up electricity prices. That contradicts Minister de Brenni's comments following the

incident at the Callide C power station when he said the incident 'would have no net impact on consumers' electricity prices'. The Palaszczuk government and the minister must stop misleading Queenslanders as to why these prices are the highest in the country.

The Australian Energy Market Operator has just released the Gas Statement of Opportunities, which forecasts a domestic gas shortage in this country. The market intervention by the federal Labor government has driven that shortage, undermining the investment by domestic gas producers. This issue will only get worse and the Palaszczuk government must speak up for Queensland industry and consumers. Experts are already worried about gas shortages, particularly as we approach the winter months. It is likely AEMO will instruct that Queensland gas be sent south, causing further issues for Queenslanders.

Where is the Palaszczuk government on this? Queenslanders deserve to know what the Palaszczuk government is doing to support our domestic gas industry. They also deserve to know what the Premier is doing to speed up the approval processes to allow more gas to come online. The gas shortage is a real issue. It is not a matter of if this is going; this will happen. Queenslanders deserve sustainable, affordable and reliable electricity and some honesty from this government.

Townsville Community Cabinet, Announcements



Mr WALKER (Mundingburra—ALP) (2.34 pm): Last week was a huge week for Townsville and North Queensland. It was a historic week. It was an absolute honour to host the Premier and the cabinet at the Bohle TAFE campus in Townsville. On day 1, Monday, 6th March, we heard the announcement of the state-of-the-art advanced manufacturing skills lab and hydrogen renewable centre. As a hydrogen champion for Townsville, I know that this is another huge and tangible step forward in demonstrating the serious investment being made in this area of renewables.

The Premier, ministers and fellow members of parliament turned the first sod on a major investment project worth \$17.2 million. Construction has started on a \$17.2 million expansion of the Townsville Bohle TAFE campus, which includes two new training and skills facilities that will allow TAFE to offer more than 20 new qualifications in renewable and advanced manufacturing industries. The new \$12.5 million hydrogen and renewable energy training facility is a first for TAFE Queensland. It will support the training needed for the Queensland hydrogen industry, which is anticipated to be worth about \$1.7 billion a year in exports by 2030. The project means 45 good jobs during construction. Construction is expected to be completed in the second half of this year.

This is a game changer and places Queensland in pole position to be a world leader in the manufacturing of green hydrogen. The facility is designed to have a five-star Green Star building rating and will incorporate sustainable design features that will see the building powered by renewable energy. Skilling Queenslanders for the future is a key pillar of the Palaszczuk government's \$62 billion Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, which was released last year.

On day 2 things got a whole lot better with the historic announcement of CopperString 2032, which is a \$5 billion investment in Townsville and North Queensland. It is all part of the Palaszczuk government's \$62 billion Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. CopperString 2032 is a 1,100-kilometre high-voltage transmission line proposal to connect the North West Minerals Province to the national electricity grid. It is all systems go, with early works to start this year and construction to begin next year. The project is expected to be completed by 2029. The project scope now includes an increase in transmission capacity for the section between Townsville and Hughenden to unlock the renewable energy potential for the region. The estimated project cost has been updated for the current global supply chain conditions. I repeat: this is part of the \$62 billion Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. There is a clean green future for North Queensland with good quality jobs for our children.

Palmview, Bruce Highway Link Road



Mr MICKELBERG (Buderim—LNP) (2.36 pm): We have heard lots about the billion-dollar cost blowouts in Cross River Rail and lots about the Palaszczuk government's inability to deliver major projects on time—major projects such as the duplication of the Sunshine Coast rail, which my community was told would be finished last year but on which work has barely started. What gets less attention, but perhaps has even more impact on local communities, are the countless local road upgrades still stuck in the slow lane. I refer to important local road upgrades such as the Mooloolah River Interchange to fix the bottleneck at the Sugar Road and Mooloolah Road intersection in Buderim and building a Bruce Highway link road at Palmview. If completed, those local road upgrades would mean that Sunshine Coast residents could get to work on time and get home to their families sooner at the end of a long work day.

In Palmview, residents were told that the Bruce Highway link road would be open by June 2022. For reasons known only to the state government and the Sunshine Coast Council, that requirement was extended to August 2022 and then again to February this year. Work still has not been finished and now we hear that the state government intend to extend the completion date to August 2023. Given that the road was commissioned many years ago, it begs the question why this important road was not built by June 2022 and why local residents spend time and money sitting in traffic every single day as developers, the Sunshine Coast Council and the state government wash their hands of all responsibility.

This is all happening while the betrayed Palmview residents languish in traffic on a single road in and out of their suburb. Their homes sit in one of the fastest-growing suburbs in Queensland, but little thought was ever given to ensuring that important road connections were built in advance of the massive influx of population. It is inconceivable that the Sunshine Coast Council, developers and the state government did not anticipate the need for a link onto the Bruce Highway at Palmview when the original infrastructure agreement was signed. How those tasked with ensuring the around 5,000 residents in a master planned community such as Palmview did not foresee the chronic congestion that would result on Claymore Road without an additional road access is beyond me.

It fell to the LNP to fight for the Palmview-Bruce Highway link road, which was finally agreed to by the state government in 2016. Fast forward to 2023 and Palmview residents are still waiting. Palmview resident Teagan Lind has said that the traffic congestion that Palmview residents must deal with is beyond a joke and many agree. Teagan speaks about her husband commuting to Brisbane each and every day and the fact that a link road would take 20 minutes off his commute.

Government members interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: Those opposite do not like to support the people of the Sunshine Coast but the people of the Sunshine Coast deserve the infrastructure that will support our population.

Palmview residents deserve better. Residents want to know why this project has been extended time and time again and what consequences exist to ensure that developers meet their obligations to build the Bruce Highway link road. Why do we need to fight tooth and nail to get information from the state government and, perhaps most importantly, when we will get the Bruce Highway link road at Palmview?

Cairns Indigenous Art Fair



Mr HEALY (Cairns—ALP) (2.39 pm): I am exhausted from just listening! I was particularly proud, as I am with any of the ministers in the government that I am proud to be a part of, to be standing with the Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts, Minister Enoch, to announce an increase in investment by the Palaszczuk government into the prestigious Cairns Indigenous Art Fair. This includes new investment of \$1.6 million for CIAF over four years to grow the event ahead of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. CIAF showcases First Nations culture, knowledge, arts and artists, and its growth will further build the profile of Queensland's First Nations arts sector but, just as importantly, generate increased economic benefits and wealth creation activities in addition to the cultural and tourism outcomes not just in Cairns but also around the region and across the great state of Queensland.

New additional investment of \$400,000 annually over four years is supporting CIAF to realise its growth ambition, secure its position on the global stage and deliver economic and cultural benefits for Queensland ahead of the world's biggest sporting event in 2032. This uplift builds on the current \$600,000 a year investment made through the Backing Indigenous Arts Initiative and will support CIAF to grow, expanding its reach and delivering job creation activities and new works, exhibitions and arts experiences that connect with community and celebrate Queensland's cultures on the global stage.

The recorded attendance at CIAF last year was over 60,000 people and the art sales exceeded over a million dollars, which is fantastic. This demonstrates not only strong but growing demand. We know that our First Nations cultures continue to get more exposure. We know that over 86 per cent of international tourists who have been marketed to are very keen for Indigenous experiences. This investment will continue to see that opportunity grow.

Additionally, in 2023 CIAF will receive project funding to support two new projects and industry placements. One will be the Coconut Leaf Project, a cross-cultural community project celebrating Torres Strait Islander craft and weaving, with funding through its First Nations commissioning fund. In closing, our investment as a government will support the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair to achieve its vision to grow the sale and distribution of First Nations art from Queensland and expand its profile across not just the state and our nation but around the world.

Weapons Licensing; Regional Queensland, Hospitals



Mr KATTER (Traeger—KAP) (2.42 pm): First I want to address the weapons licensing issues we are having in Queensland. It is a really big issue that keeps coming in to the electorate offices of all KAP members. It is causing a lot of angst and is taking a lot of unnecessary time for QPS, acknowledging that we have uniformed police officers who do this work. We are taking them out of the field to do this work. The more effort that is needed for weapons licensing, the fewer police there are on the beat.

It now takes 35 weeks for a licence and 46 weeks for PTAs. It is one of the most discriminated against sectors in society now. It think it has bred mostly out of ignorance. People usually start from the point of, 'Well, guns kill people so the fewer of them out there the better.' If we are honest with ourselves and talk to friends and people in the cities, that is the attitude that underlies a lot of what we are dealing with. I get that the minister has to deal with that in his political approach to this situation.

The reality is that gun shops are now shutting down because no-one can carry those sorts of debts for so long, waiting for their product to sell. We are creating conditions, whether deliberately or not, that are unsustainable. That means we will have more police officers doing that work. That is less safe because we are collating more firearms and ammunition at the same time in the one spot rather than distributing them to other areas. It is creating unsafe conditions. If we care about community safety, we need to address that.

In terms of QCAT, QPS and Weapons Licensing are saying that they do not want anyone appearing there to have any legal representation. Why wouldn't they want them to have legal representation? No. 1, it can help process matters faster when both sides have some legal representation and know what they are talking about. No. 2, why would you deny them that right? Why would QPS even ask for that? We need to measure that up. That is not interfering with the legal process; it is just about fairness.

I refer to Cloncurry Hospital. Cloncurry just had a devastating mining tragedy. We are very lucky it was not bigger. We are expanding mining. The other week there was the wonderful news of CopperString, which will expand it further. It is one of the only regions of my electorate that has expanded in terms of population and it is due to expand a lot more, but it has an antiquated hospital that, quite frankly, is an embarrassment. It does not meet the environmental or operational standards that it should. Horrible stories are coming out of there and it is a joke. It does not need an entire new hospital but just an expansion. This is a town that deserves it. It has delivered over a billion dollars in royalties to this state. We do not want to hear anything more about the Gabba or Olympics spending. Let us get the fundamentals right. These poor people, who are delivering so much to the state in terms of all they produce, deserve an expansion of the hospital. Not only that, with the expansion of mining we need it.

In the same vein, the Charters Towers Hospital is over 100 years old. We all have been asking politely for a long time, but it is time to act. With the growth that will come in that region, the 100-year-old facility at Charters Towers finally needs to be renewed.

International Women's Day; Iran, Women



Ms PUGH (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (2.45 pm): Last week was International Women's Week and, like many members of the House, I was invited to some fabulous local events. I want to mention a few here in the House today. The first was the Queensland Corrective Services International Women's Day Breakfast, celebrating with over 100 hardworking QCS staff members at a yummy cafeteria breakfast. Of course, the highlight was awarding some of the hardworking women in Corrective Services a meritorious service award. The highlight for me, though, was a speech by Claudia, a QCS officer currently completing a PhD in psychology as it pertains to her work within the corrective services field. In her speech on the morning she particularly talked about the importance of using logic and not being ruled by your emotions. The following is taken directly from Claudia's speech on the morning. She said—

Firstly: Trust your logic and not your emotions. Working in correctional centres can be really emotional work. We feel all sorts of emotions frequently and intensely—

Indeed, my friend the member for Caloundra knows this only too well from his service in the field—

compared to a lot of other jobs. We are also exposed to a range of emotions in others, all day long, when we work with the prisoner population. Because these emotions are naturally heightened and chaotic due to the environment, they don't necessarily lead us to good actions.

Claudia says—

Three things which I find useful to ask myself when I react emotionally are;

Is this action going to make me look professional?

When I'm safely at home with my loved ones, how much will this matter?

What do I actually want to achieve and what's the best way to achieve it?

The second thing that she said she had learned during her time in Corrections is that kindness is not weakness. When she first started at BCC, the academy informed the centre that they were concerned that she would not be able to elicit compliance from prisoners because she was polite and softly spoken. She continued—

Coming in as a young woman with a thirst to prove myself (and also being rule oriented) actually meant I worked well with prisoners.

This shows more broadly that you can be polite, kind and softly spoken while still showing authority. There is a real wisdom in Claudia's words that apply to many professions, including politics. Someone who sums this up beautifully is our very own Premier, who leads in a collaborative but not confrontational way.

At the second event I attended on International Women's Day evening, along with my eldest daughter, Allegra, and my mate Azad, I stood proudly alongside hundreds of Iranian Australians to send a clear message that the actions of the Iranian government in murdering Mahsa Amini and thousands of other women, men and children is wrong and will not be tolerated. Many Queenslanders may be aware of the terrible atrocities happening in Iran right now, many being perpetrated towards women and children, especially school students. Just recently, hundreds of school students were poisoned and thousands more have been murdered. I was honoured to speak. Let's keep supporting the Iranian community. Women, life, freedom!

Central Queensland, Bank Closures



Mr ANDREW (Mirani—PHON) (2.48 pm): I would like to acknowledge the delegation of Australian South Sea Islanders in the gallery today.

Since January 2020, over 550 bank branches have been closed down by Australia's big four banking monopoly. Most of these closures were in regional towns with growing populations and thriving economies. All over Central Queensland we are seeing the impact of this with branch closures in communities such as Gladstone, Tannum Sands, Moura, Biloela, Theodore, Emerald, Springsure, Capella, Mundubbera, Gin Gin, Gayndah, Gracemere, Taroom, Wondai and Mount Morgan.

These savage cuts to banking services and presence are a blow to local communities, particularly the elderly, people with disabilities and those with limited access to transport. Even amongst the younger population, many people still prefer to do their banking at a bricks and mortar branch rather than online. This is particularly true of many farmers, small business owners and sole traders who still do much of their business in cash.

The Australian Banking Association loves to cite self-funded research that people now prefer to bank online. What they do not say is that a lot do not. The reality is that many of the services people use branches for simply cannot be done online—services like cashing a cheque, depositing cash takings for the day, obtaining a bank cheque and withdrawing cash.

Something else the banks will not tell people is how they have been using manipulative 'nudge' tactics to actively discourage customers from the entering the doors while gradually withdrawing over-the-counter services and hours. According to the Financial Sector Union—

Many workers in banking must meet performance targets to reduce the number of customers coming into the branches.

That is shameful. The union continues—

They trained and coached to redirect customers to ATMs and/or online banking to reduce foot traffic in branches. If they fail to meet these targets, they may be subject to performance management and in some cases termination of their employment.

What the banks frame as a natural transition to online banking is revealed as yet another top-down agenda that is being imposed on Australians outside their full understanding or consent.

It is time politicians found their voices and stood up for regional communities by instructing the banks to do their job of serving the Australian people. They charge us for it. Banking should be declared an essential service with minimum service levels legislated for in parliament. The banks have been the beneficiaries of billions of dollars in taxpayers' money over the years. It is about time they gave something back in return.

The people of Australia deserve a fair go and to be treated with respect. What they do not deserve is seeing this greedy banking monopoly announce multibillion dollar profits while pulling key services out of their local communities. This is a very sad state of affairs and we should take it into hand and change it.

Food Rescue Grant Program



Mr WHITING (Bancroft—ALP) (2.51 pm): I am glad to say that the Palaszczuk government will always support Queenslanders and their community organisations through a healthy and sustainable grants system. It is one of the great things that we do to support volunteering throughout our communities. We are committed to keeping those funds flowing.

I thank Minister Scanlon for the announcement yesterday about the Food Rescue Grant Program where we are committing \$2.9 million to 10 food rescue programs. That will mean nearly six million meals for Queenslanders and divert nearly 3,000 tonnes of food from landfill. I am pleased that this will help organisations collect and distribute food through grants to get new equipment or transportation.

I am so pleased to say that one of those organisations is the Lighthouse Centre Deception Bay. They will be getting \$104,000 to purchase a new refrigerated truck to collect and distribute food. That is absolutely fantastic. I thank the minister for that. What that means is that the Lighthouse Centre will be able to keep distributing food and meals throughout Deception Bay.

The Lighthouse Centre is one of our treasured institutions in Deception Bay. For nearly 30 years, Pastor David and Cheryl Rauchle have been making sure that literally thousands of families in our area have food on their tables. They run what is equivalent to a medium-sized supermarket and it is staffed by dozens of volunteers. I am proud of what they do. They are true Queensland legends. We support the work they do. That grant is on top of the Gambling Community Benefit Fund money they received to buy a brand new forklift. Without these grants they would be hard pressed to do what they do. Once again, thank you for that, Minister.

In our area we will be letting more Queenslanders know about the grants system that can help support their businesses or organisations. I am pleased to let the parliament know that the Deputy Premier, the member for Kurwongbah and I on Monday night will be conducting a grants seminar at the YMCA at Mango Hill. Already we have nearly 100 people coming along.

We will be talking about the different grant programs that people can apply to and how to best apply for those grants. We will be briefed by representatives from the Moreton Bay Regional Council, the sports and recreation department, the department of small business and the Gambling and Community Benefit Fund. Robyn Baker from Busy Connecting will talk about how to put in a grant application. I look forward to seeing these local businesses and local organisations get these grants to keep their organisations going.

Closing the Gap Day



Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (2.54 pm): Today is Closing the Gap Day. How disappointing that we have not heard anything about it from the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. Amongst the targets for Closing the Gap that I as education minister was very proud to achieve improvements in during our time in government were ensuring access to early childhood education for all Indigenous four-year-olds in remote communities—we raised it from the low 20 per cents when we came to government—and year 12 Indigenous attainment rates. I table media releases from our time in government: 'Training for Townsville Indigenous early years teachers', 'Mentoring program for Indigenous educators', 'Indigenous bursary applications open', 'Red tape reduction boasts apprenticeships and Indigenous opportunities' and 'Solid pathways for top Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students'.

Tabled paper: Media releases, various dates, by the former minister for education, training and employment, Mr John-Paul Langbroek MP, regarding pathways and opportunities for young Indigenous Queenslanders [\[317\]](#).

It is disappointing to see that other targets from 2008 have still not been attained or not achieved, including the closing the life expectancy gap, halving the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five, halving the gap in reading, writing and numeracy achievements for children and halving the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

To help achieve these goals, COAG identified a number of building blocks, including healthy homes and safe communities. That is why it is disgraceful that federal Labor in Jim Chalmers' first budget in October 2022 cut \$50 million from round 7 of the Safer Communities Fund, which was funded but not announced in the March 2022 budget. We have heard nothing from those opposite. There have been no calls to their federal counterparts saying, 'Where is the money that should have come to a number of good Queensland programs?'

This \$50 million would have funded early intervention and infrastructure commitments by supporting locally driven crime prevention initiatives, including Indigenous youth initiatives. Some of the projects cut included: the Pormpur Paanthu Aboriginal Corporation, over \$1 million; the Indigenous Wellbeing Centre, \$750,000; and the St George Aboriginal Housing Company Ltd, \$585,000.

On a recent shadow cabinet visit to Longreach, where we had locals speaking about crime, I was interested to see an article, which I now table, from Jason Brandon, President of the Mount Isa branch of the Australian Labor Party, dated 24 November 2022 and titled "'Enough is enough' when it comes to crime'.

Tabled paper: Article from *The North West Star*, dated 24 November 2022, titled "'Enough is enough' when it comes to crime' [\[318\]](#).


The Cloncurry Multiskill Centre that has a program called Ready for Change lost \$1.1 million. We have heard about the issues in Mount Isa. In this article there is longstanding concern among branch members around the increase in violent crime in the north-west and in particular in Mount Isa. They invited the Minister for Youth Justice, the state secretary of the Queensland ALP and the chairman of the parliamentary committee and they said, 'Listen to the branch members—

Ms GRACE: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. There is a bill in relation to this issue that is currently before the House. I am not sure whether or not this is allowed.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): There is no point of order. I am listening to the contribution.

Mr LANGBROEK: The \$1.1 million for the Cloncurry Multiskill Centre provides services to Mount Isa. The Minister for Education is wrong again.

CopperString 2.0

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (2.58 pm): I rise to talk about the importance of the Palaszczuk government's investment in North Queensland, which is supporting both the resources sector and the energy industry. Last week it was the government that delivered a massive shot in the arm for Townsville and all of North Queensland. We will build CopperString 2032 which will unlock potentially billions of dollars in new resource projects in the North West Minerals Province. It is something I have long advocated for and so has the Townsville community.

The last time we saw people so thrilled and on the same page about an announcement was when the government helped bring State of Origin to Townsville. Do not just take my word for why CopperString is a game changer. The member for Traeger said, 'If you're looking for projects to create prosperity in Queensland and Australia, it would be pretty hard to go past anything better than this.' Well said, member for Traeger; I totally agree. It is unfortunate the LNP does not back you up on that one.

This project is at risk, and so is the future prosperity of the north if the LNP get their way. It is the Palaszczuk government that will continue to back good job-creating projects like CopperString 2032 that support our lifestyle in Townsville and North Queensland. As we announced last week, through the Industry Partnership Program we are helping Vecco Group deliver the \$26 million Townsville Vanadium Battery Manufacturing Facility. Vecco is one of a number of players that is planning to develop a vanadium mine in the Julia Creek region. Vecco's facility is part of the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, which includes creating a North Queensland battery industry supply chain. We know the North West Minerals Province has an abundance of critical minerals such as vanadium which are needed to produce large-scale batteries, which are a key part of Queensland's Energy and Jobs Plan. There are huge opportunities to continue creating good jobs in both our resources industry and the renewable energy sector through developing critical mineral projects.

Let's be clear: you cannot have a renewable energy sector without a strong resources sector. That is why CopperString 2032 is so important. It will help these new critical mineral projects get off the ground. In fact, I caught up with the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies and a number of potential vanadium miners on Tuesday of this week. It was exciting to go hear their plans for the future, which will help create great jobs in Townsville. As well, as a government we are supporting them through the \$75 million Australia-first critical minerals demonstration facility which we will build in Townsville. This will help support those very companies I caught up with on Tuesday to prove up their product, attract investors back into this state and create great jobs and opportunities. This is what real governments do—listen to stakeholders. We have a vision for the future and investment in that future.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committee, Referral of Auditor-General's Report



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (3.01 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 136, that the Health and Environment Committee report on the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Amendment Bill by 5 May 2023.

The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 194B, that Auditor-General's *Report 10: 2022-23—Health 2022* be referred to the Health and Environment Committee and Auditor-General's *Report 11: 2022-23—State entities 2022* be referred to the Economics and Governance Committee.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY SAFETY BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 552, on motion of Mr Ryan—

That the bill be now read a second time.



Ms KING (Pumicestone—ALP) (3.02 pm): I rise to provide a contribution in support of the Strengthening Community Safety Bill. In particular, I want to speak in support of the very substantial investments in early intervention, prevention, stronger action against offenders and supporting victims that this package and the legislation underlying it contains. The importance of supporting victims is where I want to focus my contribution today because we know so well that being a victim of crime can be a life-changing trauma. Having your home broken into—as I have had myself in years past—or your car stolen is a terrible feeling. How much worse would it be to experience a physical assault? People who have experienced these crimes have had their safe places violated. If their vehicle has been taken or damaged then their independence, their work and their transport have been put at risk. How much worse and more painful it must be when offenders are found to have boasted about the commission of their crimes on social media. It would be an absolute violation and profoundly disturbing and distressing to victims. I am glad this legislation sends a message that this kind of callous behaviour, this boasting about crime, is completely unacceptable by introducing increased penalties.

As we have heard repeated so many times today and yesterday in this debate, every member of our community deserves to be safe in their home and their community. People who have been victims of crime deserve to know they are seen and heard and that their concerns and fears are acknowledged. These are core values for our government and for us as members of the Australian Labor Party.

In particular, I think it is important we do all we can as leaders to speak honestly about crime and its impacts, to acknowledge its impacts, but never exploit victims or whip up fear for improper purposes. Representing the electorate with the oldest demographic in Queensland, I am glad that the measures in this bill and the package that goes with it will improve people's sense of safety, and that is especially important to me. I particularly welcome the inclusion of funding to help older Queenslanders improve their home security so they can feel as safe as possible.

The home assist package has been a huge success in my community, and I have long supported a program similar to that package with a focus on providing practical assistance so that older people can improve the safety and security of their home. This program, which has been funded to the tune of \$15 million, is very substantial and will be run as a trial over three sites. Helping people on limited incomes pay for help to fix security issues in their homes, for example, by upgrading locks, adding CCTV or strengthening shutters, will make a real difference to older people in all of the communities

that have the benefit of the trial. Ultimately, we know that the people most likely to be victims of crime and the people least able to afford to protect themselves against crime are people on low incomes, although I will note that statistically young people are also highly likely to be victims of crimes committed against each other.

I welcome the proposed review of the Victims of Crime Assistance Act as well as the \$9 million increase in funding to Victim Assist Queensland to increase support for victims of property crime where they have experienced violence or threats of violence. I also welcome the hundreds of millions of dollars of investment in diversion and early intervention programs that are included in this package. My understanding is that, since we came to government in 2015, upwards of \$1 billion has been invested in this space. Contrary to claims by members of the LNP during this debate, including the member for Kawana and the member for Scenic Rim—in fact, multiple members; I think it was in their talking points—Labor's focus on investments in diversion and offender rehabilitation programs is deeply and profoundly about victims. It is about preventing further crime and preventing people becoming victims in the first place.

We do not talk about these programs out of some misplaced sense of the primacy of offenders of crime in the context of young people committing crimes; we talk about them because we know that repeat offenders are the people who are committing the majority of crimes in our communities or a very substantial proportion of those criminal acts. We want to ensure that by getting those young people onto the right path we are preventing the commission of further crimes against our vulnerable people, our low-income people and our young people. That is why we continue to focus on these issues. It is about doing everything possible to prevent young people committing further crime and avoiding more people becoming victims.

Crime is so incredibly complex. Frankly, if it was easy to fix we would have done it already. There is so little in the broad scope of history that can be done by a government to come between a person and the moment they commit a crime. Governments are not issued with a magic wand upon their election, nor are MPs. It is worth noting that the passing of these laws and all of the measures and funding packages attached to them will not lead to the end of all crime. We know—the LNP knows—that crimes will continue to happen because there is only so much governments can do to prevent crime.

That is why I think the tone of this debate has been very disappointing at times. As I think the member for Macalister said, it has lacked nuance. I was really disturbed to hear the member for Mirani's comments about crime being caused by a lack of male role models when we know that young people committing crimes are very often not returning to their homes because their homes are not a safe place and very often that is because of domestic violence. I think in many cases it is not a lack of male role models; it might be a lack of safety due to the people living in their homes.

I also note the member for Mirani's comments about the ability to just ask social media platforms to stop spreading videos or posts about young people committing crimes. It is again profoundly lacking in nuance and not very representative of the world we live in. In many cases we cannot get social media companies to take down profoundly disturbing footage of terrorist acts. Asking them to take down posts about individual crimes has not proven an effective approach in the past. While I would love to see it, we have to recognise that we live in a globalised world. His claim that these kinds of videos and photos are useful as evidence may well be true, but it really misses the point that seeing images of robberies or assaults perpetuated through the social media universe is profoundly disturbing and harmful to victims, and that is why this kind of behaviour needs to stop.

When it comes to the lack of nuance in this debate, it is telling that on the one hand we have the Greens which are on the record as wanting to defund the police, get rid of prisons and reduce criminal consequences for young people who commit crime; and then we have the LNP, and I sometimes question their motivation for constantly raising issues of crime. When listening to the debate, I have heard them reel off examples of crimes that they have encountered in their community or that their communities have experienced, and it would seem to me that their deliberate purpose is to create as much fear as possible in our communities.

When the LNP wash up in our communities to talk about crime, they are not there for our communities; they are there for themselves. I saw it in my community when a serious assault occurred last year. Moments later, there was the member for Broadwater, the Leader of the Opposition, in our community Facebook groups creating as much fear as he could possibly muster amongst our community about crime. There was not an intention to try to calm the situation. It led to calls for citizen

patrols. It led to racist slurs about the First Nations community in my area that do not commit crimes. It was profoundly disturbing. I call on the LNP to bring a more genuinely constructive approach to the discussions of crime.



Mr HEAD (Callide—LNP) (3.12 pm): I must say there were three words that the member for Pumicestone forgot to mention in her whole speech, and that was 'breach of bail'. They are words that a lot of the government members still cannot seem to utter, because maybe they just fundamentally do not believe that it works.

I rise to speak to the Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023. Finally, after years of seeing disastrous crime after crime in communities all across Queensland, this government have accepted there is in fact a huge crime problem and they are in fact responsible for it. Finally, after seeing them swear black and blue that breach of bail will not work, they turn around with a backflip worthy of an Olympic medal and a run on the red carpet. You do not have to travel far to find a victim of crime in my community—mothers, neighbours, friends, children. There are hundreds of victims of crime across Callide and, yes, many of those victims would not be a victim if it were not for the failures of the Palaszczuk Labor government.

We certainly appreciate the backflip on breach of bail and know it was probably a fair risk to the Premier's pay cheque, given she has already told her backbench that none of them are good enough for a promotion. I do wonder how many of her backbench and even her own cabinet genuinely and truthfully support this backflip. I believe they do not support this backflip and that is why they have consistently failed to mention it. For those who may not understand what breach of bail is, it is the simple matter of an offender agreeing to a set of terms and conditions as part of their release and then not following or breaching these. This government have literally taught a generation of juvenile criminals that there are no consequences for their actions—that they can agree to a contract and then ignore it within hours of release. It is failing our communities and, frankly, it is failing these offenders.

We just need to look at the crime statistics in local government areas and police districts across Callide. Banana shire is only a small shire, yet in the last three months alone there have been: 11 unlawful use of a motor vehicle offences—that is 11 people having their vehicle stolen and driven by criminals; 38 unlawful entries—that means that 38 property owners in the Banana shire alone have had their property broken into; and 66 other thefts. In Western Downs—which is a bit bigger but still a relatively small local government area—there have been 178 other thefts, 49 unlawful use of a motor vehicle offences and 98 unlawful entries to property.

In the police district of Capricornia, there have been 303 unlawful use of a motor vehicle offences in the last three months—and I wonder how many times the member for Keppel got up and told people in her community that breach of bail was not going to work—1,201 other thefts and 831 unlawful entries. On the Darling Downs, there were 283 unlawful use of a motor vehicle offences and 795 unlawful entries. In the Wide Bay-Burnett, there were 551 unlawful entries and 207 unlawful use of a motor vehicle offences. I wonder where the member for Bundaberg has been when those victims have had their property stolen.

Nonetheless, thanks to years of hard work and campaigning by the LNP, we have one measure of several that will start to make a difference to youth crime—that is, of course, the return of breach of bail as an offence. That said, it is clear that there are many things that need to be done for my community to see a serious reduction in crime. We need to unshackle the judiciary so judges are free to make appropriate decisions in the interests of community safety when offenders are in front of them in the courts. Detention as a last resort should be removed so that, if it is in the genuine interest of community safety, the judiciary can send these offenders to detention without jumping through every other hoop under the sun.

The government are also being deceitful in their claims that they have significantly increased the penalties on these criminals. These new laws do not override section 175 of the Youth Justice Act, which means that a magistrate cannot sentence a juvenile for more than 12 months. We also know, as is the right of the judiciary, that it is incredibly rare that maximum sentences are enforced.

Only a few months ago, the Premier came out and claimed they were going to introduce the toughest laws in the country—so it was easy to think that finally this government had accepted, firstly, that they watered down the laws and created the problem in the first place and, secondly, that they are actually going to get serious about fixing it. To every Queenslanders who had their hopes up I say I am sorry, but we have been seriously failed by this tired, lazy, red carpet chasing, dodgy Labor government

once again. This was a big opportunity and we tried hard to capitalise on it, but this government did not even let us move amendments to this bill, and that just shows how much they continue to listen to Queenslanders!

Mrs Gerber: They refuse to debate it.

Mr HEAD: That is right. I take that interjection from the member for Currumbin. They refuse to even debate it. Various members of the government have said hundreds of times, either in front of cameras or in their communities, that they do not support breach of bail because it apparently would not work. So much did they believe it would not work that they spent eight years campaigning against it.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr HEAD: I wonder how many times the member for Logan told his community that breach of bail as an offence would not work, and now he has to turn up and say why his own government has brought it in as law.

Mrs Gerber: He led the charge. He signed the petition.

Mr HEAD: There you go! The member for Sandgate was up in front of a camera less than 24 hours before the Premier backflipped on breach of bail, swearing black and blue to the camera that breach of bail would not work, yet here we are. The Deputy Premier was a bit late getting the memo perhaps or maybe the decision was an incredibly last-minute backflip. The Minister for Water, the member for Gladstone, has been pretty silent on the issue. I wonder how many times he has told his community that breach of bail would not work. These government members all voted early in the week to ensure the rights of offenders remain greater than the rights of victims. What an absolute disgrace. They would not even let us debate the amendments.


I wonder how many members of the government have refused to speak on this bill because they fundamentally do not believe in breach of bail. On the other hand, members of the LNP have been firm in this push to see breach of bail returned as an offence. We, the LNP, will always push for measures that will strengthen community safety because we believe that every Queenslander has the right to feel safe in their own home. Our members absolutely and fundamentally support this principle. I know the member for Bonney does. I know the member for Scenic Rim does. I know the member for Chatsworth does as well.

Mr McDonald: What about me?

Mr HEAD: Member for Lockyer, I take that interjection. I know you absolutely support good crime policy and that is why you are supporting the return of breach of bail. The Minister for Police has spoken about the difficulties in recruiting. Do you blame people for not signing up to the Queensland Police Service because of the weak laws of this government? They add monitoring and tracking bracelets for juvenile criminals into the so-called toughest laws in the country, yet in two years they only fitted eight bracelets.

When it comes to recruiting and keeping communities safe, it is a little ironic that the former attorney-general who was responsible for watering down our crime laws, failing Queenslanders, is now failing the safety of Queenslanders yet again with the state of the health system. The minister tore up laws which worked which led to the current crime epidemic, and now she is the one responsible for the disgraceful failures in the health system. The minister continues to say those problems are because of staff shortages. That is contrary to what medical professionals have told me. They will not work for Queensland Health because they do not want to work for a dud minister who was a dud attorney-general and is now a dud health minister. If only the Strengthening Community Safety Bill strengthened the safety of mothers in the electorate of Callide and in the electorate of Gladstone. I am happy to continue this fight for my communities.

We will not be opposing this bill and we appreciate the fact that the media and the polls finally forced this government into doing something, but it falls well short of what is required to address juvenile crime in this state. We, the LNP, will continue our steadfast advocacy on this issue because Queenslanders deserve better.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (3.22 pm): I was very quick to jump up then, but I am really not quite sure what to say after that speech from the member for Callide. I have spoken to him and we have had some lovely conversations. I really do not know who wrote that speech or where that has come from. The only recommendation I would make to the member for Callide is perhaps to use ChatGPT. Had he used that and programmed some basic words—I appreciate that the member for Callide has not shown

himself to be the most progressive member in this House, but it is pretty simple to use—he would have noted and said that since we have come to government we have had a year-on-year decline in crime, both adult and youth offending. That is a fact, an objective fact, and it may not fit with his narrative—

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Member for Currumbin, order!

Ms BUSH: It does not suit the narrative. It is an objective fact. It is an objective fact, released by the ABS within the last month; it is trending down. It comes after what we know are more victims coming forward than ever before to report crime. Yet, in the face of that, we are still seeing a year-on-year decline. What the member for Callide would have noted is record investment in frontline police—far more than when his government was in power. There has been an investment of \$1.6 billion in early intervention by this government as opposed to the interventions that were put in place when the LNP were in government for that brief period. I was there. Many of us were there and were alive to what was going on in that space where drug diversion courts were closed and special circumstances courts were closed. I was a member of Queensland's inaugural Sentencing Advisory Council. We found out that our council was closed through the *Courier-Mail*. We learned through the *Courier-Mail*, not through the then attorney-general, the member for Kawana, that we had been disposed of. That is how we were informed that those services were no longer available. To come in here and to run that narrative is extremely ill-informed.

I rise to make a contribution to the debate, and it is an important debate to have because the right to be safe and the very real need to feel safe is perhaps one of the strongest personal needs that we have as humans. It is an area that I have worked in for most of my adult life, and one that I will continue to focus on in my time here in parliament.


My electorate of Cooper is statistically actually one of the safest areas of Queensland. Despite being an inner-city area, we do experience a proportionately small amount of crime, and we all feel very privileged to be in that position. While I would love to be credited with that, the drivers behind those statistics are really multidimensional. Our community benefits from many of the features that are associated with low-crime areas. We have really low unemployment. We have residents who can afford security systems. We have families who take a really strong and active interest in their children's lives. We have schools that do everything they possibly can to keep young people engaged in school. We have two Neighbourhood Watch groups who are brilliant at educating residents about crime trends and what they can do to protect their homes and assets that little bit further. It all makes a huge difference. When crime does occur, we do have a local and really proactive police response who are exceptionally quick to respond and to apprehend.

That said, crime, both property and personal, does happen in our community, as it does everywhere in every jurisdiction globally. I frequently hold meetings with victims of crime, Coffee with a Cop events and online team meetings with police and with local residents. We talk about that and we talk about the impact of crime. I know that hearing statements like Queensland does have a year-on-year decline in crime, including youth crime, and hearing about strong police responses does not really help you very much when you in fact have been impacted by crime, and I appreciate that. When you are impacted by crime as a victim, the needs you have are often the things that do not make the media. While I would never presume to speak on behalf of all victims of crime, I feel really confident in outlining what we know are the consistent and common themes and needs for victims following an act of violence which include to be treated with dignity and respect, to be heard, to be included throughout the investigation and throughout the prosecution, and to be informed about the investigation and what is occurring. Victims have the need for agency. They have the need for voice and autonomy throughout the investigation, the trial, the sentencing and the period of parole.

Of course, we want to have our sense of safety restored which might include practical measures like additional measures to improve home security or psychological or therapeutic responses. That is why I am really pleased to see firstly the initial injection of additional funding of \$9 million announced by the Premier to respond better to victims of property crime where violence or a threat of violence has occurred, including \$3 million to boost counselling capacity and to better support our not-for-profits who are delivering those services. That funding will be delivered through the Queensland government's Victim Assist Queensland unit which is a dedicated state government unit that provides support to victims of crime following an act of violence, including financial assistance, to help them recover from that act of violence.

I am also pleased that our government has stated we are going to look in more detail at the experience of crime victims including whether the current responses are appropriately meeting the needs of victims. We know we can always review and adjust the settings when it comes to delivering support for our most vulnerable people in the community. I understand that that inquiry is coming and it may be coming to our committee. I really do look forward to hearing directly from victims of crime and agencies working with victims on that really important issue.

This response to examine the needs of victims and to engage victims in a discussion that has the potential to change policy and legislation in a really positive way is actually what good governments do. I am certainly proud to be on this side of the House and to be on our side of the debate on this. Ultimately, there is one sentiment that all victims of crime unanimously share. That is that no-one else has to experience what they have experienced. For victims to be able to contribute to an inquiry and to use their experiences to inform future reform is something I know they will absolutely care about. It is something that I very much look forward to.

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (3.30 pm): I rise today to speak to the Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023, a bill that amends the Bail Act 1980, the Criminal Code, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 and the Youth Justice Act 1992 for particular purposes. Clearly, things are not working well with respect to community safety under the current government despite claims to the contrary. Changes made to legislation by the Palaszczuk government since 2015 have weakened the laws and made our communities less safe. As a result of these changes, crime has increased, particularly crime committed by young repeat offenders. Here we are at the Queensland parliament yet again revisiting the legislation because the previous changes made by the government have not worked. They have not increased community safety overall. They are yet another reactive attempt to window-dress the problem. The current youth justice system is failing and it is failing everyone at every level.

The LNP has consistently advocated on behalf of Queenslanders for this government to be tougher on crime so that our communities are safer. The LNP has always been very clear on what we believe is the solution—multiple solutions—to the rampant youth crime issue. Firstly, we have talked about bringing back breach of bail as an offence. After years of campaigning on behalf of Queenslanders we are pleased to see the government has finally agreed to reinstate breach of bail as an offence for young offenders. I note that the government opposed this policy at every turn and now in the eleventh hour it has adopted it. The government publicly and on the record criticised the LNP's calls for breach of bail to be made an offence. Its members have been dragged kicking and screaming but they have finally taken a step in the right direction. This is an acknowledgement from the government that its decision to water down the youth justice laws in 2015 was a mistake and has created a generation of repeat offenders. It is also just another case of the LNP having to govern from opposition.

The second aspect is removing the rule of detention as a last resort in sentencing. Removing detention as a last resort will unshackle judges and give them discretion to send young criminals to detention when it is warranted. I am advised that under Labor's watch serious repeat offenders have increased from 10 per cent to 17 per cent in the 2021-22 financial year. Sadly, in terms of tougher sentencing, Premier Palaszczuk has not turned up to parliament with the laws that Queenslanders need now—the whole suite of laws they need—let alone the ones she promised to Queenslanders. Some of the maximum sentences she promised have not made their way into the legislation. The government cannot be trusted to get even that right.

The third area is an independent audit of early intervention programs. We must get serious about early intervention services. Auditing the current funds going to youth crime programs and other youth programs will improve investment and ensure that programs are having maximum impact in helping to get young repeat offenders back on track before it is too late. The question is: to what degree is the funding well targeted? Has Labor implemented appropriate early intervention strategies? The LNP wrote to the Auditor-General, who has advised that a performance audit will be conducted in the 2023-24 financial year. A full audit of all existing programs is needed to identify failures and opportunities, what has been working and what has not been working. Much more must be done in this area to ensure effective use of the resources.

The LNP has been unwavering in our fight for these proposed solutions to be adopted by the government amongst other things. Sadly, the government is in denial regarding the seriousness of the youth crime crisis and routinely ignores solutions to the problem put forward by the community and the opposition. It seems to take horrific tragedies or spikes in youth crime in communities to shake this government out of complacency. When that has occurred the government is more interested in

window-dressing than in tough solutions. It looks for the political solutions instead of doing the hard yards and governing for the people of Queensland. Sadly, the government sees things more as a political problem than a crime problem. Its youth crime policy seems to be more about looking busy but not really taking the actions that are needed. What the government has been doing obviously is not effective. The fact that we are back here yet again amending the same legislation is clear proof of that.

The government objectives of the bill, other than to look like it is doing something meaningful in response to a crisis, have been well covered by others in detail so in the interests of time I will not repeat them today. Sadly, the main objective—to fix the youth crime crisis—will not be achieved by this legislation. As the Queensland Law Society has stated, the laws will not have any significant effect on crime rates. This scathing submission is a damning assessment of the overall changes being proposed.

In terms of my local area, our Redlands Coast and Cleveland district community want more from the government than band-aids. In my community reports of crimes to my office are ever increasing. Reports of violence reported to my office and to local police—and even today there was one from a father about his daughter who was attacked in Cleveland—are increasing. I speak of breaking and entering, car thefts, hooning and antisocial behaviour among other crimes in places like Cleveland Point, Wellington Point and elsewhere in the Redlands Coast. They seem to be on the increase, certainly going by the numbers reported to my office, despite the hard work of our good local police, who do an excellent job.

This rise in the number and range of crimes committed by juvenile offenders is a cause of great concern and anxiety in the community. In January when the Premier was away and did not recall parliament to deal with the crisis, there were many incidents reported in the South Brisbane district, which includes Redlands. I will not go into the figures except to say that they show an increase in a number of areas such as car theft, other forms of theft, unlawful entry—a whole range of areas.

I have been working constructively with community groups and the police and I wish to take a moment to thank them and acknowledge the work they do. The local Crime Stoppers groups, Volunteers in Policing, victims of crime groups and local Neighbourhood Watch type groups are all working together with the community and local law enforcement, and I thank them for that. Other community-based groups working in this space include The Cage Youth Foundation, Redlands Local Drug Action Team, Youth You Program and the Traction youth program among others.

I also acknowledge the many local churches in our region that run youth programs and have youth groups that often go unmentioned. These church youth programs help many young people outside the churches find a place of acceptance and support that often is not considered or counted in data or statistics on youth work. Sadly, some Labor MPs have attacked some of these churches and their programs and they have gone on to attack the very youth programs such as The Cage that actually help troubled young people get back on track. Those attacks extend to the repeated undermining of our chappies in state schools and the RI workers who teach good life principles and healthy values to young people.

I urge the education minister to continue to listen to the whole community on these helpful programs and ignore aggressive political campaigns against our chappies, our RI teachers, church-based youth programs and faith-based schools, all of which help young people. Sadly, those attacks seem to be purely because they are Christian. Some of the commentary borders on faith phobia and discrimination. To say that government will not work with certain people because they have a faith is a disgrace and completely unacceptable in an Australian parliament. To refuse to work with someone or a group or to reject them working in a state school because of their religion, race, age or sex is absolute discrimination, especially when they are working with young people in order to help them.

Ms FARMER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Member for Oodgeroo, I have been listening carefully and I ask you to come back to the long title of the bill.

Dr ROBINSON: I am very happy to talk about youth intervention programs and the various programs that support young people and prevent them turning to crime. We are all working collaboratively to support our police. I commend our Cleveland Police Station and the local officers who serve with honour despite the uphill battle. I thank those in the Capalaba Police Station, which services some of my electorate, and all of the police who work across the Redlands. We need to ensure the numbers of police are kept high and strong and not reduced in our region. That is really important. I call on the government to ensure those numbers are kept high. I thank shadow minister Dale Last for his recent visit. We will continue to support our police in this area.



Mr O'CONNOR (Bonney—LNP) (3.41 pm): I rise to not oppose these laws, because they attempt to deal with one of the biggest issues on the minds of Queenslanders. We know that the number of serious repeat offenders—that small cohort we hear so much about—has increased from 10 per cent to 17 per cent in the 2021-22 financial year's data. I have heard lot of stories across my electorate of lives shattered by this government's failures in this space. My own neighbour in Parkwood had their car stolen, a lovely Toyota 86, by some young offenders who took it on a crime spree before dumping it on the Smith Street Motorway off-ramp.

I asked my community more broadly for their views on these issues. I had a great response and a respectful discussion, which does not always happen on Facebook. I start my contribution by turning my speech over to the people I represent to share some of their stories and ideas.

Firstly, Shane told me how he was king hit by a young offender while working in Surfers Paradise. His bicep was torn off the bone, he got a broken finger and he needed surgery, resulting in him taking months off work. The alleged offender was never caught and charged for what they did. Marco wants there to be a focus on prevention and early rehabilitation. In a familiar story, Vee told of how her house was broken into by the same young offender six weeks apart. Desmay believes that the impact of rent increases, power cost increases, food cost increases, medication cost increases, petrol price increases, everyday living expenses and the pressure this puts on families is part of the problem. She says that, despite the underlying challenges contributing to this, juveniles 'need to be accountable for their actions' so we need to 'address the parent or parents, too'.

A big issue I hear from locals is feeling unsafe on public transport. Whether that be catching the train to Brisbane from Helensvale, catching a tram into Surfers Paradise or taking a bus around Labrador, people just do not feel safe. That is a consistent story. I have seen it for myself: it can be pretty scary to catch a tram at night. Our police and our G:Link staff do a really great job and I support them having as many resources as possible. Hopefully that will be covered in legislation we debate at the next sittings.

A couple of the private responses I received from locals included from one person who works at the Southport courts who said, 'It's tough seeing members of youth gangs hanging around train stations, especially Helensvale, committing serious assaults and robberies on unsuspecting citizens and being given a slap on the wrist. I personally believe it's because of the legislation and the lack of power our judicial officers have.'

Another private response was from a mum who told how her 14-year-old daughter was recently assaulted by another student. She was punched in the back of the head and left with extensive damage to her mouth, lip and jaw as well as a concussion. The student who allegedly attacked her was given a suspension, and then the school encouraged this mum to report the incident to the police. She said that this is where it became infuriating. They sat at the Southport Police Station for two hours before someone could see them. Because the police are struggling to fill positions and are not adequately staffed, when they were seen there was no officer on duty who could take a statement from a minor. This mum was instead told that the school had done their job and that there was unlikely to be any further action. She told me that this shows that these kids know they are not going to face serious consequences. That is unacceptable in the light of other messaging about how 'one punch can kill' or how 'one moment can change a life'.

Lauren made a great point about better funding for out-of-home care. She said she would like to see reduced red tape between care providers and the relevant department. Jye similarly gave me input about early intervention—having better pathways to trade schools, fit-for-purpose school curriculums and increased mental health funding.

I am sorry to tell my constituents that what we have before us from the government is all about politics. It is all about trying to make the issue of youth crime go away. These laws have been botched from the very start. The Premier's announcement in late December, which included differences in penalties to what we have before us, showed that this is all about media management. The policy parameters for these changes were guided by the amount of text that can fit onto a Canva graphic. It was not about decreasing the number of young offenders and it certainly was not about victims. It was about making this issue go away for the Labor government. They do not care about solutions, and these reforms were rushed with very little consultation.

The Premier announced these changes just after Christmas to look like she was doing something and to release the pressure that the government was under. We found out what drove the Labor Party to bring this legislation to parliament from a cabinet leak reported in the *Guardian*. Through that article we learned the police minister logged onto Office 365 and put together a PowerPoint presentation for

his cabinet colleagues. He needed to be as convincing as possible, because the government had previously voted against allowing an LNP amendment to make breach of bail an offence for juveniles—an amendment that is word for word what the government is putting forward in these new laws.

The police minister ran through his PowerPoint presentation in the cabinet room, and the media reports say that it was not a detailed presentation on evidence and that it certainly was not outlining stakeholder support for his proposal. What the police minister's PowerPoint talked about was the LNP. He proposed this giant backflip, to make breach of bail an offence, to ease the political pressure on the government from the LNP opposition. The article states—

Ryan brought slides to cabinet to make his point. One of his arguments to colleagues was that changing tack would neutralise attacks by the LNP.

It further said—


... the political point was made bluntly—the government needed a lever to release the pressure from media outlets and the state opposition ...

That is the low standard of public administration in Queensland. A serious and complex issue, which is devastating communities across our state, is not being tackled through detailed policy work, through evaluating outcomes. For the Labor Party, this is all about the politics. It is a sad state of affairs. It tells you all you need to know about this tired, eight-year-old Labor government. They exist just to exist. Their sole focus is remaining in power for the sake of it.

Young people are suffering because of this. They are being failed at both ends of the system. The government's approach to early intervention is not working. Despite hundreds of millions of dollars—over a billion dollars, the Premier keeps saying—none of it is working.

To conclude, I want to make special mention of two programs in my area which are working and which provide proven models of housing and education. First there is the Gold Coast Youth Foyer in Southport which is run by the Gold Coast Youth Service. It provides a great model for 40 young people in my area by giving them a roof over their head. They pay a fixed proportion of their income—whether that is part of the welfare they are receiving or the work they are in—towards their rent. I thank the team there, who are led by Matt and Petrina. It has been an honour for me to be a mentor at the foyer for the last year and a bit.

The other service is the Men of Business Academy, or the 'MOB Academy', run by Marco on Nerang Street in Southport in the Southport electorate. I have the jump on the member for Southport to mention it before he does in the House today. For the last few years they have been running an amazing accredited school all about fitness and education and providing a good meal to these young men, giving them a pathway to work to get their lives back on track. I think they have about 60 to 70 students. It is so impressive what they have managed to achieve in such a short time. I really think it is a model that could be expanded and would have great success. Examples like this are gold standard early intervention, and that is the only way we are going to genuinely solve this issue.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (3.49 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023. I want to open by simply saying that, above all else, our young people need leadership, young people need boundaries and, dare I say, young people need to be kept busy. This may well be the fourth or fifth time that we have debated similar laws and similar issues to this in the parliament in my 10 years here since 2012, but over the years in lounge rooms and coffee shops in discussions with local constituents and friends and family the subject comes up often enough in respect of youth justice and the rise of youth crime. Having said that, it also comes up quite often in respect of increased drug use, the ice epidemic and so many other challenges that we face. One common theme comes out, and that is that there is a sense of hopelessness around the lack of boundaries, the lack of clarity and the lack of rules that we provide our young people. Let's think about the last three or four years and the many challenges that our young people have faced. We have never lived through a pandemic, we have a war in Europe, the media is full of conflicting messages—some full of hope and some full of hopelessness—and then there is the world of social media and the many challenges that that presents. It would seem that many of these youth offenders are driven by the need for likes and looking for acceptance, and is that not just so incredibly sad?

Over the last decade or so we have conducted three major inquiries into child safety and protection practices in this state and we are still no closer to dealing with the issues facing young people and children within the state of Queensland. In fact, I note in a recent article in the *Australian* by Mindy Sotiri, the Executive Director of the Justice Reform Initiative, she talks about the fact that there have never been so many young people in prison in Queensland. In fact, there are more children in prison in

Queensland than anywhere else in Australia, and I think that is an incredible indictment on us as members of this parliament, the government and the ministry that serves the government of this state. We simply do need to do better.


The LNP has raised three particular concerns with this bill. One is that we need to unshackle the judiciary so that it can make appropriate calls in terms of sentencing, particularly in respect of repeat offenders. We have also advocated very strongly around breach of bail but most importantly—and this is the area that I want to spend a little bit of time on—the need to really audit those preventive services and those early intervention services that we already fund and the need for alternative services. I note that the member for Bonney touched on Men of Business, MOB, a not-for-profit organisation that has set up in my electorate. It has been operating for a number of years and Marco Renai and his family have developed a passion to help young men, but it is no nonsense, it is tough love, there are clear boundaries, there are clear expectations and the young men who attend that school in the main street of Southport know exactly what is expected of them. They know what is expected of them in terms of behaviour, academic performance, how they dress and how they turn up. I would suggest to the House that for many young people that is in fact part of the challenge: they really do not know what is expected of them anymore because we are living in a world that sends out so many mixed messages.

The other challenge we face—it has certainly been a challenge in Southport over the last few years, more so during COVID when so many of our police were sent down to the border for border control—and that has continued is that we have an acute lack of police, so when these young gangs travel down from Brisbane, many of them on the heavy rail and then the light rail into Southport and Surfers and other parts of the coast, we simply have not had the police presence to deal with them. When the police have been proactive and they have been visible, we have seen some great outcomes.

I want to commend the officers of the Southport Police Station particularly for their hard work in fairly trying circumstances. In fact, every year I ask as a question on notice to the minister for an update on police numbers at Southport. It is interesting to note that about 10 years ago the reported number was about 128 permanent positions, over the last three or four years the number has been reported as being 89 and then more recently it was reported as being under 80. I wrote to the minister and asked for some clarification and the response I got, which was, I guess, somewhat reasonable, was that he relies on the department for the information. Regardless of the response and the answers, the fact is that police numbers are down. On occasions I have been privy to see rosters from the Southport Police Station and, out of an allocated 90-odd officers, there have in fact been times when there have only been 40 or 50 staff available to cover the watch house, to cover the Southport policing district, to provide frontline service and support to the Gold Coast University Hospital and to be the front line of support for the Southport Courthouse—and then we wonder why the police are struggling to provide adequate coverage of the electorate of Southport.

This youth crime crisis that we are seeing across the state is incredibly reflective of this government, and the member for Bonney touched on it. It is a government that has been there for eight years. We have heard so many promises, but what we have seen is so many failures and let-downs. We continue to see cost blowouts because it is not able to manage the budgets. We have seen significant challenges within the health system and the health crisis. We are hearing stories of schools that are struggling to retain their staff and teacher shortages across the state. We have never seen so many young people in the child protection system. I am not sure what the current numbers are, but I suspect that it is something like about 12,000 young people who are under child protection orders and I think about 8,000 young people who are not even living in their own homes.

Queenslanders deserve better. There is so much more that we need to do. While we will be supporting this legislation because we do need to move forward with tougher laws, what we do need is consistency. We cannot be soft on crime one week and then tough on crime the next. We cannot keep sending mixed messages to the young people of Queensland or to Queenslanders. We need to set clear boundaries and expectations. Laws need to mean something, and that is why provisions like breach of bail—hopefully to be used sparingly—need to be in place, so that offenders know that the laws are real and that we are serious about our position on crime.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (4.00 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Strengthening Community Safety Bill. It is a debate that we have had in this chamber on numerous occasions. To give members a bit of history, in 2016 we were talking about this when those opposite watered down youth justice legislation; in 2018 we were talking about it; in 2019, 2021 and again in 2021 we debated it. We revisit the same problem time and time again. When I have my community roadsides—I make myself available to my local residents to listen to their concerns—this is a matter that makes me angry. Good, hardworking local residents in my area are subjected to youth crime all

the time. Every time laws are watered down, as the government did back in 2016, it makes the situation worse on the northern Gold Coast. There has been an increase in the amount of criminal activity from these individuals who think they can get away with it because the laws are watered down. Those opposite will not take responsibility for those actions. It is as simple as that.

My residents—good, hardworking people—sleep in fear because they are worried that somebody is going to break into their house and steal their motor vehicle. Let us talk about what a motor vehicle means to these individuals. It is their work. Many tradies and people who work in the services industry live in my electorate and they need their cars. These tradies have their tools in the back of their utes and their tools are stolen with their vehicles.

Government members interjected.

Mr BOOTHMAN: I hear those opposite interjecting, laughing, having a little joke about it, but these people pay their taxes, pay their rates and pay their insurance. Their insurance is going up. They pay their excess because they get broken into it. They are continually slogged with additional expenses because they are getting broken into. This is not fair on them. These are the people who put us in this place. These are our residents—the residents of those opposite. Their voices need to be heard. These victims need to be heard.

I wholeheartedly believe in intervention. Last week I visited the Traction program which is based in my electorate. This program is about helping young people who are potentially going down the wrong pathway. I say to Sandy, 'Well done, mate. You are making a difference for these people.' They are not government funded; they rely on donations. They work with our local schools. The program is fantastic because it is giving ownership to these young people. They are building a bike that they will own at the end. They say to these young people, 'What would you think if somebody came along and stole your bike?' It is a moment of epiphany. They realise that it is not fair stealing someone else's property. That is what we need. Grant from Blue Diamond Youth runs early intervention programs. Early intervention programs are key, but we need these young people to participate in it or we will lose a generation. I regularly talk to my teachers and principals. Teachers and police officers regularly stop at my roadsides. My teachers are frustrated because they feel the system is letting them down.

Ms McMillan: Rubbish!

Mr BOOTHMAN: The member may say 'rubbish', but there was a good article in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* about teachers living in fear of their jobs. We need a proper approach. We need a society that understands there are two parts: the hope of reward and the fear of punishment. If you take away hope or the fear of punishment, society starts to fail. I applaud the government for finally listening to the LNP and bringing in breach of bail as an offence. That is important, but we need to empower our magistrates and give them the option to not use incarceration as a last resort if they feel that the individual will potentially cause harm to somebody else. When they steal a motor vehicle it becomes a missile on the road which potentially puts good, innocent drivers and people walking in the street in harm's way. We have seen that happen. I say to the government again and again that intervention is key, but we need to make sure that these intervention programs work. I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for putting forward to the Auditor-General's office a review into this matter because we need to know what is actually working.

Mrs Gerber: The government would not look at it.

Mr BOOTHMAN: I take the interjection from the member for Currumbin. They will not do it. We are potentially losing a generation of souls to a life that they do not want, but they do not know anything different. I am proud of my local police officers, who turn up every day knowing that when they arrest individuals they are most likely going to be back out on the street in 24 hours. They turn up because they know they provide a service to my community on the northern Gold Coast and they do not want to let us down.

Recently at a Neighbourhood Watch meeting in one of my local estates I heard stories from residents who have been recently broken into. They felt violated. They felt that their home was not their home anymore; it was just a house. They had their home violated and they do not want to live there anymore. They want to move somewhere else because they feel that their house is not their home anymore. We have to address this properly. We have been here five times. I have previously stated that we would come back here again because the law was not strong enough. I stated it in 2019 and in 2020.

Mr Power: This is just a sham. Why wouldn't he tell the truth to his constituents?

Mr BOOTHMAN: The member for Logan likes to heckle in the background but he does not care about my constituents and what they are going through or those residents who lost their vehicle because somebody decided to take it away and burn it on the side of the street or in bushland. It is not applicable for a member in this chamber to carry on about it. These are my residents and I am proud of them. I live in one of the best parts of the Gold Coast.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr BOOTHMAN: I do not take that interjection from the member for Coomera. My electorate has Dreamworld and Movie World. We are out towards Tamborine Mountain. It is a place we can be proud of, but we are not proud of those individuals who are destroying our community. I say to the government: I do not want to come back in this place again and debate laws that should have been done right in the first place.



Dr MacMAHON (South Brisbane—Grn) (4.09 pm): I rise to give my contribution to the debate on the Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023. People deserve to feel safe in their homes, in their workplaces and when travelling to work or school. Everyone deserves to know that when they go to sleep at night they will be safe and secure in their homes. That is what we want for every Queenslander. I acknowledge that many Queenslanders do not feel that they can enjoy that safety and security. We fully welcome the investigation into further support for victims of crime.

Based on the evidence, these changes to youth justice laws will mean more crime and more broken lives. The government already knows this. Labor knows this because their own youth justice strategy says it. It states—

... detention separates children and young people from important relationships including families. It exposes them to negative peers and increases their risk of further custody. Detention makes it harder to return to education and limits future employment opportunities.

Prisons destroy children's lives, make children more likely to commit further crimes and separate children from their families, their communities and those who can support them. Between 2017 and 2021, Victoria, which has a much larger population than Queensland, incarcerated 4,000 fewer children than Queensland. Queensland has the toughest youth justice laws in the country and if prisons worked then we would see lower rates of youth crime and less offending than Victoria, but we do not.

In this bill, Labor is creating a breach of bail offence for children despite being warned by the experts that children have a much more limited capacity to abide by bail conditions given that they often have no access to transport or secure and safe places to live. Labor is permitting courts to disregard sentencing principles for children mandating that when a child breaches a conditional release order—God forbid a 12-year-old misses an appointment—the court is to send them back to prison. They are also extending the use of electronic tracking bracelets for children. However, youth crime is not a problem caused by a lack of prisons or types of sentencing or bail conditions or a lack of police. It will not be fixed by spending millions of dollars on two new youth prisons. It will not be fixed by filling those prisons with hundreds of children.

Instead of listening to people on the ground and instead of looking at the research, Labor is taking its youth justice policy from the LNP. It seems as if the Premier and the Attorney-General found some notes in a drawer in one of the ministerial wings, left behind by Campbell Newman and the member for Kawana during the last LNP government, and thought, 'These look all right, but how can we make them worse?' Labor is knowingly overriding its own Human Rights Act on four occasions and, by its own admission, it is denying children the right to criminal proceedings that are age appropriate and that promote rehabilitation.

What the evidence makes clear is that youth crime is a housing problem, it is an education problem, it is a healthcare problem, it is a lack of social services problem and it is a substance abuse problem. Youth crime is the result of a cycle of poverty and trauma, which prisons only accelerate. As over 40 Queensland organisations have said in an open letter, 'We can never imprison our way to a safer community.' I table that letter.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Our open letter to the Queensland Parliament: Stop youth crime—Get smarter not tougher' [319].

Frontline organisations are saying that we need to focus on the wellbeing of our youth, on teachers and schools, on housing, on poverty, on food security, on tackling alcohol and drug addiction, on mental health and on First Nations solutions to supporting young people. There might be only two of us in this building who are willing to stand up against this authoritarian, poor-hating and, frankly, racist legislation, but if Labor wants to continue to dress in the LNP's clothes and continue to borrow Campbell Newman's policies and continue to ignore human rights then there will be lots more of us here in 2024. I guarantee that.

As frontline organisations have said, we can never imprison our way to a safer community. We have repeatedly heard from inquiries, journalists and police whistleblowers that children are abused and sexually assaulted in prisons. This bill will mean more children will be abused and not rehabilitated. They will never be reintegrated into education. They will not find employment and, as a result, will be further criminalised throughout their lives. Some of those children will have committed crimes with tragic consequences and to their victims and their families we acknowledge your immense pain. Your hurt is our failure. It is the failure of governments to create communities where children do not hurt each other or others. However, these laws will not fix that problem; they will make things worse because, just as we have failed victims of crime and their families, we have failed those children. Those children are disproportionately poor, have suffered violence, sexual abuse, alcoholism and addiction. They have gone hungry when they should have been fed and homeless when they should have been housed.

Unlike both Labor and the LNP, who are lining up on this race to the bottom, many Queenslanders are working on the front line to support young people to stay out of the criminal justice system and to support their families. Those people have made their position on this bill very clear: it will not work. However, there are plenty of alternatives that will make our communities safer. In January, over 40 organisations published an open letter urging this government to acknowledge that locking up children does not free communities from crime. They include organisations such as Relationships Australia, QCOSS, Sisters Inside, Anglicare, the Palm Island Community Co., Women's Health and Equality Queensland and PeakCare. Their letter stresses that, more than any other age group, children are the victims of crime. They state—

Many of the children who find themselves on the wrong side of the law have been victims of crimes far more serious than the offences they have committed.

The letter tells the government to get out of the way and let First Nations leaders design and manage responses to youth crime within their communities. It tells the government to properly resource our teachers and schools. It tells the government to take account of children's disabilities and mental health concerns, tackle social problems, focus on accountability measures that actually work and divert children from the criminal justice system, particularly those under the age of 14. Those communities do not need their children taken away and put in prisons. They need more money put into vulnerable communities. I feel sorry for those communities whose representatives have been rabidly fighting this week to lock up children instead of fighting for real solutions.

In First Nations communities youth crime cannot be separated from the historical injustices of colonialism, which began with invasion, land theft and genocide. The resulting intergenerational inequalities and trauma persist. I think everyone in this chamber would agree. In Queensland, two in every three children locked up are First Nations. Queensland locks up First Nations youth at 20 times the rate of non-Indigenous kids. We punish Indigenous kids and their families for historical injustices committed against First Nations people and the failure of successive governments to give those kids equal opportunities.


In their submission, the Cape York Institute made it plain that this bill undermines Indigenous-led community approaches. It undermines the work of First Nations organisations that are creating solutions that lead to better outcomes for victims, perpetrators and communities. The Cape York Institute said that, instead of listening to First Nations people who are calling for more support and the expansion of these initiatives, the government will be making the issues worse. It is jarring that, in the same week that the government introduced its Path to Treaty legislation, which was a moment of goodwill that will pave the way for First Nations communities to get a real say in their lives and futures, the government also introduced this rushed legislation that overrides human rights and will see more kids in prisons.

I also touch on the role of the education system. The open letter I referenced earlier states—

Non-attendance at schools and high rates of suspensions and exclusions are frequent precursors to children's involvement with the youth justice system. Better resourcing of teachers and schools with the programs and supports they need to keep children engaged in schooling will help stop problems before they start.

Many community advocates have raised the issue of school disciplinary absences and school expulsions. First Nations and disabled students are particularly affected by this. They are excluded from the school system at much higher rates, making those young people much more likely to fall into the justice system. There is no legislation governing how school expulsions occur, including time frames, processes, how many students or how often they can be expelled. There is no legislation requiring students who are expelled to be connected to alternative education systems. Our education system is vital in keeping kids out of the criminal justice system and it is vital in supporting First Nations students and students with a disability.

In closing, we have a proposal before us that will criminalise young people and place already suffering communities at even more disadvantage. The Greens will not be supporting this bill.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (4.18 pm): The Strengthening Community Safety Bill has been urgently rushed into parliament in response to escalating youth crime in Queensland with the incidents of stolen cars, dangerous driving, burnt-out vehicles, breaking and entering and home invasions escalating. Amongst horrendous offences were the devastating murder of a young mum in her home and the death of a family involving a stolen vehicle. Along with the rest of Queensland, the Noosa community and I mourned for them and their loved ones who, with many other victims, are suffering from our failings. How have we come to this point where we have young Australians perpetrating such horror?

The only way to assess this bill is whether and how it will create greater safety. I will not go through each of the 10 measures in detail as we have already heard that multiple times during the week. They include increasing penalties for car theft, extending breach of bail, the removal of the requirement to look at alternatives to arrest when contravening bail conditions and separate sentencing guidelines for repeat offenders.

I will, however, highlight some comments from submitters such as PeakCare Queensland, who said that there is no clear evidence that harsher punishments serve little or no deterrent value, and the Hub Community Legal Centre, who said that changing police obligations from 'must consider' to 'may consider' alternatives serves no useful purpose at all. The government's own statistics office said in its report on youth offending that these crimes are conducted by young people with less developed decision-making capabilities and poor impulse control and that they lack the understanding of the depth of consequences of their behaviour and are unlikely to respond to these changes.

Many times during this debate we have heard the importance of evidence-based decision-making; however, within the measures proposed, there appears little to no evidence that these changes will make a difference. Victims and their families are understandably frightened and fed up. My own community are also fed up from visiting youths stealing cars, endangering lives with dangerous driving on our beaches and alcohol fuelled violence. There is a lack of respect from this cohort. Submissions from victim support groups outline why they feel that government does not appear to care, with repeat offenders let back out to create trauma yet again.

In 2021 our Legal Affairs and Safety Committee travelled to areas that had been greatly impacted by this cohort of repeat offenders—roughly 10 per cent—who contribute to the majority of youth crime. For Mount Isa, I believe at the time it was around 50 youths. These are the ones who must be targeted; however, as we found, the complexities include an inability to comprehend consequences, requiring longer term solutions than cycling them through the prison system, which puts our communities at greater risk when they are released.

Through what they learn inside and who they connect with, this is especially relevant to those high percentages of youth who are believed to have fetal alcohol syndrome. There has not been any identified remedy for the portion of their brain that has been damaged before birth. The Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak Ltd acknowledges that there are a small number of young Indigenous who need to be detained for their and the community's safety; however, increased supports are required to rehabilitate.

Overall, we have a range of provisions in this bill that it is not clear will have any effect and a couple of provisions that may. Is this actually creating greater safety for our communities? According to Caxton Legal Centre, the answer is no. They stated—

There is no evidence in Queensland, Australia or overseas that 'tough on crime' measures improve community safety or that stronger punishments deter or rehabilitate, especially for young people who are to overcome by disordered thinking or neuro-underdevelopment.

Regardless of what has been provided that is evidence based, it is understandable that the frustrations from MPs have led to where we are today. We need to do something right now to ensure violent juvenile offenders do not further impact our communities. However, what about greater safety into the future when they are released? Katter's Australian Party has put forward previously that these repeat offenders need to be relocated at sentencing to remote properties where they cannot impact any further on their communities, to work and develop life skills whilst accessing assistance from programs such as On Country. I have supported this as they not only gain essential skills and self-esteem but also learn respect and self-reliance.

This potential fourth option for the courts—relocation sentencing—should not be relegated to the too-hard basket due to costs. The Atkinson report in 2018 stated that we are paying \$1,500 a day for imprisonment, which is more than adequate to fund initiatives that can be more effective in creating

greater safety in the long term. These are not a boot camp as trialled previously, which has been mentioned as a failure in this chamber. However, when we looked into this, we found it was implemented in a hurry, had sporadic data and was shut down in the same hurry. Again, how can we make evidence-based decisions without appropriate evidence?


The statement of reservation I made in 2021 on the Youth Justice Bill outlined many issues that appear to remain, including the need for youth services and supervision after 5 pm and early assessment of offenders and their family environment from the very first court appearance—not, as we heard, the fifth or sixth. I table that statement of reservation.

Tabled paper: Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, statement of reservation by the member for Noosa, Ms Sandy Bolton MP [\[320\]](#).

Even though there is no clear indication that this bill will assist, except possibly in the immediacy, I will support it in deep frustration and desperation; however, I seek from the government that this will not be seen as the answer and that it will now work to develop longer term solutions, including trialling relocation sentencing, increasing efforts in addressing the contributors to crime and early identification in schools of children demonstrating criminal behaviours with age-appropriate response supports.

To finish, I thank the submitters and departmental staff who in rapid time responded to this bill. I understand the urgency; however, this issue has been raised for years in this chamber, as we did with housing and other matters. If MPs and their communities were listened to, there would have been ample time to develop a bill that incorporated addressing the environments these youths are emanating from, the alcohol addicted and violent households that they are often returned to and the much needed transitional accommodation required.

There are many nonviolent offenders, including increasing numbers of women, eligible for parole who remain incarcerated as they have nowhere to go. This is contributing to the overcrowding in prisons and a lack of capacity to rehabilitate. Communities across Queensland deserve much more than what this bill offers. I can only hope that there is some immediate relief while the government develops real solutions for this specific cohort that can guarantee greater safety now and into the future for Queenslanders based on evidence and not on hoping.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (4.25 pm), in reply: I thank all members who have made a contribution to the debate on the Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023. This morning in the Parliamentary Annexe and in this public gallery a group of schoolchildren were learning about what happens here at Parliament House. The first thing those children learned this morning was that parliament makes laws. We make laws. We make laws that give voice to the shared aspirations and agreed values of the community. That is what we are doing today. We are making laws that reflect the wishes of the community. We all want the same thing. We all want a safe community. This Strengthening Community Safety Bill is aimed at achieving exactly that—a safe community. This bill targets serious repeat youth offenders. This bill tackles the complex causes of youth crime. This bill is accompanied by a significant investment in the interventions and programs that can break the cycle of offending.

I will now address some of the specific issues raised by members during the debate. One member claimed—

We have been calling for bringing back breach of bail as an offence for years and years.

Well, you cannot bring back something that did not exist. The reality is: the LNP never legislated a breach of bail offence. They had a failed offence called ‘finding of guilt while on bail’. They tried to bring back this failed offence in 2020. In 2020, the LNP tabled amendments to bring back this failed section 59A of their Youth Justice Act. During a contribution, a member reminded me of his hero, Elvis. Towards the end of his career, Elvis used to forget the words of the songs he was singing. After many long years in opposition, the member and those other members opposite are forgetting things, too. They claim that this government got rid of breach of bail as an offence. We did not. In fact, we could not. We could not because it never existed in the first place.

Those members have forgotten that they did not introduce a breach of bail offence when they were in government. We know that lawmaking and the LNP just do not mix. They have a history of introducing laws that do not work or do not do what they say they would do. This bill's amendments to the Bail Act will make breaching a condition of bail a criminal offence for young offenders for the first time since the Bail Act was introduced in the 1980s. Unlike the LNP's failed laws, we know that our approach will work because it has already proven effective for adults.

Another member claimed that magistrates can only sentence a youth to one year and that superior courts are limited to five years. I would have thought those members who have been in this chamber for some time, including those members who claim that they used to practise law, would have

some basic understanding of legislation and the application of the criminal law. Section 176 of the Youth Justice Act makes it clear that, for a relevant offence, if the offence committed by an adult would make the person liable to imprisonment of 14 years or more, the maximum period of detention for a young person is seven years. The effect of the amendments the bill makes to the Criminal Code is that for an unlawful use of a motor vehicle offence, if the offender uses or threatens to use actual violence or is or pretends to be armed with a dangerous or offensive weapon, the offence must be dealt with by a judge, meaning that a young offender could be liable for seven years detention.

What is more, where an indictable offence is to be dealt with summarily for a defendant, section 552D of the Criminal Code requires a magistrate to refrain from dealing with the charge if they are satisfied that the defendant could not be adequately punished in the Magistrates Court. If a magistrate considers that the appropriate sentence would be more than 12 months, the magistrate may request delegated power from a Childrens Court judge to impose a higher sentence in certain circumstances. In this bill, the government is doing what we said we would do. The bill amends the Criminal Code to increase the maximum penalty for unlawful use of a motor vehicle from seven years to 10 years and introduces new circumstances of aggravation with maximum penalties of 12 and 14 years.

Opposition members have called for the gold standard of youth justice reform and rehabilitation programs. Let us have a look at their record. They should be very embarrassed about that record. When they were in government they cut the programs and initiatives that worked and invested in programs like boot camps that failed. The LNP wasted over \$16 million of taxpayers' money on a failed boot camp experiment to breed fitter, faster criminals, leading to more recidivism.

What is worse is the LNP's failure to make the boot camp secure. In 2013 two teenagers escaped from an LNP boot camp, broke into a home and threatened a woman with a knife. Further, when the LNP was in government they savagely cut the youth justice budget, including restorative justice conferencing which has now been reinstated by this government.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Order! Member for Coomera!

Mr RYAN: I am advised that an evaluation of restorative justice conferencing saw 77 per cent of offenders not reoffend or decrease their magnitude of offending, but that was a program cut by the LNP.

This government will invest more in the programs that are proven to work. Transition 2 Success has been evaluated and that evaluation found that 67 per cent of young people who completed the program did not reoffend within 12 months. The Townsville Stronger Communities Early Action Group—

Mr Harper: Hear, hear!

Mr RYAN: I acknowledge the member for Thuringowa's advocacy for that group. It is an outstanding initiative. That model was revamped and refreshed following a comprehensive review informed by open and frank discussions with individuals working in Townsville's youth justice response and members of the Townsville community. The new model has had success in preventing at-risk young people from becoming serious repeat offenders.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Coomera, you are now warned under the standing orders.

Mr RYAN: It is programs like that that help restrict the pipeline of offenders. This successful model will now be rolled out to Cairns and Mount Isa as part of the government's \$332 million investment package.

Government members: Hear, hear!

Mr RYAN: Again, I acknowledge the outstanding advocacy of government members for these programs that are proven to work. As I outlined in my second reading speech, \$10 million has been allocated to evaluation and reporting over three years to ensure that investment continues to be made in the rehabilitation and reform programs that are proven to reduce offending.

A member claimed, 'I am known for putting the rights of victims ahead of the perpetrators.' What is the record of those opposite when it comes to putting the rights of victims ahead of perpetrators? Those members opposite supported legislative change that stopped the police monitoring of 1,700 child sex offenders. When they were in government they cut \$323,000 from Victim Assist Queensland. When they were in government they cut \$259 million—I will say that again; \$259 million—from community sector organisations, some of which supported victims of crime.

Mr CRANDON: I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. The member has just accused us of saying that he put victims ahead—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, it is not a point of order.

Mr CRANDON: I am sorry, Madam Deputy Speaker, I had not finished the point of order. The minister accused—

Government members interjected.

Mr CRANDON: Could I finish the point of order?

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, it is not an opportunity to make a speech. If you have a point of order, please state your point of order.

Mr CRANDON: It is a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. The minister clearly said that we accused him of putting—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, it is not a point of order. Please resume your seat.

Mr RYAN: I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. The member is on a warning and I seek your ruling about whether that was a frivolous point of order.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Coomera, one more transgression and I will ask you to leave the chamber.

Mr RYAN: I repeat what I said. It was actually the member for Kawana who said this. I said a member claimed—it was the member for Kawana; I am quoting him—‘I am known for putting the rights of victims ahead of perpetrators.’ My response was that that is not true because if we look at their record in government they stopped the monitoring by police of 1,700 child sex offenders putting the interests of paedophiles ahead of the interests of victims. That was their record.

When they were in government and the member for Kawana was the attorney-general he oversaw a cut of \$323,000 to Victim Assist Queensland—not putting the interests of victims first. When they were in government—and the member for Coomera was in that government so he supports this—they cut \$259 million from community sector organisations, many of which support victims of crime.

On the contrary, this government will always put victims first. This government is investing \$9 million to better respond to victims of property crime where violence or a threat of violence has occurred as well as \$3 million to boost counselling capacity and support non-government organisations. Supporting victims is an integral part of our justice system in Queensland and this funding will provide vital recognition and support for those harmed by violent property crime.

In the committee report on this bill, the committee made comments that the Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009 should be reviewed, with a view to considering enhancements to that act designed to better assist victims of acts of violence. As noted in the Premier’s speech on this bill, the government is adopting the committee’s proposal. I also note that the committee considered that it would be beneficial for the Queensland Police Service to review the way it provides victim support and liaise with relevant agencies and peak bodies to look at how restorative justice programs can be improved. I can assure members that the Queensland Police Service is committed to promoting victim-centric approaches to achieve better outcomes for victims and the broader community, with a firm commitment to keeping victims up to date and informed throughout the investigation process.

The Queensland Police Service has enacted a range of strategies to ensure victims receive support from the time an offence has occurred right through to the investigation and prosecution stages. Police provide further support to victims of crime through the police referrals strategy. Under this approach, police connect at-risk and vulnerable members of the community to external support service providers. This important strategy has become an embedded part of Queensland Police Service frontline operational policing responses and enables victims to connect early to appropriate support services. Alongside this, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General is working with stakeholders to implement the Women’s Safety and Justice Taskforce recommendation that the Queensland government establish a victims’ commission to promote and protect the needs of all victims of crime.

The opposition has called for the courts to be unshackled—I thought we were almost going to play bingo, the number of times they said ‘unshackle the courts’—by removing the principle of detention as a last resort from the Youth Justice Act. When I speak to communities they say what the courts need is more guidance about prioritising community safety. The nonsense proposal from those opposite is the same failed policy they had when they were in government.

Mr Healy: They have no idea.

Mr RYAN: I take that interjection, because it has been 790 days since the opposition promised a crime plan and all they have come up with is another nonsense proposal. In fact, the Katter’s Australian Party moved more amendments to this bill than the opposition. The reality is that the principle of detention as a last resort in the Youth Justice Act and the Penalties and Sentences Act is consistent

with all other Australian states. As I said in my second reading speech, the principle of detention as a last resort does not mean the offender is not detained or sentenced to a detention order when the court deems this is the appropriate course of action—on the contrary. Queensland has among the toughest youth justice laws in Australia which, since their introduction two years ago, have seen more young people detained and for longer periods. In addition, the introduction of the new Serious Repeat Offender Declaration Scheme will ensure that the courts have primary regard to the need to protect the community when sentencing a serious repeat offender. This will ensure that serious repeat offenders are held to account and will likely receive longer periods in detention.

The truth sets us free, and I will conclude with some truth-telling. As I said earlier, those opposite have long advocated for the return of breach of bail as an offence, but that is simply not possible. It is not possible because you cannot return something that did not exist. Breach of bail was not an offence under the LNP, but breach of bail will be an offence under the Palaszczuk government. That is the truth, and that will be the law. This bill contains tough measures that target those who wilfully do harm to the community, but it is also a bill that contains measures to tackle the complex causes of youth crime. It is a bill that invests in strategies to break the cycle of offending. Youth crime is complex. It evolves and manifests in different ways, and we must remain agile in our responses and vigilant in our efforts to keep the community safe. This bill supports those objectives.

In closing, I want to take time to acknowledge the police and corrective services officers, the youth detention workers and youth justice workers who go about their work every day with a determination to make Queensland a safer place. I acknowledge the outstanding efforts of my colleagues the Attorney-General and the Minister for Youth Justice and the collaborative way we always work together to tackle these very difficult, complex and challenging issues.

I acknowledge and thank the Queensland Police Service, Strategic Policy Branch and Youth Justice Unit, for their work on this bill, in particular: Karen Messori, Allyra Forrester, Nancy Grevis-James and Inspector Grant Ralston. Thanks also to Adele Bogard, Justin O'May and Myrella-Jane Byron from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General; Phil Hall and Karl Holden from the Department of Youth Justice; and Rebecca McGarrity and Kyla Hayden from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. I also wish to acknowledge Commissioner Katarina Carroll, Acting Deputy Commissioner Mark Wheeler and Youth Crime Taskforce commander George Marchesini for their impressive work on the implementation of the reforms to date, as well as Acting Deputy Chief Executive of the Queensland Police Service Paul Friedman and their respective teams.

This bill targets serious repeat offenders, it tackles the complex causes of youth crime and also continues our government's strong record of investing in community safety. I commend the bill to the House.

Division: Question put—That the bill be now read a second time.

Resolved in the affirmative under standing order 106(10).

Bill read a second time.

Interruption.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Cameras in Chamber

 **Mr SPEAKER:** I have approved that television pool cameras will be allowed to film proceedings for consideration-in-detail of the Strengthening Community Safety Bill.


STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY SAFETY BILL

Resumed.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 4, as read, agreed to.

Clause 5—

 **Mr BERKMAN** (4.50 pm): We obviously oppose each and every clause of this bill, but I need to get to my feet to speak to this one in particular because it is just so disgraceful. It is such a shameful act on the part of this government. It is in fact just plain embarrassing for them. The amount of effort they have had to go to to try to pretend that they are not just straight up picking up the LNP's homework

and copying it in here. Instead, the rhetoric we are getting from them is, 'The LNP were not even this hard on kids. We're better at locking up kids than the LNP are.' If it is not clear to them yet, they have started a race to the bottom that they cannot win. No matter how tough on crime this mob get, we know that the other mob are going to come over the top and do any manner of ghastly things to children because none of them are inclined to listen to the experts, to listen to the evidence about what actually works.

We are talking about kids who are some of the most disadvantaged in our entire state. We are talking about kids who are already struggling without support in their regular daily lives, without the basic necessities of life. The government are proposing to introduce new offences that will pull kids up for technical breaches of their bail conditions. I mentioned this in my speech in the second reading debate: what about those kids who might have to leave their homes to escape violent or unsafe situations themselves? They have to suspend the Human Rights Act to get this kind of nonsense through. I think, if I heard it correctly, we heard from the minister a moment ago the absurd observation that we know that this will work because it works for adults. I will stand corrected if he did not say that—

Mr SPEAKER: You will direct your comments through the chair, member.

Mr BERKMAN: Indeed, that is what I thought I was doing. I apologise, Mr Speaker. I will stand corrected if he did not say that, but I think that is what he said. I can scarcely remember a more absurd observation in here—that adults whose brains are fully developed, who can respond to consequences and cause and effect, and he is proposing—

Mr SPEAKER: Member, it is not a 'he' or a 'she'. It is 'the member' or 'the minister', please, in terms of the dignity of the House.

Mr BERKMAN: Indeed. The minister is proposing that adults can respond to this so kids are going to. The minister also said that the truth will set us free. The truth of this is that the experts know better. They know otherwise. They know kids cannot respond to this kind of punitive response. It does not matter what the minister likes to say or what truth he would like to present in the course of this debate, they know that they are running roughshod over the evidence and ignoring the experts.

(Time expired)

Division: Question put—That clause 5, as read, stand part of the bill.

Resolved in the affirmative under standing order 106(10).

Clause 5, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 6 and 7, as read, agreed to.

Clause 8—



Mr DAMETTO (4.58 pm): I move the following amendments—

1 Amendment of clause 8 (Amendment of s 408A (Unlawful use or possession of motor vehicles, aircraft or vessels))

Page 9, lines 2 to 7—

omit, insert—

- (1D) If the offender is a recidivist, the offender is liable to a minimum penalty of 1 year's imprisonment served wholly in a corrective services facility.
- (1E) Nothing in subsection (1D) limits the maximum period of imprisonment an offender is liable to under this section.
- (1F) It is a defence to a charge of an offence mentioned in this section to prove that the accused person had the lawful consent of the owner of the motor vehicle, aircraft or vessel to its use or possession by the accused person.

2 Amendment of clause 8 (Amendment of s 408A (Unlawful use or possession of motor vehicles, aircraft or vessels))

Page 9, after line 14—

insert—

recidivist means a person who has been convicted of a serious offence at least twice, regardless of whether the offences were the same.

serious offence means an offence for which the maximum penalty is more than 4 years of imprisonment.

The amendments circulated on behalf of the KAP are to introduce mandatory sentencing for recidivist youth offenders and recidivist offenders who have been caught and previously charged and convicted of unlawful use of a motor vehicle. This is for those people who have been caught time and time again, so it will be once, twice and then on the third time it is a mandatory 12-month sentence. The reason for this is to send a clear message. I remind everybody that right now we have kids out there actively stealing vehicles on a nightly basis and chasing down police cars to ram them.

These children and these people stealing these cars need to be sent a strong message. It is not just about sending a strong message to these kids; it is also adding a bit of comfort for those people out there who believe there needs to be stronger legislation in this state. There needs to be real repercussions for these children and people who are out there causing havoc on a nightly basis.

One of the reasons we are calling for this 12-month minimum sentencing for these young offenders is it ties in directly with the KAP's policy of relocation sentencing. There is no use locking these kids up for 12 more months if they are going to be sent straight out to a place like Cleveland detention centre or the two detention centres that are being proposed by the current state government. We cannot do more of the same. We need a third option. That is why we want to send these children who would qualify as recidivist offenders to do 12 months mandatory sentencing on a relocation site in the middle of Western Queensland or at a remote location so we can retrain them. We have to get them off the drugs. We have to get them cleaned up. We have to get their nutrition right. Then we have to try to reprogram them and give them some purpose. We want to give these kids some purpose so that when they have finished their time in a location like this they can try to plug back into society. We want to give these kids an opportunity to become productive members of society, instead of going straight back into the family unit or the friend cohort they are in at the moment.

You know what works best when it comes to dealing with children? Breaking them up and getting them away from the things they enjoy, the things they like doing—that is the first thing. That is the best punishment you could give one of these kids. You are sending a strong message to these recidivist young offenders: 'If you are convicted not once, not twice but three times, you're out; you are going to a relocation sentencing site.' This is the opportunity for magistrates to have a legal mechanism to do something meaningful when it comes to sentencing. The punishment of spending 12 months at a relocation sentencing site gives the magistrate the option of imposing a meaningful sentence on these children without fear of being dragged back to a court of appeal and having it overturned, which is one of the most embarrassing things for magistrates. That is the reason magistrates are being seen right now by the public as going soft on these young criminals. They are scared because there is not a mechanism like this for them to use as a lever.

Mr KATTER: There is a principle that the KAP has mentioned in this debate where, if I focus on Mount Isa, one of the answers presented here is pouring in more resources. The thinking is, 'Let's not sentence them; let's bolt some programs and supports around them.' That seems to be the logic behind it. However, in practice, there is not enough money or resources in this state to put enough forward to try and incentivise the recidivist offender, to try to rehabilitate them in any available programs in a place like Mount Isa. Out there, one car a night is being stolen.

We do not need to go on and on about how bad the problem is. For those people who really care for the kids and do not want to focus on the victims of these crimes but want to focus on the kids, I would argue that this is the policy for them because forcing them out of that situation into relocation sentencing, that different form of sentencing, where you have now the best opportunity to try to engage those kids meaningfully in some rehabilitation program outside incarceration in a traditional youth detention centre, gives the best chance, we believe, of them being rehabilitated. As I have had said to me so many times in my office in Mount Isa, 'Rob, there is no good having these programs if you can't get the kids to turn up.' You do have to force them. That is what the mandatory sentencing is about, which is in sharp contrast to the expansion of maximum sentencing which, I would argue, is doing absolutely nothing.

This is why it is there. It really requires it to be coupled with relocation sentencing, which we are not able to put through as an amendment to this bill, which was our intention. It is not just the element of the mandatory sentencing alone; it is coupling it with a different form of sentencing that is just as important. Technically we are not able to do that, and on the crossbench we do not have the numbers to get that amendment up. That was our intention with this amendment. It is the least we can do to address this terrible situation we have.

Again I emphasise that the KAP's position is that this is as much about rehabilitating the kids as giving them a consequence. It comes as close as possible to killing two birds with the one stone: it not only enforces a consequence on the perpetrator of the crime—the offender—but also, although the offender might not like it at first, it is the best thing that could ever happen to them. We are not able to bolt enough services around the kids to deal with the problems within the homes and family units that we have at the moment in Mount Isa. That is the reality. I wish it wasn't but it is, and I think you are kidding yourself if you think there is another way of doing it.

Mr KNUTH: I fully support the member for Hinchinbrook's amendment of minimal sentencing for unlawful use of a motor vehicle. As has been brought to the attention of the House tonight and what we have seen all around Queensland, there is a perception that rural and regional Queensland has been exempt when it comes to youth crime. There is no way in the world that that is the case. We have seen massive crime waves in Brisbane, Cairns and Townsville—all the major cities—but we are starting to see this really take effect in small country towns. Not only are cars being stolen and burnt but also businesses are now being broken into and, at times, burnt down.

As the figures previously highlighted show, 90 per cent of the juveniles who go into the youth detention centres are committing crimes to get in there. The other side to it is that within 12 months they are out of there. As the member for Traeger was saying, this could coincide with our relocation sentencing policy in that these kids are completely different when they are out in rural, western and outback Queensland. It is all about putting them to work out there, teaching them values and skills, and giving them opportunities to make something of themselves and to become leaders so that they can actually climb the ladder in life. Then they can be role models to encourage others to do what they have done—not to steal, but to become role models and leaders in the community. You cannot have that outcome if they are stealing cars, burning them and then we are giving them a pat on the back, only for them to put it up on social media and tell everyone that this is a wonderful thing. We need a proper sentencing regime put in place—a sentencing regime that works.

I worked out there, from Townsville to Mount Isa. In those outback areas—Kajabbi, all of that area—it is a different world. It is therapeutic. It makes a difference. It changes a person. The reason a lot of people go on holidays up in the Gulf of Carpentaria is they are hidden away. It changes them. That is exactly what the relocation sentencing provisions will do for those juvenile offenders who keep committing these crimes. It will change them, and at the same time they will have the opportunities to work with all those different programs—build cattle troughs, muster, be involved with rural activities. I fully support the member for Hinchinbrook's amendment. I commend the amendment to the House and ask everyone to support it.

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

AYES, 5:

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 82:

ALP, 48—Bailey, Boyd, 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, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

LNP, 32—Bates, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

Pairs: Brown, Bennett; Madden, Hart.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendments (Mr Dametto) negatived.

Clause 8, as read, agreed to.



Mr DAMETTO (5.13 pm): I seek leave to move amendments outside the long title of the bill.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

Mr SPEAKER: Ring the bells for one minute.

AYES, 5:

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 82:

ALP, 48—Bailey, Boyd, 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, Palaszcuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

LNP, 32—Bates, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

Pairs: Brown, Bennett; Madden, Hart.

Resolved in the negative.

Clause 9, as read, agreed to.

Clause 10—



Mr RYAN (5.16 pm): I move the following amendment—

1 Clause 10 (Insertion of new pt 9, ch 107)

Page 10, line 21, '3'—

omit, insert—

8

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

Tabled paper: Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023, explanatory notes to Hon. Mark Ryan's amendments [321].

Tabled paper: Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Mark Ryan's amendments [322].

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 10, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 11 to 13, as read, agreed to.

Clause 14—



Mr BERKMAN (5.17 pm): This is again one of those most egregious clauses that I feel compelled to stand and address. We have been through this before. We have heard from all the experts previously that the use of GPS monitoring devices is useless and it is not going to work. It does not work, it is stigmatising for children and this is one of the most racially divided consequences that we are going to see. As I understand it—and again I will stand to be corrected—three of these monitors have actually been issued by the courts, all three of those to First Nations children. When we moved the disallowance motion to try to prevent the subordinate legislation facilitating that last round of so-called reform from the minister, the minister got to his feet and had the temerity to tell me that somehow it was racist of me to use the term 'tracking devices', yet we are back here again watching them introduce an expansion of this provision so even more kids—and predominantly First Nations kids—are going to have GPS monitors strapped to their ankles.

We are now talking about kids as young as 15 years old, kids who are still supposed to be compulsorily attending school. What is that going to do for school attendance? How is that going to benefit them? How is that going to help them reintegrate into the education system and the life that we want to see these kids progress towards?

No matter what the government invests in the non-carceral programs and responses—and it is quite extraordinary to see the government take some steps in that direction while at the same time they are whacking kids harder with the other hand—it will be completely undone by the criminogenic

consequences of locking up more kids. Prevention, early intervention, diversion, therapeutic wraparound services, intensive case management—that is what we know works. We know this does not work and yet the minister persists with it. Irrespective of what each and every one of these members might personally think, they will just sit there with their mouth shut and they will vote along the party line, and they are okay with that I suppose. They should sit and feel absolutely ashamed as they do so. How much of their moral compass do they have to trade away to join a party like that?

Mr Sullivan interjected.

Mr BERKMAN: I will take the interjection from the member for Stafford because, my God, did we hear him speak earlier. I almost could not hear what he said through the low hum of entitled dynastic politics that oozes—

(Time expired)

Honourable members interjected.

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

Mr Sullivan interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Stafford, I appreciate that I am not at the dais and you may not have seen me, but I had called the House to order and I was on my feet.

Mr DAMETTO: I speak in support of the amendment. We would like to see more GPS monitoring devices fitted to more children, especially in the Townsville region, who have been let out on bail and are out there causing havoc on our streets. The fact of the matter is that usually we do know where most of these kids are. They are trying to ram cop cars and are all over Facebook letting people know where they are. This extra layer of protection for the community is necessary. It would be even better if they would allow us to attach GPS monitors to these kids who have been put in a relocation sentencing site. Wouldn't that be great? The government would not have to build the big fences or the big walls like they have at Cleveland Youth Detention Centre. It would be a nice rural property with GPS monitoring devices on those kids so that when they run away from the centre they can be given a drink of water and walked back. That is how we should show them tough love. That is how we teach kids boundaries: when they feel thirsty it is time to come back.

We really want to make sure that when we are rolling out more of these monitors—and I believe they are going to be attached through court orders to youths as young as 15 years old; this expands the range of children who will be eligible—we have the right people to monitor them.

If the kids who are wearing GPS monitoring devices are not doing the right thing and are breaching their bail, they should be sent back to court and go back into custody, because that is where they belong. That is the best place for some of these kids who are recidivist offenders when it comes to protecting the community. The community deserves to be protected from these recidivist offenders.

Clause 14, as read, agreed to.

Clause 15—



Mr BERKMAN (5.23 pm): I have to address this clause. It is the clearest example of provisions that will land more kids in jail. There is duplicity in presenting this bill while saying that we care about kids and we do not want to see them locked up. Members opposite take direct offence at my suggestion that the government is proudly locking up children, yet that is precisely the purpose of provisions like this. They are entirely laughable. The demeanour in the chamber—we are talking about laws that have real consequences for children's lives. The government is proudly locking up more kids.

No-one spoke against the bill. The member for Stafford wants me to note that everyone spoke on the bill. Who spoke against it? Not one of them. It is disgraceful. It is a joke to them—the jocularity of it all: 'We take it very seriously. We put on our stern faces when we are on the camera and then we will have a good old chuckle behind the scenes.' When the division bells are ringing, it is hilarious. It is a joke. You should be absolutely ashamed of yourselves.

Mr DAMETTO: I could not listen to the member for Maiwar's contribution and not stand up to speak on behalf of the victims, who need stronger legislation in Queensland. The fact is that these children have been given a hall pass for far too long.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Hinchinbrook, there is an automatic cut-off for the bill at this particular juncture, so I need to put the question.

Division: Question put—That clause 15, as read, be agreed to.

Resolved in the affirmative under standing order 106(10).

Clause 15, as read, agreed to.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, under the provisions of the resolution of the House and the time allocated for this stage of the bill having expired, I will now put all remaining questions. The House must now consider all remaining clauses, schedules and any amendments for the bill circulated by the minister. I note that the minister's amendment No. 4 is outside the long title of the bill and therefore requires leave of the House. Is leave granted?

Leave granted.

Question put—That the minister's amendments Nos 2 to 5, as circulated, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendments agreed to.

Amendments as circulated—

2 Clause 23 (Amendment of s 240 (General options available on breach of order))

Page 20, line 13, '246A(2)'—

omit, insert—

246A(3)

3 Clause 25 (Amendment of s 242 (General options available to court before which child found guilty of an indictable offence))

Page 20, line 26, '246A(2)'—

omit, insert—

246A(3)

4 After clause 25

Page 20, after line 26—

insert—

25A Amendment of s 243 (Court may resentence child originally sentenced by lower court)

Section 243(2)(b) and (4)(b), 'section 246(1)'—

omit, insert—

section 246(2) or 246A(2)

5 Clause 28 (Insertion of new s 246A)

Page 22, after line 13—

insert—

(3A) For part 6, division 9, subdivision 4, an order mentioned in subsection (2) and made by a Childrens Court magistrate is a sentence order.

Division: Question put—That clauses 16 to 41, as amended, be agreed to.

Mr SPEAKER: The bells will ring for one minute.

Resolved in the affirmative under standing order 106(10).

Clauses 16 to 41, as amended, agreed to.

Third Reading

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

Mr SPEAKER: The bells will ring for one minute.

Resolved in the affirmative under standing order 106(10).

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

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

Motion agreed to.

MOTION

Referral to Legal Affairs and Safety Committee



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (5.37 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee (the committee) inquire into and report to the Legislative Assembly by 19 May 2023 on support provided to victims of crime and consider:

1. better coordination of the service system to ensure trauma informed, victim-centric and timely support for victims from the time of incident and throughout any investigation and prosecution, including:
 - (a) how the justice system, including the Queensland Police Service, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, and any services provided through court processes, supports victims;
 - (b) ensuring victims can be heard and included in an appropriate and timely way throughout any investigation and prosecution;
2. for victims of violence, the operation and effectiveness of the Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009 (the act), including:
 - (a) enhancements to provide better, trauma informed and more timely assistance and support to victims;
 - (b) mapping victims' experiences under the act to identify ways to reduce the burden on applicants;
 - (c) the Charter of Victims' Rights and complaints made by victims, to identify common themes to inform future training,
 - (d) existing government initiatives in relation to the act's operation and effectiveness; and
3. the benefits, disadvantages and resourcing impacts of any recommendations.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

HOUSING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 27 October 2022 (see p. 3144).

Second Reading



Hon. LM ENOCH (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (5.38 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I thank the Community Support and Services Committee for its report tabled on 16 December 2022 regarding the Housing Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. I also offer my thanks to those who made submissions to the committee and those who appeared as witnesses as part of the committee's inquiry. Today I am pleased to table the government's response to the committee's report.

Tabled paper: Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 24, 57th Parliament—Housing Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, government response [\[323\]](#).

The Housing Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 supports the Palaszczuk government's commitment to ensure vulnerable Queenslanders have access to safe and secure housing. In September last year the Premier convened a housing summit bringing together key government and non-government stakeholders to tackle one of the biggest challenges facing our state, as it is right across Australia. The summit resulted in a number of significant outcomes, including a \$1 billion boost in funding for the Housing Investment Fund—now a \$2 billion fund and the first of its kind in Queensland—and a \$5 million boost to the Immediate Housing Response Package, bringing the total investment to \$26 million, to support households in need of immediate assistance.

In addition, the government committed to provide \$500,000 seed funding to Homes for Homes, an independent, not-for-profit social enterprise established by the *Big Issue* street magazine. It generates private sector funds to invest in social and affordable housing projects by securing voluntary donations from landowners, including property developers, upon sale of a participating property. This bill will amend the Housing Act 2003 and the Housing Regulation 2015 to enable the Homes for Homes donation deed model to operate in Queensland. This initiative will increase private sector investment to help boost the supply of social and affordable housing in our state. These amendments are another step towards addressing the extraordinary market conditions we are facing nationwide which are causing unprecedented pressures on the housing market.

Under the Homes for Homes model, landowners and property developers can voluntarily enter into a donation deed to make a tax deductible donation, generally 0.1 per cent of the sale price of their property, at the time of sale. In other jurisdictions Homes for Homes uses a caveat on the land title of a participating property to remind selling property owners to make the voluntary donation under the donation deed. Queensland's land titling law does not support the use of caveats in this way. However, a similar outcome can be achieved through use of an administrative advice.

The bill inserts a new division into the Housing Act to allow a non-profit organisation prescribed under the regulation, in this case Homes for Homes Ltd, to require the Registrar of Titles to record an administrative advice noting the existence of a charitable donation deed on a land title's record. A charitable donation deed is defined in the bill as a deed entered into by a non-profit organisation and the registered owner of a lot under which the owner agrees to a donation from the proceeds of the sale of a lot and the non-profit organisation agrees to use the proceeds to provide or to assist an entity to provide a social housing service or to otherwise increase the supply of social and affordable housing in Queensland.

This definition ensures that funds raised by Homes for Homes Ltd in Queensland stay in Queensland. The administrative advice notifies people dealing with the land that the owner is party to a donation deed and provides a reminder of the donation to the landowner when the land is sold. If they wish, the buyer can leave the home in the initiative and enter into their own donation agreement with Homes for Homes. The administrative advice does not create any obligations on a property owner and does not prevent a person from registering an interest in the lot, exercising their rights under a registered interest or releasing or surrendering a registered interest. An administrative advice can be removed at any time by request of either party to the charitable donation deed. These changes will enable Homes for Homes to operate in Queensland as it does in other jurisdictions.

This bill also progresses important reforms to the Retirement Villages Act 1999 to increase the transparency, accountability and consistency of financial reporting in retirement villages. These reforms and subsequent amendments to the Retirement Villages Regulation 2018 will deliver on the government's commitment in the Queensland Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021-2025 to finalise implementation of retirement village reforms to village financial statements. Importantly, the bill inserts a new object into the Retirement Villages Act to strengthen its purpose and maintain public confidence in Queensland's retirement village industry by enhancing financial transparency and accountability. To achieve this objective the bill introduces new consumer protections and clarifies and strengthens existing provisions in the act on financial reporting. These commence on assent. It also creates a new regulation-making power for the form and content of prescribed financial documents; namely, village budgets for funds for general services, maintenance and capital replacement, quarterly and annual financial statements, audit reports and quantity surveyor reports. An amendment regulation will be made after passage of the bill, following consultation with key stakeholders. The bill increases access to draft budgets and quantity surveyor reports for all residents of a village and will apply from 2023-24 financial year budgets and corresponding quantity surveyor reports used to prepare the capital replacement and maintenance reserve fund budgets.

This significantly increases the transparency of village operations and facilitates the participation of residents and the residents committee in the budget process and affairs of the village in line with the objects of the act. The bill provides for quantity surveyor reports to be given to the department annually and go on the public register. It also clarifies that the audit report must be included with the annual financial statements given to residents and the department and the public register.

The bill also clarifies the operation of the capital replacement fund as intended under the act which is to protect residents' interests in this village trust fund for capital replacement over the long term. It will strengthen and ensure compliance across all operators concerning their obligations to have regard to the quantity surveyor report when preparing the capital replacement fund budget, fix a reasonable amount for the capital replacement fund contribution for the financial year and accumulate an appropriate proportionate share of amounts for anticipated major expenditure over the next nine years and pay that contribution into the capital replacement fund each financial year from the operator's own money. The bill clarifies that the operator must carry forward any surplus or deficit into next year's budget and take this into account before fixing the total general services charge.

The bill also provides for the chief executive to make and publish guidelines to assist persons to comply with the act and includes a definition for quantity surveyor. Several new and amended penalty provisions will ensure a consistent and proportionate approach to offences for operator noncompliance which will include complying with the regulation for financial documents when it comes into force.

The proposed amendment regulation may include new financial requirements, such as those exemplified in the bill about accounting standards and principles, the presentation and types of information in budgets and financial statements, shared expenses with other entities and disclosure notes to increase transparency about how resident charges and operator contributions are fixed, related party transactions and liabilities to former residents.

As I have stated, there will be ongoing consultation with key stakeholders about the detailed requirements in the regulation. We will ensure a reasonably timed and smooth transition to the new regulation requirements, noting that they will deliver benefits of increased transparency and accountability well into the future. These improvements in financial transparency and accountability are necessary and important to residents as they make a significant initial financial investment to move into a village, pay ongoing fees to live in the village and exit fees when they leave. The bill we are debating today will deliver the adoption of best practice financial reporting, reduce disputes about financial matters and balance the interests and views of operators and residents.

The committee recommended the bill be passed, along with eight other recommendations. I note the committee's acknowledgement that most stakeholders were in support of the amendments that enable the operation of the Homes for Homes donation deed model in Queensland. The report also acknowledges a range of stakeholder views on the retirement village amendments in the bill. Several recommendations refer to ongoing consultation with key stakeholders about the next stages of the work to implement the financial reporting reforms. The government fully accepts six of the nine recommendations from the committee and partially accepts two recommendations. One recommendation is not supported, and the rationale for that is outlined in the government response.

I welcome the committee's recommendations to ensure clarity with respect to the lodgement and removal of an administrative advice provided for by the Housing Act amendments. The government accepts the intent of recommendation 2 to clarify the definition of 'party' to a charitable donation deed to ensure that a registered owner of a property can remove an administrative advice even where they are not a party to the donation deed. The government does not consider it necessary to clarify the definition of 'party' to achieve this outcome. However, I will move amendments during consideration in detail to ensure that either a registered owner or a party to a charitable donation deed is able to remove the administrative advice. With respect to the remainder of recommendation 2, the government does not consider it necessary to make changes to the bill. The government considers that the process and evidentiary requirements for the lodgement and removal of the administrative advice will be made clear in the forms and instructions provided on the Titles Queensland website and in the Land Title Practice Manual.

The government accepts recommendation 3 of the committee's report and will ensure that community messaging by government about the process for lodging and removing an administrative advice and the voluntary nature of the donation deed will be clearly communicated. The government also accepts recommendation 4, proposing minor drafting corrections to the definition of a 'charitable donation deed'. I will move amendments during consideration in detail to achieve that.

I also welcome the committee's recommendations emphasising the importance of continuing to consult with key retirement village stakeholders on the drafting of the proposed amendment regulation, developing guidelines under the act and transitional arrangements and implementation of the reforms. The department will continue to consult with representative groups for village operators, residents, seniors and legal groups through the Housing Legislation Consultative Group.

The Australian Institute of Quantity Surveyors will also be consulted regarding any regulation and guidelines for quantity surveyor reports for capital replacement and maintenance. Further stakeholder consultation will enable careful consideration of the detailed financial reporting requirements to be contained in the proposed regulation, including transitional provisions and realistic commencement time frames. This recognises both the complexity of this work and the need for clear, appropriate and workable financial reporting requirements across the whole of the Queensland retirement village industry that will deliver on the objects of the bill. In addition, the department will take a supportive and capacity-building approach with operators and residents to assist with understanding and implementing the new reporting requirements. Smaller, standalone and regional operators will particularly benefit from the department's approach and accompanying financial guidance material.

The government does not support amending the definition of 'quantity surveyor' in the bill but acknowledges the committee's intent to ensure the availability of suitably qualified quantity surveyors, especially in regional Queensland. The Retirement Villages Act requires operators to obtain yearly independent quantity surveyor reports for capital replacement and maintenance reserve funds for the

village for a 10-year period. These requirements for independent quantity surveyor reports are not new. The bill does provide an appropriate level of assurance to residents and operators that the quantity surveyors preparing these reports hold the required membership of the Australian Institute of Quantity Surveyors and, therefore, are subject to professional qualifications and standards, continuing education and a code of conduct.

The quantity surveyors' code of conduct contains provisions on conflict of interest and how these are to be managed with the client and other interested parties, including disclosure in reports and allowing parties to agree to continue with the service if the conflict cannot be removed or mitigated. This supports the bill's policy objectives of transparency and accountability and more appropriately deals with these issues than amending the definition in the bill in an attempt to narrow any likelihood of conflict of interest.

I am advised that in 2022 approximately 308 quantity surveyors held the required membership across Queensland, including in regional areas. If the bill is passed, my department will monitor any impacts of the availability of qualified quantity surveyors in regional areas.

In supporting the committee's recommendation to consider compliance measures regarding costs being passed onto residents, the department's compliance approach will ensure that any increased financial reporting costs are legitimate, justifiable, accounted for in budgets and financial statements, and allowed under the Retirement Villages Act. Under the act and retirement village model, residents pay a general services charge that covers costs such as the management and administration of the village, including staff costs and accountancy and audit fees.

The government does not intend to change this established model, noting that the act includes safeguards by setting out the requirements for fixing the general services charge each year, including allowable increases. However, operators may choose to meet any additional costs from their own operator funds given their genuine concerns expressed to the committee about passing on costs to residents.

Minor issues have been identified in the bill and I intend to move two amendments during consideration in detail to address those. The first amendment is to add the words 'in the State' to subsection (b)(ii)(A) of new section 941, which defines 'charitable donation deed'. This amendment will leave no room for doubt about the intent that funds raised in Queensland must be used in Queensland. The second amendment will ensure that the registered owner of a property that is subject to a charitable donation deed is able to remove an administrative advice even where they are not a party to the donation deed.

Once again, I thank the Community Support and Services Committee for their careful consideration of the bill. I thank all of the stakeholders who have participated in consultation processes and in so doing have made an important contribution to this bill. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Mander, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Coomera Connector



Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (5.56 pm): Again I rise in the House to highlight the disdain that the recalcitrant Labor government has for the Gold Coast and the unfathomable incompetence they have displayed in delaying further the alternative route to the M1, nominally called the Coomera Connector, by not properly doing a koala management plan to enable the project to be started sooner rather than later. Anyone who uses the M1 regularly would know that it is past its effective use-by date and an alternative route between Brisbane and the Gold Coast is required yesterday.

The alternative route has been canvassed for years. To hear reports that this government has failed to put in place appropriate protections for Queensland's favourite cute and cuddly state emblem, the koala, is nothing short of deliberate sabotage by delay and obfuscation of a project that is vital for the Gold Coast's economy and vital for the elimination of excessive fuel emissions caused by vehicles caught for hours in traffic jams on the chock-a-block M1. It smells of political interference to avoid the financial burden of implementing a desperately needed piece of Queensland infrastructure from a government that has maxed out its credit card and is hiding from a ratings agency downgrade that would further embarrass the Palaszczuk Labor government and replicate the infamous financial downgrade that the Bligh Labor government achieved before being cast from government in a record landslide in 2012.

It is a total embarrassment that the Palaszczuk government keeps crowing about the 2032 Olympic Games and the success that it will be, given the state of the most critical piece of infrastructure, the highway between Brisbane and the Gold Coast, the future home of the athletes village, and has failed to turn a sod on a viable alternative for traffic to the already fully congested M1 highway. To hear that the government has failed to properly protect, through appropriate planning, our much loved and environmentally threatened koala makes one question this government's commitment to build that important Brisbane-Gold Coast infrastructure.

Procrastination is the thief of time. Unless this government puts a time frame on the provision of the alternative to the M1 and commits to meeting that time frame, the project will stay on the never-never list until an LNP government is elected to fix the problem. Nothing has changed in the Labor Party's attitude to the Gold Coast since the Beattie Labor government delayed the Coolangatta bypass because of their protection racket for the then Labor member for Currumbin, Merri Rose. Bring on October 2024 to give Queenslanders the opportunity to get Queensland back on track. We need the M1 fixed straightaway and we need the government to start committing to put their hands in their pocket to get the road built.

Chinese New Year; St David's Neighbourhood Centre



Mr RUSSO (Toohey—ALP) (5.59 pm): Last time I was on my feet I spoke about the Chinese New Year celebrations in my electorate. I mentioned that the members for Bundaberg, Stretton, Mount Ommaney, Bundamba and Pine Rivers happily joined in the festivities. I table a photo of that occasion.

Tabled paper: Photograph depicting members of parliament celebrating Chinese New Year [\[324\]](#).

I wish everyone a happy Year of the Rabbit—a year full of prosperity and opportunities, a year full of engaging with your community.

I now would like to speak about a beautiful and wonderful organisation: the St David's Neighbourhood Centre. The St David's Neighbourhood Centre is a fabulous community support organisation based in my electorate. It is one of those centres that have formed across many communities in Queensland. These centres go above and beyond to provide support to those in need.

The St David's Neighbourhood Centre grew from humble beginnings. In the early 1980s, congregation members from St David's Uniting Church agreed that one of their missions was to reach out to their community. They formed a committee to work out where there may be a need. Congregation members went to the local community and connected with people at the local shopping centres. They interviewed them and drew up a list of the greatest needs in the community. They found that the most pressing need at the time was from local mothers keen to access part-time child care. With no government funding, the organisation turned to fundraising to provide the activities and programs to meet the locals' needs.

In the now widely and often repeated words of Kevin Carmody and Paul Kelly's song, from little things big things grow. In 1992 the neighbourhood centre eventually became eligible for government funding for occasional child care. This funding has since been followed by neighbourhood centre, aged-care and disability funding. The organisation has received one-off grants which have allowed it to expand the services, programs and activities it offers to the local community. I was invited to the recent St David's Neighbourhood Centre annual community celebrations. Each year the centre holds an annual celebration to discuss its annual report and also to say thanks to the many volunteers and staff who are the glue that keeps everything together.

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Infrastructure



Mr McDONALD (Lockyer—LNP) (6.02 pm): The 2032 Olympics will be a great thing for South-East Queensland and Brisbane, but my community questions whether it will see any legacy items from it. This is a wonderful opportunity to see the world looking at South-East Queensland. We want to make sure they have a great experience. There will be 10 years of investment leading up to the Olympics, but we want to see 10 years of legacy items, including tourism and infrastructure items, delivered during that time. I want to make sure that our community right across greater South-East Queensland actually enjoys something from these Olympics.

It would be remiss of me if I did not go back in time to 2015, when then Lord Mayor Graham Quirk and CEO Scott Smith rallied the councils of South-East Queensland to get behind a feasibility study for the Olympics. Many forget about the leadership shown by the council of mayors and the local government here in South-East Queensland. We need to respect that and see the wonderful legacy that they are going to leave.

I was part of the Lockyer council when Quirk and Smith came around and we were able to convince the state and federal governments to come on board. That is a great thing, and it is wonderful that the Olympics are going to be delivered here. I love the Olympic Games, the greatest show on earth. In fact, when I was young I had a poster from the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics with Carl Lewis on it. Members may not know, but I was a fair runner back in the day. Whilst I might have lost those talents, it is great to see South-East Queensland embracing the games.

Those in my community are concerned about some legacy items. It is all right to say that north and south might see infrastructure upgrades and passenger rail, but out to the west of South-East Queensland the Warrego Highway and the Brisbane Valley Highway need upgrades and we need fast passenger rail to Toowoomba. We want to see those projects and legacy items delivered for greater South-East Queensland. I was on hand when Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner addressed the Queensland Media Club the other day, calling for the state and federal governments to fast-track those infrastructure items. That will see legacy items delivered across South-East Queensland.

There are other issues. What if during the games we see some floods? What if during the games we see so much pressure put on our water security? Let's see water security delivered as well. I know that irrigators right across the Somerset and Lockyer would very much appreciate the additional water. People in all towns in greater South-East Queensland, let alone all those visitors who will come here, will need water to drink. It would be embarrassing if they could not get a drink.

Morayfield Electorate, Schools



Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (6.05 pm): My community is a very fortunate recipient of this government's commitment to planning for growth and delivering educational infrastructure of a high standard to support our outstanding teachers, teacher aides and school support staff in delivering a great start for the kids of the Caboolture-Morayfield area. I want to highlight some of the exciting developments which are happening in the education space, particularly from the point of view of planning for the future. I am very pleased that Minister Grace has been working very hard to ensure that communities such as Caboolture-Morayfield are high up on the priority list, because they are communities that deserve great educational facilities and are undergoing rapid population growth and density developments.

I am pleased to see that the education department is working on acquiring land in the Morayfield South area for a new primary school. In addition, as part of the Caboolture West interim structure plan, the department is working to secure—this is big stuff—land for four new primary schools and two new high schools. Talk about planning for the future! It is acquiring land now for six schools in the Caboolture West area. I am very proud of this government's commitment to planning for the future, keeping in mind that we need to ensure that educational facilities are located in appropriate locations close to communities so that kids can have good, easy access to schools and so that those schools are well placed to be strong contributors to the community.

We are also supporting the existing schools within the Caboolture-Morayfield area. I was very excited to see that the new learning spaces at Caboolture East State School have been finished—a commitment of over \$1.2 million. Work is almost finished on the refurbishment of the STEM classrooms at Morayfield East State School. We know how important it is to have our kids committed to STEM subjects and being competent in STEM, because it is one of the great opportunities of the future. Those facilities are almost finished. We have just awarded a tender for Morayfield State High School to receive almost \$20 million of new classrooms. Talk about a huge investment!

This government has a proud record of investing in world-class educational facilities so that our kids have a great start to learning and a great start to life. Once again, I commend Minister Grace for her strong commitment to ensuring communities such as Caboolture-Morayfield are noticed and receive attention.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Before I call the next member, I advise that the Speaker has given permission for the member for Lytton to wear a Gift of Life shirt during her adjournment speech.

Theodore Electorate, Roads



Mr BOOTHMAN (Theodore—LNP) (6.08 pm): I rise to speak about an important topic in my electorate of Theodore on the northern Gold Coast. In recent years we have seen massive development growth in and around the electorate. I asked a question of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads.


The data he sent back to me is quite alarming in terms of the massive increase in traffic volume in my electorate. A large number of individuals travel through my electorate from areas to the west, and this is putting a lot of strain on my local roads. For example, there is a lot more development around Yarrabilba. Those individuals are travelling across Mount Tamborine, which, with all due respect, is a mountain road not really designed for vast traffic volumes.

The increase in traffic on Tamborine Oxenford Road near Hayes Road is upwards of 21 per cent. Closer to Reserve Road the cars per day using that road in 2021 were 19,127. Interestingly though, the intersection upgrade that the Palaszczuk government did just before the last election at exit 57 has seen a decrease in traffic. The reason for that is that it is confusing for motorists so they stay away from it. As the *Gold Coast Bulletin* highlighted in an article recently, it is an example of what not to do when doing road design. Motorists are doing U-turns in the local pub car park so they can traverse the intersection. That is how ridiculous it is. It is an issue that we need to look at again. We need to fund a proper solution to exit 57.

We also need to fund solutions for making the roads safer across Tamborine Mountain, including Tamborine Oxenford Road. Just as importantly, Beaudesert Nerang Road, which is in the gorge that goes through the township of Canungra, has to be made safer as it is becoming busier. The statistics show that. We are looking at a 30 per cent increase in traffic from 2015 to 2021.

Canungra is a beautiful little township, as anybody who goes out there regularly would know. Now it is becoming more of a major thoroughfare. It is losing the small township feel, especially on the weekends when a lot of motorcycle riders and others go out there. This is certainly ruining the area. I say to the minister that we need to forward plan for road alternatives to these mountain roads, which are simply not capable of taking the traffic they are. We need to learn from the mistakes of exit 57 and build our roads properly.

Pine Rivers Electorate, Small Business Awards

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (6.11 pm): I am excited to rise tonight and talk about the 2023 Pine Rivers Small Business Awards, nominations for which have just recently opened. I am calling on all of our small businesses in Pine Rivers to get involved in this exciting opportunity. This year's awards are starting to hit their strides.

Nominations are now open and our awards will be held in Small Business Month. Despite only having the awards late last year, we are backing up. Some businesses are saying that they think it might be a bit too soon. I think it is never too soon to recognise the great contributions that our small businesses make in the community of Pine Rivers.

It is a great way for us to recognise and celebrate all of the wonderful small businesses that have their home in our community. All locals can get involved by nominating their favourite small business for an award. Nominations opened on 6 March and close on 31 March. The businesses with the most nominations in their category progress through to the next round. It is imperative that businesses encourage their customers to get nominating now.

The categories in this year's awards include: health and fitness; trade and services; beauty and hairdressing; cafes, bars and restaurants; retail and sales; and—this year at the encouragement of the member for Macalister we have new category—early childhood education. We are encouraging nominations for the new category. Community members can certainly nominate more than one small business and across a number of categories. At the close of nominations, those with the most nominations will then progress on to the finals. The finalist voting opens on 3 April and closes on 21 April at 12 pm. The awards are determined through popular choice. It is imperative that we get behind our great local businesses.

As I said, the awards coincide with Small Business Month. We are very much looking forward to welcoming our wonderful small business minister, Minister Di Farmer, to our community to provide the finalists and winners with their accolades.

Last year's wonderful small business category winners included Cloud Radiology, Pulse Vet Warner, 2 Chefs and a Cupcake, Twigs Toy Boutique, Simply Elegant and Mads Creation. There are an abundance of wonderful small businesses across our community. Already we have seen 784 nominations for the outstanding small businesses in our community. I encourage all locals to jump onto my social media pages and get the details so they can nominate their small businesses and let the community know what fantastic services dedicated small business owners and staff members are providing to our community each and every day.

General Practice



Dr MacMAHON (South Brisbane—Grn) (6.14 pm): In Queensland our primary healthcare system is in crisis. Nearly 40 years in, Medicare is failing. Queenslanders are waiting weeks to see a general practitioner, and that is if the GP in their town is even taking on new patients. Even where people can find a GP able to see them, they are paying hand over fist. Access to bulk-billing GPs in Queensland is becoming increasingly rare, leaving people to delay trips to the doctor. Combine this with inflation, stagnant wages and the skyrocketing cost of housing and people simply cannot afford a trip to the GP. The cost-of-living crisis is feeding directly into a healthcare crisis: with fewer and fewer people able to access primary care they are eventually ending up in our struggling emergency departments and hospitals.

Like patients, general practitioners have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic and now we are seeing a shortage of new GPs alongside too-low Medicare rebates, leading to GPs scrapping bulk-billing and charging patients higher out-of-pocket payments. Medicare rebates, which were frozen in 2013 by then Labor prime minister Julia Gillard, are still frozen today.

Recently we have learnt that Brisbane is the least affordable capital city for health care. Media reports this week showed that only 14 per cent of clinics surveyed offer bulk-billing, down from 32 per cent in 2018. Out-of-pocket costs for patients in mixed billing clinics have jumped by 13 per cent. Despite plenty of graduate doctors, we are seeing a severe GP shortage. Australia has a lot of doctors graduating each year—well above the OECD average—but medical and patient groups are warning that limited GP training opportunities, lower pay for GP registrars, higher patient loads and insufficient Medicare rebates are contributing to a GP shortage. The AMA has warned that by 2031 we will have a national shortfall of over 10,000 GPs. We need to incentivise these graduates to work as GPs, with pathways for training and opportunities to be employed by the state rather than being crushed by frozen rebates.

When our primary healthcare system fails, our entire health system goes with it. When people cannot get access to a GP or are delaying care, their health issues do not go away. Mental health issues do not go away. Physical health issues do not go away. Instead, people end up in emergency departments because they have not been able to access the health care they need.

Queenslanders need the state government to take some responsibility. In Tasmania, with a conservative government, in collaboration with federal Labor, they have started the first trial of a model where GP trainees are employed directly by the Tasmanian health service, working across hospitals, primary care practices and community health centres. Let us bear in mind that this was the original idea of Medicare—free universal health care provided by doctors employed by the state. The Greens have a plan for well-funded, state owned GP clinics right across Queensland, to increase the number of GPs in our system and to ensure patients across the state get the care they need.

The Gap State High School, International Women's Day



Ms BUSH (Cooper—ALP) (6.17 pm): My contribution tonight is to talk up one of the wonderful schools in my electorate. We have 18 schools that the electorate of Cooper hosts or where our families principally attend. In fact, many people move to the area for the wonderful schools that we have.


Tonight I would like to focus on one of those schools: The Gap State High School and its team, from Principal Anne McLauchlan to all of the educators, admin, cleaners, P&C, parents and, of course, the students who give this school the colour and movement that we love so much. I recently spoke to Ms McLauchlan about hosting an International Women's Day event at the school. Of course, one of the first partners to get involved in that was the Broncos, which is a great organisation to work with as a local member. Whenever I need help, whether it is to coordinate a clean-up effort or to speak at a school, the Broncos are always so supportive.

The Broncos coordinated for Ali Briggenshaw to come and speak at our International Women's Day breakfast. Ali's curriculum vitae is absolutely impressive. Ali grew up in a rugby family and played from a young age but faced a lot of adversity, including being told repeatedly that, despite going through a meritorious process, clubs felt they could not give her a spot on a team because there was not a career path for women in rugby and, because there was no women's rugby, it would not be fair for her to take a position from a boy who could go on to have a career. Fortunately, neither she nor her parents took this advice and Ali ended up being named as one of the five marquee players for the Brisbane Broncos NRL women's premiership team in 2018, and, in fact, was named captain of the side.

Ali has gone on to have such a stellar career with the Broncos since, and to have her speak to the young girls and women about defying expectations, following your passion and giving yourself permission to take up that space was really important. She had three points of wisdom she shared with us that have gotten her through her career, and I hope she does not mind if I share them with everyone here tonight. They were: be on time, wear your uniform and thank your teacher or coach. They are really simple messages but, as she said, it is about demonstrating the value of respect, and she has carried that with her throughout her career.

We also heard Irene Mengel speak. Irene is a young woman in her twenties who has the beautiful duality of being a lawyer by day while after-hours she co-manages the Aspire Gallery in Red Hill. Irene spoke to the audience about her role in challenging perceptions of what young women in business can do and the importance of mentors and role models for young women in navigating that tricky commercial space. I feel really blessed to be in a community that puts such a high value on supporting women to reach their fullest potential. I would like to place on record my thanks to Ali and Irene and the The Gap State High School for a fantastic initiative. We had about 150 people turn up for breakfast for the inaugural event, and I very much look forward to hosting it every year from now on.

Bonney Electorate, Spinal Cord Research


 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (6.20 pm): There is a real chance that paralysis, spinal cord injury, could be cured by research happening at Griffith University Gold Coast in my electorate of Bonney. I have visited the labs at the Clem Jones Centre for Neurobiology and Stem Cell Research a number of times, and tonight I want to acknowledge Professor James St John and Associate Professor Jenny Ekberg, who lead the team there. It is also being led by my good friend Dr Dinesh Palipana, who has a leading role in the clinical trial aspect of this. He is, of course, the first quadriplegic doctor in our state's history. He also is a qualified lawyer and medical researcher. There is not much he has not done. He clearly has a personal interest in making this succeed as well.

The way they are doing this is by using olfactory cells from the nose to repair the spinal cord. They use these cells, which are normally involved in your sense of smell, in a 3D printed nerve bridge. The cells help repair other parts of the nervous system by forming a glial bridge to hopefully restore neural connectivity. James says it is about helping people suffering from spinal cord injury to regain motor, sensory and autonomic function. It is all of the things that many of us take for granted. He says it is like breathing independently of a machine or regaining bladder and bowel function, or it could be the ability to regain function of a limb.

James was mentored by the recently passed Professor Alan Mackay-Sim, a giant of Griffith University who pioneered stem cell research and was the deserving recipient of Australian of the Year in 2017. He also had the most incredible moustache. The work that James and his team do every day is a testament to Professor Mackay-Sim. It is a fitting tribute to his legacy. I know that his decades of research will forever be remembered by what they achieve here.

I also had the great privilege of visiting Making Strides down in Burleigh. That is where the rehabilitation component of this trial comes to fruition, which is an essential part to help those cells make the connections they need. Over the weekend the main supporter of this trial, the Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation, held their gala ball, and I was honoured to sit at the Griffith University table there. The event raised a massive \$480,000, which was matched by Nicola and Andrew Forrest, meaning we got nearly a million dollars towards this clinical trial in one night. I did my small part: I bought a bone. That is what I have on my jacket; it is my vertebra pin. It is very confusing. A lot of people have asked me what it is, but it is a cross-section of a vertebra. I have checked with the researchers that it is the right way up. Madam Deputy Speaker, \$3.5 million is the amount they need to get this trial underway to get 10 people taking part, and this is what the future of our city looks like. It is medical care, it is research and it is innovation. This will put us on the world map.

Organ and Tissue Donation; DSQ Brew With a Crew

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (6.23 pm): I would like to thank the member for Bonney for speaking about that amazing research going on. Congratulations.

I am really delighted to be standing up here again this year with my Gift of Life T-shirt, and I thank the Speaker for letting me wear this. It is a really important program. Each and every one of us has an opportunity to participate in this sensational program, which is about organ and tissue donation. It can make a difference in a person's life. One donor can save up to seven lives. It is an opportunity for people

to really leave a legacy. It is a really great way to save people's lives. Having a conversation with the members of your family about becoming an organ donor is a worthwhile cause because it will make such a difference.

Last weekend on a really hot and muggy Sunday morning along the Esplanade we went for a walk together with the Gift of Life crew. There were about 100 who came for the walk. There were a lot of competing walks on that Sunday. It was really great to see so many people wanting to stop and have a chat and hear what the sea of flowers walking along the waterfront was about and what Gift of Life means. It is exactly that. I had the pleasure of meeting a couple of parents and a parent and a partner of a donor recipient, and the difference it has made in their lives and the lives of their family members is astounding. It is a really simple thing to sign up to register as a donor. All you need is your Medicare card, then go and visit Gift of Life or DonateLife and sign up. I would encourage all members here today to please do so. Engage with your communities, because it will make the world of difference. We need to have more people making donations.

Whilst the majority of Australians support organ and tissue donation, only one in three—or 36 per cent—are registered to be a donor, which is really low compared with the rest of the world. You have to opt in to be a donor. Please, I encourage you to do so. There are currently around 1,800 Australians on the waitlist for an organ transplant, so give it some thought.

I would like to finish on a completely different note. This morning I hosted Down syndrome Queensland for DSQ Brew With a Crew. It was a really great morning. Our local barista extraordinaire, Shay, whipped up coffees for all of the members of the House and staff. I acknowledge the great work DSQ does in supporting those in our community and their families who live with Down syndrome. The coffee can be bought either ground or whole beans, and it was really well supported by the wonderful Crema Coffee Garage.

The House adjourned at 6.26 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyd, 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