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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 30 March 2023

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THURSDAY, 30 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.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Gordon, Mr WJ



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, before calling the Premier, I wish to say that I was deeply saddened to learn about the passing of the former member for Cook Billy Gordon. I knew Billy before, during and after his time in this place. He was my colleague and my friend and I believe he brought to this place an authentic voice for First Nations people, for the Far North and for regional Queensland. I wish to place on record my condolences to his family here today: his partner, Olympia, sister Megan and niece Olivia and the wider family who could not make it here.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Gordon, Mr WJ



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.32 am): I move—

1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this State by the late William John Gordon, a former member of the Parliament of Queensland.
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.


William John Gordon was born in Innisfail in the early 1970s and identified as a Bar Barrum man from the western tablelands of Far North Queensland. In his first speech in this place in 2015 Mr Gordon spoke of his life experiences and how they had shaped him. He was, he said, an improbable politician. He had certainly worked in a variety of occupations over the years including as a canecutter, a bartender, a builder's labourer, a youth social worker, a cleaner, a public servant and in the airline industry. He had also served in the Australian Army as a member of the 51st Battalion Far North Queensland Regiment.

In 2013 Mr Gordon was selected by the Australian Labor Party to contest the federal electorate of Leichhardt in that year's federal election. While he was unsuccessful in his campaign against the incumbent Warren Entsch, his candidacy raised his profile in the region. Mr Gordon was subsequently selected by the ALP to contest the largely overlapping state electorate of Cook at the next state election, which was held on 31 January 2015. At that election Mr Gordon was able to successfully wrest the electorate of Cook from the LNP incumbent David Kempton thus helping the ALP to return to government.

Not since Eric Deeral's election as the first Indigenous member of the Queensland parliament in 1974 has this parliament had the honour of being joined by a First Nations person, and in 2015 the people of Queensland elected two such representatives, Mr Gordon and the now Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts, Minister Enoch. It is fitting that Mr Gordon represented the seat of Cook, which had been represented all those years ago by Mr Deeral.

As honourable members will know, matters relating to Mr Gordon that came to light shortly after he had been sworn in as a member of this House led to him sitting on the crossbench as an Independent member. He continued to serve the electors of Cook and this House. Mr Gordon also advocated for matters outside of his electorate. He was one of the few Broncos supporters in Far North Queensland and was passionate about protecting Minjerribah. Mr Gordon—Billy—left the parliament at the state election of November 2017 after having decided not to recontest his seat. I understand in recent times Mr Gordon had been working as the CEO of Indigenous Carbon Australia, a job which it is reported he really loved.

William John Gordon passed away on 25 November last year, sadly aged just 49 years and a funeral service to celebrate his life was held at the Mareeba memorial chapel on 17 December. I welcome Billy's partner, Olympia Little, his sister Megan Carpenter and her daughter Olivia, who join us in the public gallery today. I place on record the government's thanks for the years of service Mr Gordon 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 Mr Gordon's family and friends.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.35 am): The death of a former member of this House at a relatively young age is a stark reminder of the fragility of human life. It makes us realise we never know exactly how much time we have to complete those tasks we regard as important. I did not have the opportunity to serve as a member of this House when Billy Gordon was the member for Cook so, sadly, I have no personal insights to convey. Through a combination of circumstances his time here was brief. However, whatever those circumstances, he was driven by a desire to serve his community, one which faced a unique combination of geography, isolation and social challenge.

In his first speech after his election in 2015, Mr Gordon outlined his employment history and how it impacted his outlook. He said—

My life experiences have shaped me and my view of the world. I have had blistered hands and an aching back from swinging a cane knife in cane fields in Far North Queensland. I have pulled pots of beer and listened to locals discuss life and bush politics in Normanton's famous purple pub. I have learnt true mateship from proudly serving as a member of the 51st Battalion Far North Queensland Regiment. I have worked as a builder's labourer, youth social worker, a cleaner and been a public servant.

Billy Gordon, who contested Leichhardt for the Labor Party in 2013, drew his political inspiration from two diverse politicians: Eric Deeral, the first Indigenous member for Cook and member of the National Party, and Bill Eaton, the Labor member for Mourilyan from 1980 until 1992. Their commitment to their communities pointed the direction in which he saw his political journey proceeding. He said—


I will serve the families in Far North Queensland.

...

... regardless of who they are and what political party they support.

He saw the great challenges in Cook being the need for health services, transport infrastructure, a reduction in cost-of-living pressures, support for local industries including tourism, protection of the environment and a reduction in high levels of youth unemployment. Billy Gordon will be remembered as a member who did his utmost to represent the interests of the people of his electorate, and his advocacy of the sugar industry in this House is proof of that.

We welcome his partner Olympia, his sister Megan and niece Olivia to the House today as we acknowledge his service. Billy Gordon's support for his community was genuine. We extend our condolences to his entire family and offer support to this motion.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure) (9.37 am): I rise to express my condolences on the passing of Billy Gordon. To be honest, I cannot recall if I knew Billy before we were both elected in 2015 but, like most of the class of 2015, we bonded quickly, sharing experiences and laughs and every now and then very occasionally a drink over those long sitting nights.

Billy Gordon's time in this place was short, but his contribution was historic. Billy leaves a complex legacy, one of being a champion for the working class and for First Nations people, a Bar Barrum man and an improbable politician; a man chased throughout his life by the ghosts of his past—ghosts shared by all too many Aboriginal people, ghosts that ultimately chased him out of this place after just one term. I might attribute that to intergenerational trauma or to disadvantage, but he never did. He never blamed anyone but himself.

The former member for Cook was a trailblazer, one of just two Aboriginal people to join that class of 2015, the first since 1974. We cannot overstate the significance to those communities in the cape and in Torres Strait of having a First Nations man represent them here. He came to this place out of a deep frustration that voices like his were not represented at the table.


We have come a long way, with the member for Algeester thankfully still at that table and the member for Bundamba now at that table and, of course, Billy's successor the member for Cook. I know how proud he was that the seat of Cook was returned to Labor hands in 2017 and of what the now member for Cook has gone on to achieve since then. He dearly wanted to make sure that his actions did not cost this state a Labor government.

Elected in 2015, he led the campaign in the state's far north against privatisation, recognising the enormous contribution that state-owned energy assets make to rural and remote communities. He, and the places he represented, knew that a Labor government would make a world of difference for their people. Despite serving most of his first term in office on the crossbench, he was a Labor man and he loved our party for its ability to do good, to deliver better outcomes for people in rural and remote Queensland and to empower First Nations Queenslanders like him to close the gap. His dedication to the Labor Party was on full display when in 2017 he elected to stand down, rather than act as a spoiler to the new Labor candidate. Lesser people in similar circumstances could have acted like a wrecker. He could have secured himself a better financial outcome at the very least. Members might recall that some did but instead, he worked constructively with us to deliver for his community. He supported this government from 2015 until his passing and we are grateful for his support that allowed us to deliver for Queenslanders.

Members will recall that that term in minority government was occasionally wild. As environment minister I passed a lot of laws that term and every one of them relied on some combination of government votes, Billy's vote, the now members for Traeger or Hill, or the then member for Nicklin to achieve a majority. Sometimes they were difficult policy positions, with opposing views in Cook and amongst First Nations people. Things like ending sandmining on Minjerribah or ending broadscale land clearing of native forests on the cape meant meeting regularly with Billy, explaining a policy position, asking for his support, then desperately hoping he would come to vote when the bells rang at 1 or 2 am. I can remember looking up at Billy's seat up there, seeing him rush in at the last moment—mostly—looking for some sign or signal on his face that he was voting my way, knowing that he was a man of his word and that he would, except for that one night when he did not. Despite multiple conversations and text messages, there was that one night when late one night Billy voted down a government bill. He protested after the division that he had made a mistake and maintained that position with me personally afterwards and even for years later when I ribbed him about it. That particular bill was so vexed in his community; it was probably the hardest thing I asked him to vote for. I never blamed him about whether it was truly a mistake or not.

Billy was a loud voice against racism and bigotry who called out the unholy alliance that trades in fear, ignorance and hate. At his passing, he was the CEO of Indigenous Carbon Australia. I understand it was a job he deeply loved and was passionate about. He continued to serve First Nations people by caring for country and protecting our environment. His age—only 49—highlights the extreme disadvantage that First Nations Queenslanders still face. They live shorter lives, have worse health outcomes, and face struggles that most of us could only imagine. Billy was a powerful voice for his community and there was never any doubt about whose side he was on. He understood better than most the complex issues at play in Indigenous communities and he always advocated for community-led solutions.

Billy's legacy lives on as we stride towards truth, towards treaty and towards having an Indigenous Voice in the Australian parliament. This is a path our state would not be on if the people of Cook had not elected Billy Gordon in 2015. A treaty will empower First Nations people to deliver community-led solutions to the issues they face. It will give a voice to injustice and allow Queensland to right our wrongs. His legacy is much bigger than the nearly three years that he spent here; it will live on. I acknowledge Billy's partner Olympia, his sister Megan and niece Olivia, who are joining us in the gallery today. Vale, my mate, William John Gordon.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (9.44 am): I rise to contribute to the condolence motion, as moved by the Premier, in relation to the former member for Cook William John Gordon. In doing so, I wish to formally acknowledge the life and service of Billy Gordon. Born in Innisfail, Billy Gordon was a Bar Barrum man from the western Atherton Tablelands in Far North Queensland. He was proudly a Far North Queensland all of his life. As has been recognised and acknowledged, Billy Gordon was an important voice for First Nations peoples, not only in the Queensland parliament, but indeed prior to his

election and throughout his post-parliamentary career. I particularly acknowledge and highlight Billy Gordon's former service with the 51st Battalion in Cairns, an Australian Army Reserve battalion which Billy Gordon proudly noted consisted of approximately 30 per cent of persons of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage.

In relation to Billy Gordon's service as an elected representative, I know that prior to being elected to the Queensland parliament Billy Gordon first ran for the federal seat of Leichhardt in 2013 against the then successful Liberal candidate Warren Entsch. Just two years later Billy Gordon ran for the state seat of Cook and, together with many serving elected representatives on both sides of the House, entered this House as a part of the 55th Queensland parliament. Billy Gordon served for a term as the elected representative for the state seat of Cook, initially as the Australian Labor Party representative until 30 March 2015 and then serving the remainder of his term as an Independent.

Whilst various and complex issues were well canvassed at the time as to his departure from the Australian Labor Party, Billy Gordon made it clear that he was determined to honour his commitment to his constituents in fully serving out his elected term. In doing so, he honoured his commitment to his constituency. Notwithstanding political party differences, I and all members of the Queensland parliament acknowledge Billy Gordon's commitment and advocacy as an elected representative who fought and advocated on the issues that were important to his constituents—issues that included youth unemployment in regional Far North Queensland; the need for major infrastructure project delivery; and, as he called it, the 'unacceptable cost of living pressures' that these communities face.

Billy and I had a number of conversations about various health and specialist outreach services in many communities within Cape York and Far North Queensland. Billy made overtures to me in my previous roles as a former president of the Rural Doctors Association and the Australian Medical Association. He made those overtures to discuss specialist medical outreach services, particularly as they relate to renal dialysis, chronic heart disease, as well as multidisciplinary services to deal with other health conditions such as diabetes and obesity. He had a real passion and commitment about understanding the health needs of his communities and of First Nations Queenslanders. The insightful conversations that we had certainly indicated to me, as a fellow parliamentarian, his advocacy and dedication to closing the gap, particularly with respect to health initiatives, and achieving real and meaningful improvements for First Nations Australians. Billy had an appreciation of the risks of existing and emerging infectious diseases and some of the shared issues that exist between Far North Queensland communities, islands in the Torres Strait and some of our closest neighbours such as Papua New Guinea.

In reflecting on his achievements on the eve of the 2017 state election, Bill Gordon stated that he was 'extremely proud' of a number of issues he had championed, including the following as reported by the *Guardian*—

... fighting for cane farmers' greater say in selling their sugarcane, for greater community control of primary health care in Cape York and his support for the agricultural industry by opposing the tree clearing ban.

I am not a religious person but there is something I find deeply confronting about death—it is probably the finality of it—but we celebrate life and the extraordinary individuality of it. I place on record my formal condolences to Billy Gordon's partner, to his family in the gallery, his friends and his community. Vale, Billy Gordon.



Hon. LM ENOCH (Algerie—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (9.48 am): I rise to contribute to the condolence motion for the former member for Cook Billy Gordon after his sudden passing on 25 November 2022 at the age of just 49. I acknowledge his family who are with us in the gallery, his beautiful partner Olympia who he described to many people as the love of his life and his soulmate, his sister Megan and Billy's beautiful little niece Olivia. I also acknowledge Billy's many family members and friends, who are not here today, but who are no doubt still living with the great grief of his loss.

William John Gordon or, as we all knew him, Billy Gordon, was a proud Bar Barrum man from the western tablelands of Far North Queensland. When he was elected to the Queensland parliament he was only the second Aboriginal man to ever enter this House—something I know he and many in the community took great pride in but at the same time understood the immense responsibility and expectation such an achievement brought with it.

I first met Billy almost a decade and a half ago during the early days of the establishment of the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples. We were moving in similar circles at the time and had the chance to be involved in a number of big and important conversations. I remember his humour and

confidence, his wide network—I mean, this bloke seemed to know everybody—and his ability to switch codes so fluently, but my lasting memory of that time of first meeting him was his sharp understanding of policy, his passion for social justice and the articulate nature of his contributions—something that of course we saw in this House.

We were both involved in politics at the time. He was helping out as the Mount Isa EO when Betty Kiernan was the local member. I remember us talking about the potential paths to parliament, not imagining for one minute that either of us might have the honour to serve in this place one day. We certainly could not have imagined back then that in 2015 we would share a history-making moment when we entered parliament at the same time.

When Billy took his seat in this House, it was the first time in a generation after the trailblazing Uncle Eric Deeral served as the member for Cook in the 1970s that a First Nations person represented that seat and the first time in history that two First Nations peoples occupied places in this House. Now of course in the seat of Cook we have Cynthia Lui, the first Torres Strait Islander person to ever be elected to any parliament in Australia, and I can say that I know Billy was very proud to have supported Cynthia and play his part in making history once again. Of course, with Lance McCallum, the member for Bundamba, we now have three First Nations peoples in this parliament at the same time.

A growing First Nations caucus is something I know Billy was proud to see emerging and something that we talked about right from the start. He was always thinking about how to engage more First Nations peoples in democratic and parliamentary processes as a means to progress important social and economic issues across Indigenous communities.

As the only two First Nations peoples in this place after the 2015 election, Billy and I shared a special bond. We both understood the extra responsibilities that we carried and the weight of these responsibilities, but for Billy when he joined the crossbench during a hung parliament where his vote was a defining one he carried an extraordinary amount of responsibility—in many ways, more than anyone else in this place. The pressure on him at that time was physically visible. He was supported by family and friends, and I do want to acknowledge in particular Kerry Klimm and Jerome Pang who together with Billy formed a tongue-in-cheek group that they called the 'Gordon Australia Party', or GAP for short, so you can imagine the kinds of jokes about 'closing the GAP' and all of those things. There was a lot of fun and laughter in that group, let me tell you, and many of us were allowed to be visitors to the 'Gordon Australia Party' on occasion and there are way too many stories to share in this House, some probably not even appropriate.

There should never be a question of Billy Gordon's absolute passion for his community, his place in the history books and his contribution to this place. In his maiden speech Billy said when Uncle Eric Deeral was elected as the member for Cook in 1974 he was just a one-year-old. He said—

I was born at a time when my skin colour would determine the level of education I would receive, the employment opportunities that would be available to me and even the quality of health that I would enjoy. I was born to parents who were battlers. My father worked hard as a canecutter and on the railways and my mother was a hardworking nurse. Indeed, I was born working class.


Billy never strayed from his working-class roots, representing the people of Cook with authenticity and a deep commitment to First Nations peoples. His legacy includes great government investment in the seat of Cook and, importantly, the passing of critical, impactful legislation during his term of parliament. When the Palaszczuk government ended sandmining on Minjerribah, Billy supported the government from the crossbench and said in his speech—

... I have listened to many people, particularly the Quandamooka people. The Quandamooka people have bled long enough. They have cried long enough. Their wait is now over. Today, the Quandamooka people will no longer be beggars at the gates of their own kingdom. Rather, they will be masters of their own dreaming.

I for one as a Quandamooka woman thank him every day for those words. Of course, in 2016 he voted with the government to amend adoption legislation in Queensland in order to make it legal for same-sex couples to adopt—both life-changing legislation.

By chance I ran into Billy just 10 days before his passing. He was still that person I had met over a decade ago. His humour and confidence were on point, his passion for First Nations people was unchanged and his articulate contributions to complex issues was at the fore, as it always was. We talked for a short time and said our goodbyes, promising to catch up soon. However, when I went to call him a couple of days later I soon realised that none of the five numbers I had for him were actually still active—honestly, I have never known someone who changed his number as often as he did—but those words of goodbye obviously broke my heart when I heard of his passing just those few days later.


With Billy's passing in November last year we acknowledge the loss of a man who was deeply committed to serving his community and every day navigated a complex environment to do just that. I join with the House in offering our condolences to his family and to his friends, of which there are many. What I want to say for Billy is that I hope from my heart he rests with our ancestors and with his ancestors and that he will not be forgotten in this place and he will not be forgotten in my family. Vale, Billy Gordon.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (9.56 am): I rise to offer my condolences to Billy's family and loved ones, especially Olympia. I rise to speak as a fellow crossbencher back in 2015 and on behalf of the member for Traeger and the member for Hinchinbrook. In 2015 there was a hung parliament. Labor had 43 seats and Peter Wellington made it 44. It needed 45 to govern and Billy ended up on the crossbench. Billy became one of the most influential people in the parliament, if not across Queensland, and every sector was pulling him this way and that way. Everyone wanted a piece of Billy. He had a massive task, a huge responsibility. The KAP was with him many times in the trenches. There were many heavy-duty decisions that were made and I really believe that while Billy had many battle scars he got through mostly on his own ability.

There were three things that best describe and sum up Billy. Billy was in high demand, as I mentioned before, and there were many interest groups that were trying to meet with the KAP and they would always say, 'Can you get Billy?' There was one instance where Billy told us that one of these big corporate bodies wanted to meet up with him to discuss a bill before the House. He said that they offered to shout him to the finest restaurant in Brisbane. He was told that there would be a five-course meal, lobster, all the cocktails, you name it—'This is all yours, Billy,'—and Billy said, 'I've got no problems with meeting, but I'm just happy to have a pie or a burger. That'll do me.'

Billy was also cunning. He could sniff out which way the political wind was blowing and one minute we would think, 'He's with us,' but then we would look over and there he was sitting on the other side. However, there were a couple of things on which Billy would never compromise, and they were things that were very close to his heart and family.

The KAP introduced the sugar marketing bill which gave marketing and arbitration rights to the sugarcane farming industry. There was a lot of pressure on Billy to oppose that bill. One of the milling companies had spent \$25,000 on an ad in the *Courier-Mail* at that time. This was pure, grassroots stuff and I never forgot what Billy said. He said, 'My father cut cane. I cut cane. This is a good bill. It looks after the farmers and the workers. I will back the bill.' That became the eighth private member's bill that was ever passed in Queensland's history. I believe that many Queenslanders are better off after the three years that Billy served in this parliament. Rest in peace, Billy. God bless.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (10.00 am): The Members' Honour Board in the corridor outside this chamber records 'William John Gordon'—alongside each of us and alongside the grand sweep of history—as a member of the Legislative Assembly. It records him there fairly anonymously but, as we have heard, his election here was historic and notable.

Those of us of the 55th Parliament got to know Billy—not 'William John Gordon' but 'Billy'. During those three years of minority government we all worked together closely and often—extended periods of time too, I might note. As the Leader of the House at the time I saw a lot of the way the 55th Parliament worked—in fact, a lot that others, even those in this House, did not see. Those were difficult times, those were complex times and they were not always very nice times. I do want to extend my condolences to Billy's family, including his partner Olympia, his sister Megan and his niece Olivia here in the gallery and also, as the member for Algeester said, to all of his very extensive network of friends right across Australia and beyond.

Elected in elation on 31 January 2015 as a member of the Australian Labor Party, by the time of his first speech 17 weeks later Billy Gordon rose as an independent member from the crossbenches. He had stood as a candidate in both state and federal elections before his success in 2015. The moment of his first speech should have been a moment of great pride and celebration. It was, of course, to an extent, but it was somewhat tinged with sadness, with lost opportunity and personal reflection. His speech was all the more remarkable for the note of hope that it finished on. Quoting the great Queensland poet and aunty of the member for Algeester, Oodgeroo Noonuccal, Billy recited—

See plain the promise.

Dark freedom-lover!

Night's nearly over

And though long the climb

New rights will greet us
 New mateship meet us
 And joy complete us
 In our new Dream Time.

To our fathers' fathers
 The pain, the sorrow;
 To our children's children
 The glad tomorrow.

It is a poem called *A Song of Hope*. Standing at the edge of a career of potential loneliness, his pathway struck and changed, Billy found a well of hope to draw on. There was a strength inside him, just as there was great weakness as well. Those of us who knew him understood the depth of his complexity and his contradictions—a quick wit, a humble reflection, but clearly a life marked with demons as well. Billy was used to adversity, but I have to be honest: we bonded over adversity. I could relate to, as the Premier said, his experience as a Broncos supporter surrounded by Cowboys supporters.

Reflecting on my own experiences with Billy Gordon, but also on how we all behaved in the 55th Parliament, how his life started and how it ended, for me the sadness comes from the commonness of Billy's story. It is a tragedy rendered sadder not by its uniqueness but by our ability to see it replicated by so many others. We know the story of his formative teenage years; we know the statistics that make his activities less abnormal than societal. I know a little of what pained his body in the final years also pains many of his Indigenous brothers and sisters. Indigenous Australians are twice as likely to suffer from chronic liver disease, they are four times as likely to die with chronic kidney disease, they are more likely to have the disease younger and they are less likely to report and seek treatment.

Billy's story is of hope dashed but retained; it is of faith extended and let down; it is of opportunity presented and lost. Billy was a complicated complex man, but he was in this place and achieved this height and he will be remembered by us. As you said, Mr Speaker, he was an authentic voice in this parliament. As the Deputy Premier said, Billy was Labor. Billy finished his first speech by quoting Oodgeroo Noonuccal with *A Song of Hope*. I am going to finish the same way with an extract of *We are Going*—

We are the quiet daybreak paling the dark lagoon.
 We are the shadow-ghosts creeping back as the camp fires burn low.
 We are nature and the past, all the old ways
 Gone now and scattered.
 The scrubs are gone, the hunting and the laughter.
 The eagle is gone, the emu and the kangaroo are gone from this place.
 The bora ring is gone.
 The corroboree is gone.
 And we are going.



Mr NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (10.05 am): I liked Billy Gordon. I liked dealing with him and I liked talking to him and, possibly more than anyone on this side of the House, I had occasion to speak to him when I was opposition leader from May 2016 to the election in 2017. I reflected on whether I would say a few words today in respect to the condolence motion and I decided to do so because in a condolence motion we extend our sympathies and our condolences to those who loved Billy and those who are loved by Billy, and I welcome them to the House.

To speak to a condolence motion is not to excuse Billy, nor is it to sanctify him, it is to recognise the service that he provided to his people and to this place. It is a time to reflect on the complexities of someone like Billy and the struggles that he faced—and he did face many struggles. The brief history we have heard here today shows the struggles that he faced as a young man growing up in an area of undoubted disadvantage and prejudice at the time. He struggled against all of that but still managed to make a life for himself and succeed in many ways.

He came into this place with great hopes and expectations. I remember the day of his swearing in. The former member for South Brisbane was particularly happy to see him in this place, if I recall correctly, as well as other members. That was not to last long, because his history caught up with him in a very rapid way and the Premier acted in the way that she did and so we saw Billy join the


crossbench. I think Billy was ultimately very lonely there and had difficulty adjusting in the sense that he was a person who liked speaking to people. He enjoyed company. That was my impression when I spoke with him.

Like all good opposition leaders in a hung parliament where we sit until three in the morning, I decided to take as much advantage of that as I possibly could and spoke to him quite frequently. We had some notable successes. The great success we had was with the vegetation management legislation. Perhaps none were happier in this place than Andrew Cripps that night, as I remember it. That did not come about because Billy was not thinking about what mattered to the people of his electorate, it came about precisely because he was thinking about what mattered to the people of his electorate.

I have to say I thought we were going to have another moment of success amongst those all too brief successes that we enjoyed in that period of time on the sugar marketing bill that we debated when Billy came in and voted with us on the second reading speech. The then member for Ashgrove did not show up at that stage. I thought, 'We are going to get there!'. There was a recount on the second reading speech and again it failed and then on the third reading speech, for some reason—unknown to anyone, I think—Billy voted with the government. We won on the second reading, but we lost on the third reading, which is something that has plagued me ever since. As I always say to people who say they do not vote for you, 'It is never too late to change.'

In respect of those late-night votes, what I can say is that whatever you might think about the way Billy voted at least he always came in fully clothed. That was always bit of a benefit for those members who remember things which none of us will forget, unfortunately.

To remember some of the events of that very fraught period between 2015 and 2017 and to speak to this condolence motion is not to paint over the cracks of Billy's life and to say that he was without faults. Like all of us, he was with faults. Some of them were magnified and obviously most of them we know about, have heard about and have read about. That is also not to deny the essence of the person who was Billy and what he tried to achieve over a lengthy period. In that respect I join with other members in this place in offering my condolences to his partner, sister and niece, who are all here today.

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (10.10 am): I rise to contribute to the condolence motion. In 2013 I met Billy for the first time. As we have heard, he had nominated to run in the seat of Leichhardt. Back then I had tickets on myself and I thought that maybe I could do it too. I was quickly sat down by the Labor Party and told, 'No, we have a candidate and his name is Billy Gordon.' I went and found him and we became good mates. I helped him on that 2013 campaign. He was unsuccessful, but almost instantly he was preselected by Labor for the seat of Cook. Mr Speaker, as members would know, you, Rob Pyne, Billy and I went to that election as the Far North Queensland team. To this day I am interested to know whether I am the only member who has lost both of my neighbouring members of parliament from the party to the crossbench, but I can assure the House that it was not me.

Billy and I were good mates and we stayed good mates. As has been mentioned by many speakers, Billy had a huge task during that 55th Parliament when he went to the crossbench. Members who were here would know that there were lots of divisions and, as the member for Clayfield has said, some of those happened at 3 am and at other times. Billy controlled the balance of power on many of those votes. There was a huge load on him. As I am sure members of our current crossbench know, sometimes you can be in a meeting when the bells ring and you turn up in the House with no idea what the House has divided over. Suddenly you have a clipboard in front of you and you are asked to vote 'yes' or 'no'.

I was given a bit of task back in those days. Some of my colleagues on this side called me the 'Billy Whisperer'. It was my role to know where Billy was and to make sure that he got to the chamber and knew which way to vote. Billy sat up the back and I sat halfway along the chamber. Sometimes he would send me a text message saying, 'Brother, which way am I voting, yes or no? Sometimes I would say, 'I don't know. I've just got here myself.' On a couple of occasions I said, 'You're voting no. You should vote no. But then I would say, 'No, hang on! You're voting yes.' I do not think I was responsible for that vote that the member for Clayfield spoke about. I am pretty sure I was not responsible for that, but I think there were a couple of close calls.


I do recall when one of Anthony Lynham's bills, I think it was, was being debated very late at night. Billy wanted to go upstairs. Of course, back then we were told very strongly by our whips that we were not allowed to be above about the 6th level, or something like that, but Billy wanted to go upstairs. I received permission to go with him because we needed to know where he was as a division was imminent. We went up to the special room on level 22 where people liked to congregate. I was up there having a couple of quiet ales with Billy. He said, 'I'm going to the toilet. I'll be back in a sec.' He never came back. I think he went to bed. Suddenly, I was getting texts from the whips saying, 'Things are getting close.' I was bashing on Billy's door but he did not answer. I had to say, 'I've actually lost him. I can't find him. I don't know where he is.' Members may recall that night because suddenly, right at the last minute, the government changed the bill; we started debating the next bill. I did manage to find Billy a bit later on.

A few members have talked about the Minjerribah sand mining bill. The previous member for Stretton and I were part of the parliamentary committee that looked into that bill. We had a lot of consultation with Billy. He was very keen on that piece of legislation. He was very supportive of Minjerribah and that mining bill. I think that is one of his big legacies in this place.

The member for Algeester talked about phones. While she did that I quickly went into my phone and searched for 'Billy Gordon'. I can find six telephone numbers for Billy Gordon. There is 'Billy Gordon', 'Billy Gordon 2', 'Billy G', 'Billy Gordon newest', 'Billy Gordon private' and 'Billy Gordon private new'. I think he had more burner phones than in a Jason Bourne movie.

When we first came into this place and while they were still trying to sort out the accommodation, Billy was assigned the family apartment on level 3. On the first night in parliament, the member for Thuringowa and myself were down there. We were all getting to know new people and were having a bit of a yarn with Billy. There were sandwiches in the fridge. We were all hungry so we thought, 'Well, they must be for us.' I think there was a school group the next day that did not get their sandwiches. Billy always referred to it as 'sandwich-gate'. We would always have a good yarn about that. I received many representations from the GAP. There were a lot of jokes about the Gordon Australia Party.

In all seriousness, Billy was a good mate of mine. I miss him dearly. I went to his funeral with the members for Hill, Toohey and Cook. My condolences go to his family and friends.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (10.16 am): I rise to acknowledge and pay tribute to Billy Gordon. Billy was a proud Bar Barrum man from the western tablelands of Far North Queensland. Billy was just the third Indigenous parliamentarian to be elected to this place when he assumed office as the member for Cook in 2015. I am only the fifth. That is five out of the 1,295 members of both the Queensland Legislative Assembly and the Queensland Legislative Council or 0.038 per cent in 163 years of history. That is particularly poignant on a day like today when legislation was introduced into the federal parliament for a First Nations voice. It also makes Billy's contribution rare and special.

There is no doubt that Billy had been around the block more than a few times. He had a colourful and complicated past. I quote from his inaugural speech where Billy said—

My story and my life does not make for the typical member of parliament. I have no doubt that my life has been vastly different from most of my colleagues here in this place.

Never a truer word was spoken. I think we would all acknowledge that as human beings we are complex.

Billy was a strong supporter and advocate for the Kupai Omasker working group and their work, which led to the traditional Torres Strait Islander cultural practice of interfamily adoption being given legal force in this place in 2021. That was a proud moment and I am sure that Billy was very happy with his contribution.

As we have heard, Billy also ran as the Labor candidate for the federal seat of Leichardt in 2013. I would like to recount a fond memory that was shared with me by one of his campaign team—

Billy was obviously a real character who put his hand up to represent his people. He had a real affinity with people.

I remember he ran for the federal seat of Leichardt up in Cairns and we put up a corflute right in the middle of a busy intersection where hundreds and hundreds of cars would go past every day.

It was an amazing spot in the suburb of Manunda that has really gone ahead in a big way now.

The corflute was there for about one day—and it said 'Vote for Billy Gordon'.

We got up the next day to go and do some high-vis, and the corflute had been vandalised with red paint.

Unfortunately, a few vandalised corflutes can often be part of every campaign, it comes with the territory.

But this one was different.

When we got closer we realised that the bright red paint on the corflute said 'Ya better!'


So we left it there for the duration of the campaign—a corflute that said 'Vote for Billy Gordon—Ya better!'

And that summed up how passionate people were about Billy in his community and what he could do—and did do—for his people and his local community.

I want to thank Stuart for sharing that memory.


I recall after I was elected that Billy reached out to congratulate me and we shared a private moment. I was very grateful for that. I had the fortune of a chance encounter last year with Billy only weeks before he would pass away. I was with the member for Hervey Bay and we ran into Billy by chance. We took the opportunity to go together. We had a quiet beer and a catch-up. By that point, Billy had seen better days physically. He was not moving too freely but, as we sat and we shared time together, it was clear that Billy was still as sharp as ever and his brilliant wit was still shining through. I am incredibly grateful for that time that we were able to spend together.

A life cannot be measured by a contribution in this place. As human beings we are much more than that. Billy was a successful businessman and is survived by his family and his loved ones. I acknowledge his partner Olympia, his sister Megan, and Olivia who have travelled here to join us in the gallery today. He passed away aged just 49, 34 years less than the 83.2 year average of the male life expectancy in Australia, which is almost a lifetime in itself. We express and I express sincere condolences to Billy's family and his loved ones. Vale, William John Gordon. Gone too soon.

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (10.23 am): I rise to give my contribution to the condolence motion moved in the name of the Premier for William John Gordon. I want to acknowledge Billy's partner Olympia in the chamber today as well as his sister Megan and niece Olivia. When I first came to the House in 2017 to join my colleagues on the crossbench, the members for Traeger and Hill, I heard a lot of battle stories of their time in this House and the time of the hung parliament, but no other name rose to the top like Billy Gordon's when it came to talking about the things they were able to achieve with the help of Billy but also the friendships and the bond that they had created. The stories, though, were flamboyant and filled with fun—sometimes disappointment—but usually laughter. For someone who never served with Billy, I had envisioned this great Indigenous person in this House who was full of character. I would have really liked to have spent some time not only sharing a beer and time with Billy in the House but also getting to know him a little bit better.

I had the chance to meet Billy for the first time on level 5 of the breezeway when he was here one day visiting his old colleagues and comrades—he mentioned them—from the Labor Party when he was here by chance. I found a person who was humble and sincere. I felt that he was a charismatic person in front of me. I can understand how people would have enjoyed his company. In saying that, I felt that he was a man humbled by his experiences in this House and by the time he had spent serving his community. We have heard both sides of the House talk about some of the demons that followed Billy. As I finish my contribution, I always like to think about the good times of people but also there is a saying I like to live my life by—do not judge a man on what he has done, but what he has done to fix the things he has done. I think that is important.

Billy was one of those people who tried his best not only in this House but also to serve his communities and right the wrongs of his past. It would be remiss of me from a sugarcane-growing community not to acknowledge the hard work that Billy put in with the KAP in terms of sugar marketing legislation. Coming from a background of cane-cutting with his family, every canegrower in this state right now has the ability to access choice of marketing because of Billy's support of that legislation. Every canegrower in the state should acknowledge that. Vale, William John Gordon. May God rest his soul.

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (10.26 am): I rise to make my contribution to this condolence motion. I would like to extend my condolences to the extended family and friends of the former member for Cook, the late William John 'Billy' Gordon who passed away suddenly last November. I acknowledge Billy's partner Olympia, his sister Megan and also Billy's niece Olivia. Billy is a Bar Barrum man from the western Atherton tablelands in Far North Queensland. Billy was born in Innisfail, with family ties to Cape York and the Gulf of Carpentaria. Billy is a Far North Queenslander through and through.

During his maiden speech he spoke about his life experiences that shaped him—from having blistered hands and an aching back from swinging a cane knife to serving as a member of the 51st Battalion in the Far North Queensland Regiment. He was a builder's labourer, social worker, cleaner and a public servant. I never had the opportunity to work with Billy and my own personal interactions

with him were fleeting. Even though I did not know Billy personally, I feel like I have gotten to know Billy through my good friend, the former member for Stretton the late Mr Duncan Pegg, who wished more than anything for Billy and me to be friends for the obvious reason—he thought it would be cool to be friends with the former and current member for Cook!

Duncan described Billy as being kind, genuine and passionate with a great sense of humour. Duncan questioned my dry sense of humour, because it was nothing compared to Billy. It was Duncan who finally introduced us for the first time on the day he resigned from parliament. Billy was in the chamber to show support for Duncan. It was not the best of days after Duncan's resignation speech to parliament, but I could see how pleased Duncan was when he finally introduced the former and the current member for Cook in the corridors of parliament. That day I saw compassion. Duncan and Billy met in parliament and, even after Billy exited this place, they remained good friends. It did not surprise me one bit that Billy was in the chamber to support a dear friend in need.

Billy was my direct predecessor in this place. As well as a former member of parliament, Billy was a son, brother, father, uncle, partner and a friend to those closest to him. I was moved when I heard the news late last year and saddened mostly to hear of a life cut so short. Billy was elected into the Queensland parliament in 2015 and became one of two First Nations members of parliament elected. The other was the honourable Leanne Enoch. Following in the footsteps of the late Mr Eric Deeral, Billy made history by becoming one of three First Nations MPs ever elected to the Queensland parliament and the second First Nations person to be elected to represent the Cook electorate.


In the history of the Queensland Legislative Assembly, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders have the lowest representation in this House. The late Mr Eric Deeral was the first Aboriginal man elected to state parliament and Billy followed in his legacy. I remember back in 2015 how overjoyed I felt when news broke of his successful bid to represent the great electorate of Cook. When one Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person breaks the glass ceiling it is an achievement for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Billy's successful election victory was celebrated by all and Billy made history.

Billy was born into a humble working-class family and denied opportunities that most in this country take for granted, but he managed to grasp his own destiny and stride onto the floor of parliament. It is an extraordinary achievement that no-one can take from him.

By his own measure, Billy was an improbable politician. Billy's tenure as a Labor MP was shorter than anyone could have predicted, but Billy never swayed from his Labor values. He strongly believed in Labor visions of social justice, the rights of workers, the environment and, of course, the rights and interests of First Nations people. He held a burning conviction that a hard day's work should be rewarded with a fair day's pay, and he knew firsthand what it means to be working class in this country. He stood up for the people of Cook.

Billy felt strongly about the Labor agenda and continued to show support for a Labor government. He voted in favour of many important reforms. He also remained a persistent and hardworking force as a campaigner and he did a lot of this work behind the scenes. Billy was a proud advocate and a man whose short life was full of achievement.

Sadly, I attended Billy's funeral in Mareeba in December last year, along with the member for Barron River, the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Craig Crawford MP, and the member for Toohey, Peter Russo MP. All those who spoke at his funeral radiated genuine warmth, undeniable fondness and affection, reminiscing on their connection to Billy. It was obvious that he was a man of great humour and energy and was dearly loved by those who knew him best. May he rest in peace. Vale, Billy.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.31 am): I first met Billy Gordon a few months after he had run for the federal seat of Leichhardt in late 2013 when he was working as a staffer for former senator Jan McLucas in Cairns. We had a meeting in my previous role as an environmental campaigner and with me was a fellow campaigner who was from a First Nations background himself. I had heard of Billy, saw that he had run a good, though unsuccessful, campaign for federal parliament in an election that was difficult for our side, but I had never actually met him. We were both very impressed—articulate, smart, engaging and present. It was a productive meeting and I was sure that I would meet him again.

I was very pleased to hear in 2014 that Billy became the Labor candidate for the seat of Cook, then held by the Newman government. He joined our state Labor team with a herculean task ahead of us. As someone who had followed state politics, I was very conscious of the almost total absence of members from a First Nations background in the history of this House so the prospect of Billy being

elected, along with my southside neighbour, colleague and friend, the current Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy, the member for Algeester, as part of a reinvigorated Labor team was an electoral prospect of historic proportions, long overdue and would be momentous. To have two First Nations members elected to the Queensland parliament at the same election, including the first ever woman, had never been achieved across 54 elections and 155 years.

Of course, that history was made on 31 January 2015. The minister was elected and took her place as the first female First Nations MP in the Queensland parliament and the first cabinet minister from a First Nations heritage. Billy was also a part of that history, but in a way no-one could have predicted on election night. For a brief time Billy was part of the formation of a new government in this state when the numbers were as tight as they could be. He had put it on the line, he gave it a red hot go twice and succeeded on the second occasion. No-one can ever take that record away from him. Billy Gordon made a difference.

The events that followed which saw him join the crossbench were difficult, understandably for both him and for the government. It is fair to say—and I am sure Billy would have been the first to agree—that he was not a perfect person, he had flaws and he had made mistakes in life. A number of things that surfaced during the term meant his time on the crossbench could not change. Despite being a crossbencher for most of the 55th Parliament, under extraordinary media and opposition pressure, Billy sought to back in his progressive values at each sitting to make his time here count.

A first term is always a learning curve for any member of this House, but given the minority government status, the tight numbers, the consequent intensity of the media focus and his membership of then a much smaller crossbench, the pressure on Billy to be across all matters at every sitting was immense, but he gave it his all. There have been few single terms in this House since 1860 like Billy Gordon's.

On most occasions during that parliament, Billy, along with the government, used his vote for reform on a wide range of measures which were substantial and lasting and will never be undone. There is no doubt that his vote was crucial, and crucial often. Many members who have to leave a governing party involuntarily for the crossbench are often then a handful, to say the least, and few remain loyal or even civil at times to those that they are no longer with. Billy Gordon was a rare exception on virtually every occasion. As he said to a member of my staff over a late night sitting beer, 'I'm a Labor man and I always will be sista.'

His affinity and loyalty was always with the working class because he had been a hands-on worker across a range of industries, as outlined by a range of speakers today, from early on in his life and he never forgot where he came from. He always strove to improve the lives of working people—all working people.

Despite the separation early in the term, Billy earned the respect of many members of this House, many of whom remain here today. During the last parliamentary term of then non-family friendly hours, it is fair to say that Billy was a fairly social member around the corridors of this place and it is fair to say he liked a drink. He loved the free-flowing dialogue that went with it. He is not unique in that.

He was always thoughtful and could be devastatingly funny, with a dry, quick wit—something all of his many friends here will recall fondly. He helped educate plenty of MPs on aspects of First Nations culture, including Torres Strait culture. He lived a varied life, as has been outlined by others, and I am certain a much more varied life than many of us here today.


We need people like that in this House. Democracy needs people like that in this House. In an educated era, people who have been to the school of hard knocks do not get through as much, but Billy did. His perspectives on issues were often grounded in his own life, his experiences as a First Nations man, a regional Queenslander and a Far North Queenslander. His stories were never dull. He was a great raconteur and an entertainer but without pretences.

After parliament he had a special interest in developing economic empowerment and opportunities for First Nations communities, including in the area of carbon farming on Indigenous controlled land. He had settled down after a tumultuous term in parliament and met Olympia Little of whom he said, 'He had met his match.' I acknowledge Olympia in gallery today and offer my sincerest condolences for her loss. I also extend my condolences to Billy's sister Megan Carpenter and niece Olivia Carpenter who are with us in the gallery today. Your brother, uncle and partner will be much missed.

Billy would be the first to say he was no angel. He was, however, a good friend and one I am glad to have had and to have shared part of my journey with. I saw Billy a number of times since he left this chamber. He was always the same—cheerful, interested, curious. I did not consider then that the opportunity to catch up with him would cease so suddenly and far too early. I half expect to run into him in the corridor and can still see him floating around these hallways, popping his head in the door with a cheeky smile and a quip.

The term ‘comrade’ stems as a term of affection and solidarity for a fellow working-class person fighting for the same cause, dating from the shearer’s strike in Barcaldine in 1891. It still gets used to this day at various times by those on this side of the chamber and in the labour movement.

Of course Billy, the great storyteller that he was, had his own way of saying a term that I have rarely heard said: ‘See you, comrad,’ he would say. Billy has returned to the source. He made a real difference in the short time that he was here. I hope he knew that. I will miss him. I know that many people in this chamber will miss him. He was a trailblazer, a great friend and a great comrad.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (10.39 am): On 25 November 2022 William John Gordon, known to us all as Billy, passed away. Today I would like to extend my condolences for the passing of William John Gordon, ‘Billy’, to his children and extended family, including Olympia Little, his partner. Billy was a proud First Nations man from the western tablelands of Far North Queensland with family ties to Cape York and the Gulf of Carpentaria. He grew up in Innisfail and spent his working life in Innisfail and in and around Cairns.

Billy’s life before politics saw him engaged in the work that North Queensland had to offer, and from the testimonials at his service he was definitely not afraid of hard work. He was a proud member of the Army Reserve in North Queensland; he worked as a relations manager for a regional airline; he worked at Reconciliation Australia and performed native title work in Cairns. His work life reflected the love and high esteem he held for First Nations people and the people of North Queensland. After politics he worked as the chief executive of Indigenous Carbon Australia, a not-for-profit that helps First Nations communities set up and run carbon farming projects on traditional land. His working life was incredibly varied, demonstrating that he was always willing to turn his hand to new endeavours, to work hard at new opportunities. He obviously learned to value the dignity of labour, and he fought for the rights and conditions of working class people and their families.

As we all know, Billy Gordon was a member of this House. For most of that time he was an Independent member after having initially been elected as part of the Labor class of 2015. As a member he advocated for the protection of the Great Barrier Reef, job creation, projects in Cape York, many different agricultural industries in the Far North, the tourism industry and the protection of the natural environment in that beautiful part of the world. He described his motivation as a passion for justice tempered by a pragmatism to do what it takes to make change.

In this parliament Billy Gordon spoke about the people and values that mattered to him. He talked about the values taught to him by his grandfather, whom he called the greatest influence on his life. He learned from him that, if you have the ability to do good things for people, you have a moral obligation to do so. In his maiden speech Billy talked about his own life. He said—


I was born at a time when my skin colour would determine the level of education I would receive, the employment opportunities that would be available to me and even the quality of health that I would enjoy. I was born to parents who were battlers. My father worked hard as a cane cutter and on the railways and my mother was a hardworking nurse. Indeed, I was born working class.

Billy also paid tribute to his family, his sisters and his brother and his five wonderful children. He said that he loved them more than anything in the world. He also said—


My driving motivation is a desire for their lives to be different from mine. For them I want a Queensland and an Australia where all people have the opportunity to meet their full potential. For them I want a world where poverty, racism and oppression are no longer the things that define so many lives.

Billy spoke to me about many things. When he came back from Alice Springs after the signing of the Uluru statement Billy’s comment to me was, ‘How long will this take to happen for First Nations people?’ His comment reminded me of his recitation of Oodgeroo Noonuccal’s poem *Dreamtime* and the lament and hope within it. I know that if he was still with us he would be fighting for the Voice and we would be encouraged as we work our way to treaty—that things are happening. At his funeral in Mareeba, which I attended together with Cynthia Lui, the member for Cook, and Minister Craig Crawford, it was standing room only. Hundreds were there to celebrate and grieve this man who tried to bring about that world he hoped for for his children. At the funeral I also learned that his favourite colour was green—but not his politics. My one regret is that when Billy was under attack from the fourth

estate I did not do enough to support him. It is difficult to do a tribute to Billy without mentioning his good mate, Duncan Pegg. Duncan was a true friend to Billy and kept in contact with him long after Billy left this place. Both passed away too early. Vale, Billy Gordon.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (10.44 am): I rise in support of the condolence motion before us today. I want to contribute very briefly and pay my condolences to Billy's family, who are here today, friends across all of Queensland and Australia, and indeed to my parliamentary colleagues. We have all heard some wonderful stories about Billy today. Subliminally we must have all got the message that Billy's favourite colour was green because many in the chamber are wearing green today.

Billy was a great mate to many. There has been much said about that, and I support that. He was truly a humble, genuine and loyal person. As the member for Toohey has just said, he and Duncan Pegg were a formidable duo. They were always together and worked closely together. I acknowledge how difficult it is for all of us in the House. We have lost two very good friends and it is difficult to stand up and talk, but we do need to acknowledge the contribution that Billy Gordon has made. He was a friend. He was committed to the cause. He was committed to his community and he is sadly missed. Vale, Billy.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (10.46 am): Eight years does not sound like a lot in the span of time of this parliament, but I would not have thought I would be standing here in my third term giving a condolence motion to not only one mate during this term but two. We came together Billy, Duncan and I, in 2015 in our first term. We obviously liked each other's company, the sharp wit that both Duncan and Billy had, and also our affection for a drop of ale. We did spend a lot of time together and we rarely talked about the politics of the day. We talked about a lot of things. One thing I did love about Billy was his loyalty. We talked a lot about his loyalty to the Labor Party and also to the Broncos. I used to enjoy Billy's banter on social media, rubbing it in especially after a Broncos win up in North Queensland. It was fantastic to see Olympia put up the profile picture of her in her North Queensland jersey and Billy in his Cowboy's jersey. I really enjoyed that.

We have touched on his loyalty and dedication to the Labor Party. He was faultless. As a member for Redland City, the bill that came up time and time again was the Minjerribah North Straddie mining bill. Obviously I had a lot of skin in the game for that one. I had been fighting for this within my own party and parliament as well. I can remember that at our catch-ups we would not talk about it because I knew that deep down he would do the right thing. I saw the pressure and lobbying he faced, and I had never seen anything like it. It was my fault that I wavered. At one of our sessions I looked over at Billy, because I could see what the pressure from so much lobbying was doing to him, and I asked—I do not think I even got the question out. He said, 'Don't worry, brother. I'll always back the traditional owners.' I feel guilty to this day for even asking him that because he stood rock-solid. I remember talking about sand mining at the condolence motion for the father of the member for Maroochydore. I think it must be because sand mining was a tough fight at the time that it is fondly remembered afterwards. We should not just glaze over that because, like I said, Billy was lobbied quite fiercely. I think it is appreciative again to read out the quote, because it will stick with me forever. He said—

The Quandamooka people have bled long enough. They have cried long enough. Their wait is now over. Today, the Quandamooka people will no longer be beggars at the gates of their own kingdom. Rather, they will be masters of their own dreaming. I commend this bill to the House.

I commend Billy Gordon. Billy Gordon was good to the Labor Party when sometimes the Labor Party was not good to him. Duncan and I would always try to come up with wacky schemes to try to get Billy Gordon back in the party. Over many a drink, we would devise ways but there came a point when we knew it was just not going to happen, and Billy did the right thing. Billy forwent tens of thousands of dollars. He could have taken the money. He could have run as an Independent, but he was loyal to the Labor Party and he forwent that to ensure that Cynthia Lui, a Torres Strait Island woman, would be elected into this place. I am appreciative of that fact every single day and we should not glaze over it lightly.

I was really appreciative of Billy Gordon during the passing of Duncan Pegg. As the member for Cook touched on, Billy was there for him but Billy was also there for me. I do not know how many photos I have of Billy sending me selfies off his phone of a Corona with Duncan Pegg's stubbie cooler. I have too many to count. It was his way of saying to me that he was there. I remember we had one opportunity just to catch up, and we thought we would be able to catch up time and time again afterwards. I was looking through my text messages and I can remember that we tried to catch up on Father's Day, but it was Father's Day and I had to go do my in-laws and my father's thing, but we said 'Happy Father's Day' to each other and that we would catch up soon enough. Unfortunately, we did not get that opportunity.

I will always remember Billy Gordon, as I said, as a witty man, as a man who stood up for his convictions, as a man who was true-blue Labor, a comrade. First and foremost, he was a really good friend to me. Vale, Billy Gordon.


Mr SPEAKER: Will honourable members indicate their agreement by standing in silence for one minute.

Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.


SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will commence at approximately 11.25 am.

Parkinson's Disease, Really Big Walk

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, the Deputy Speaker and member for Greenslopes is going to go for a really big walk and, no, it is not off a plank. It is 550 kilometres to Taroom to raise money for Parkinson's Queensland. The member will be joined by his brother Vince for this very worthy cause. This is a cause close to the Deputy Speaker's heart as both of his parents died of complications related to Parkinson's disease. There is currently no cure for Parkinson's disease. Parkinson's Queensland provides funds for research and support services. I commend this worthy cause to the House.


Hasanakos, Mr G

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, it is with regret that I advise that my executive officer, George Hasanakos, will be departing the Speaker's office tomorrow. George has served in this role since my election as Speaker in February 2018 and has worked with many members on all sides. With the indulgence of the House, I have a couple of observations I would like to make about George.

George is not a close talker. He is not a sidler. He is not a low talker. He is not a sentence finisher. He is not a regifter. He is not an anti-dentite. He is not an architect. He is definitely not a marine biologist. He does not want to be a pirate. He does not yada, yada, yada over the best parts. He does look for the perfect parking space, driving around in concentric circles until he finds one. He is independent George. He is sponge-worthy. He is definitely the kind of guy who would spare a square. In my opinion he is a better psephologist than Antony Green. The best part is he is real and he is spectacular.

In finishing, I have been fortunate enough to have worked with George for more than a decade, and when you work with someone for that long you become more than colleagues. You become friends, family even. Not only is he an earnest person with the highest level of integrity but he is flat out simply a great human being. May every December to February be the summer of George. Honourable members, I place on record my thanks for his service and I wish him the very best in his future endeavours.

School Group Tour

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Marist College Ashgrove in the electorate of Ferny Grove.

TABLED PAPER

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

REPORT BY THE CLERK

The following report was tabled by the Clerk—

[407](#) Report pursuant to Standing Order 169 (Acts to be numbered by the Clerk) and Standing Order 165 (Clerical errors or formal changes to any bill) detailing amendments to certain Bills, made by the Clerk, prior to assent by Her Excellency the Governor, viz—

Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—

Omit—

'Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022'

Insert—

'Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023'

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Vaping



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (10.56 am): After the past two decades in which we have successfully managed to halve the number of Queensland adults who smoke cigarettes, we are faced with a new battle as an alarming new trend takes hold of the next generation. Vaping is that new battleground. It is now one of the biggest health issues facing our children. For anyone who does not truly grasp the gravity of this growing problem, I would invite you to examine the evidence and understand why our government is acting so quickly to provide Queenslanders with the facts to curb this trend.

Just this week, our federal colleague, health minister Mark Butler, like our government, vowed to crack down on vaping and released data about the foothold vaping is taking in primary schools, with the Australian National University revealing adolescents who vape are three times more likely to start smoking cigarettes. The minister also revealed more than 50 children aged under four were in the past year poisoned through the intake of nicotine. Vaping devices are consciously and deliberately marketed to children and teenagers with their bright advertising and maliciously deceptive packaging, claiming to be akin to bubblegum, ice cream and even fruit. The simple truth is that we do not know what they contain—whether that be toxic chemicals or in fact nicotine. The plain fact is that, through this cynical marketing, the manufacturers of these products are creating a new generation of smokers.

Our government is determined to stop this trend in its tracks. Vaping is banned at all Queensland state schools but we do not hide from the fact that it is taking place. That is why the education department is now working with the University of Queensland's National Centre for Youth Substance Use Research to strengthen the Alcohol and Other Drugs Education Program which is available to support students in years 7 to 12. The education department is also working closely with groups like the Cancer Council, the Heart Foundation and the Lung Foundation to ensure the right messages are being provided to schools about the dangers of vaping. We have school-based youth health nurses working with students and staff to highlight the risks. Education also works closely with Queensland Health, which recently launched the Vape Truths advertising campaign featuring Dr Karl from Triple J.

At the same time the parliament's Health and Environment Committee is undertaking an inquiry into reducing rates of e-cigarette use in Queensland. I encourage members to ensure your constituents and communities know about the work of the committee. The committee is welcoming written submissions, I am advised, until 5 May, and will be holding public briefings and hearings ahead of reporting back to the parliament by 31 August. Our government is taking action to support young Queenslanders to make informed decisions regarding their health, safety and wellbeing, and particularly about the use of e-cigarettes.

Sustainable Aviation




Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (10.59 am): When I announced CopperString 2032 earlier this month—on that note, too, I thank TEL for coming in last night; I thought it was fantastic to see them here and to welcome our commitment to delivering CopperString—I talked about the clean energy arms race. That global race to lower emissions is now extending to the skies: a race to reach 10 per cent sustainable aviation fuel by 2030 and then on to net zero emissions targets by 2050. Once again, Queensland is perfectly positioned to be a clean energy superpower because we have both the sunshine and the feedstocks, including the largest sugar industry in the nation. That means Queensland can make the sustainable aviation fuel needed to provide fuel security for the nation and our trade partners, and to make air travel sustainable providing a long-term future for our tourism industry.

Today I can announce another step towards Queensland becoming the sustainable aviation fuel powerhouse of Australia. Our government will back the first investment from Jet Zero Australia, a partnership between Qantas and Airbus. Jet Zero Australia will invest in a feasibility study to build a new biorefinery in Queensland with the capacity to produce more than 100 million litres of sustainable aviation fuel each year. The refinery is estimated to create 1,000 construction jobs and 100 operational jobs. It will produce enough fuel to power flights across Australia, including by Qantas. Queensland was the birthplace of Qantas and now Queensland will be critical to the sustainable future of Qantas and our airlines. US company LanzaJet will be the technology partner on the biorefinery and are currently building the first commercial-scale biorefinery in the world.

To deliver the sustainable aviation fuel industry and the supply needed for airlines, defence and our export partners, many more biorefineries will need to be built across Queensland. That will mean thousands of jobs and investment in the billions of dollars to deliver this new industry. I want to thank the Deputy Premier for working with the company in relation to these issues.


Road Safety

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (11.01 am): Tomorrow marks the end of the first term of the school year and the start of the Easter holidays when families get away and travel across Queensland and interstate. We wish them all a relaxed, happy break, but, most of all, a safe one.

Last Easter long weekend, one life was lost on our roads, but one is too many. Road safety is everyone's responsibility. There are no excuses. To help ensure our highways and roads are as safe as they can be, Police Minister Ryan and Acting Assistant Commissioner Chris Stream this morning launched Operation Victor Easter, a campaign of targeted operations with more highly visible police to combat the fatal five: speeding, driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, not wearing seatbelts, driving tired or distracted. If you break the road rules, chances are you will be caught. The campaign will run from Saturday until Sunday, 16 April.

As I said, it is everyone's responsibility. Every decision made behind the wheel matters and can save a life. I urge everyone to be responsible and to be careful. To all the school students and families, I wish you a safe and happy Easter.

Sustainable Aviation

 **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) (11.02 am): When it comes to decarbonising our skies, Queensland is the place to invest. Queensland produces significant feedstock needed to make sustainable aviation fuel, including parts of crops that were once discarded, enabling a new revenue stream for our incredible farmers.

Queensland is the birthplace of Qantas, the home of Virgin Australia, and new airline, Bonza, recently chose the Sunshine Coast as its first base of operations. The Palaszczuk government has been working with industry to establish sustainable aviation fuel production facilities to supply the aviation industry. The demand for biofuels is building across all sectors with the International Energy Agency expecting global demand for biofuels to grow by 41 billion litres, or 28 per cent, over the five years to 2026. Queensland has been recognised as one of the best locations in the world for the establishment of a sustainable aviation fuel supply chain.

Already, Oceania Biofuels selected Gladstone as the location for the development of a \$500 million sustainable aviation fuel refinery that will deliver 350 million litres of aviation fuel and renewable diesel each year. The purpose-built plant will use locally sourced waste and sustainable feedstock such as tallow, canola and used cooking oil, establishing an important supply chain in Gladstone.

Last week we signed a memorandum of understanding with Ampol and Japanese energy giant ENEOS to explore biofuels production in Brisbane. The companies will assess the feasibility of delivering an advanced biofuels manufacturing plant at Ampol's Lytton refinery site. The plant would have the capacity to generate up to 500 million litres of SAF and renewable diesel a year.

As the Premier announced today, the Palaszczuk government is partnering with Jet Zero Australia, Qantas, Airbus and LanzaJet to complete a feasibility study to build a biorefinery that will help power the nation's aviation market with green jet fuel. Our government's investment will help complete the feasibility work and identify a site in Queensland for the facility. The new biorefinery planned for Queensland could produce more than 100 million litres of sustainable aviation fuel each year to power flights across Australia, including by Qantas. It will create 100 full-time jobs for Queenslanders and open up new export opportunities. The Palaszczuk government is focused on a cleaner future for Queensland, and the investments we make in cleaner industries now will provide jobs for generations to come.

India, Trade



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (11.05 am): Queensland's economic success story is one built on the success of our overseas trade. Queensland's future prosperity will rely on the continued strength and diversity of our trade markets, and among our valued trading partners, India will be a vitally important part of that future prosperity. While official figures may not show it yet, India is likely to have already surpassed China to become the world's most populous nation. Our shared values, including our parliamentary, legal and judicial systems, our shared language and our love of cricket open many doors, including doors for Queensland businesses looking to export, whether it is goods or services.

Queensland coal exports to India were worth \$18 billion in 2022. As India ramps up its industrialisation, the nation intends to increase its steel production to 300 million tonnes each year. As a consequence, Indian steelmakers need to increase the volume of metallurgical coal they purchase by 150 per cent. During my trade mission to India last week, a number of steelmakers expressed an interest in buying a stake in the Daunia and Blackwater mines that BHP has recently announced it intends to sell.

India is also rich with opportunity for smaller Queensland companies as the nation looks to increase the mechanisation of its economy. This presents the opportunity for Queensland small businesses to sell their expertise and technology to eager Indian customers, while protecting their vital intellectual property. There is no better example of this than engineering firm, Ferra Engineering, from Tingalpa, a company that our government has assisted with a manufacturing grant which Ferra will use to invest in new technology as it works on helping to build Boeing's new Ghost Bat aircraft right here in Queensland.

While I was in Bengaluru, I had the opportunity to witness the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Ferra and Indian company Dynamatic Technologies. The potential of this MOU is significant. Every single Airbus airliner that rolls off the production line carries components made by Dynamatic. Partnering with Dynamatic Technologies is a great strategic commercial move for a Queensland company.

It is not just India's industrial base that is growing rapidly. India's adult population is undergoing the most rapid growth the world has ever seen. One million young Indians turn 18 each and every month. Indian authorities recognise this presents a unique opportunity for a quantum leap into the country's standard of living, but only if they have access to the right skills and education.

I was pleased to join a host of Queensland universities at an information session in Mumbai for prospective university students and their families. The Queensland education promotion was a great opportunity to showcase everything that our state has to offer to an engaged and widening Indian audience. My message was simple: Queensland's roaring economy, coupled with a world-class education system, means we are the best place to learn.

As the Queensland and Indian economies both undergo a renewable energy revolution, there are also great opportunities to share skills and investments that take advantage of Queensland's natural leadership as a clean energy powerhouse.

One of the missing pieces in our relationship with India that needs to be addressed is direct airline flights, an issue that our government continues to work on. Such flights are especially important in offering more export opportunities for Queensland primary producers. This is an initiative that I know the Minister for Tourism supports.

The high-quality fruit and vegetable that India grows will be in even greater demand following the recent signing of the Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement, which reduces tariffs on 85 per cent of Australian exports to India. At a seminar hosted by the Indo-Australian Chamber of Commerce, I had the chance to tell nearly 50 executives from Indian and Australian companies about the opportunities that trade agreements present in Queensland.


As much as we recognise the importance of India as a growing global player, India recognises the importance of Australia within the broader Indo-Pacific region. To further strengthen Queensland's relationship with the Pacific, I can today announce that Ms Leata Alaimoana has been appointed Queensland's first Pacific Trade Commissioner. Ms Alaimoana brings 20 years experience in economic development, international trade and investment, and international affairs to this new role.

Almost one in every three Australian export dollars earned in the Pacific is earned in Queensland. In 2021 the value of Queensland's trade with Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu was more than \$850 million.

Mr SPEAKER: I am very sorry to interrupt. Members, the level of general conversation is far too high. I ask you to please listen to the ministerial statement.

Mr DICK: Whether it is our larger or smaller trading partners, our government is determined to build the economic and cultural links that will strengthen Queensland's society and our state's future prosperity.

Vaping; 'Look Before You Lock'; Sagigi-Baira, Mr R


 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (11.10 am): The health and safety of our school students is paramount, and I welcome the Premier's recent announcement of a parliamentary inquiry into vaping. Smoking including e-cigarettes and vaping is banned at all Queensland state schools, but we do not hide from the fact that vaping is happening and it is a problem we take very seriously.

In April last year I put the issue of vaping on the agenda for my Ministerial Student Advisory Council and in August it was on the agenda for the education ministers meeting. I also asked the department to review the alcohol and other drugs education program which is available to support students in years 7 to 12. As the Premier said, my department is now working with the University of Queensland's National Centre for Youth Substance Use Research to strengthen this program. My department continues to work closely with bodies like the Cancer Council, the Heart Foundation and the Lung Foundation to ensure information is being provided to schools about the dangers of vaping as well as materials to assist in reducing its prevalence. School-based youth health nurses work with students and staff every day to highlight the risks. We also work closely with Queensland Health through initiatives like vape truth videos with Dr Karl. Schools have an important role to play but they cannot solve this issue alone. This is a broader public health issue that society as a whole needs to address.

While I am on the subject of the health and safety of our children, I make a special plea to every parent, carer, educator, bus driver—anyone transporting children—to look before you lock. As a government we have taken a number of steps to prevent these incidents happening at early childhood centres including stronger regulations, taking enforcement action such as prosecution and ongoing 'Look Before You Lock' campaigns. Just this month my department sent a pack to around 3,500 services with information about the stronger regulations we called for that came into effect on 1 March and 'Look Before You Lock' stickers and posters. Unfortunately, despite these efforts, there was a recent reported case of a child being left on a bus for around an hour at an early childhood centre in Brisbane. Please, everyone, look before you lock without fail every single time.

I would also love to give two shout-outs before I finish. Firstly, I say congratulations to Royston, a former Weipa Western Cape College student and Creative Generation singer, who has just been named the winner of *Australian Idol*, and I know the member for Cook is particularly proud. Secondly, it is hard to believe term 1 comes to a close tomorrow. I trust all staff, students and school communities enjoy a well-earned and safe break over the Easter holidays.

Emergency Departments, Performance

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (11.14 am): As I have said many times, Queensland's emergency departments are facing some of the greatest pressures they have ever seen but, despite this, they are leading the nation in our response. The most recently quarterly data shows that Queensland has now surpassed the performance of New South Wales when it comes to seeing ED patients within the recommended time frames. We are seeing the same percentage of ED patients in the recommended time as were seen in 2014-15 according to the budget papers despite a significant increase in demand. In the same time period we have brought the median ED wait time down from 19 minutes to 16 minutes.

Any attempt to say that people are waiting more than 24 hours to get emergency care is incorrect. They are people who have been clinically triaged and have commenced receiving care within the emergency departments. A patient may stay for longer than 24 hours within the ED for a number of reasons. This may include patients with volatile clinical status requiring repeated adjustments to treatment interventions and clinical decision-making around ongoing care needs and, most appropriately, disposition. There may be other factors including the requirement for a specific type of bed, for example, telemetry, negative pressure, isolation or mental health.

In relation to long waits in our EDs, our ED physicians will always treat the most urgent cases first. Since 2013-14 there has been an increase of over 100 per cent in the presentations of category 1 and 2 patients. The rise in urgency of cases and the reduction in the availability and affordability of primary care means that people who would otherwise have sought care in the community are also now coming to our emergency departments. Despite these challenges, we are making real investments in immediate and long-term improvements to our health system. That includes our record investment in 2,509 new beds through our Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan including 289 fast-tracked beds; investing in the long-stay rapid response program to assist more than 700 long-stay patients in obtaining support in the community rather than staying in hospital; delivering rapid access clinics across the state to prevent re-presentations and readmissions to hospital; providing care closer to home through our Satellite Hospitals Program; ensuring statewide access to the Metro North virtual ED; making a record investment in health services; and delivering on our election commitment to recruit 9,475 new health staff during this term of government, with more than 17,000 having been recruited since 2015.

Queenslanders can always trust the Palaszczuk government to deliver more staff and more beds and to work with our staff and stakeholders, importantly including our consumer advocates, to tackle these health challenges collectively.

Youth Crime



Hon. LM LINARD (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (11.17 am): We know youth crime and young people at risk of offending is a complex and serious issue. Recent analysis of the number of distinct young offenders in local government areas shows that what our government has put in place is working with this statistic trending down in the majority of regions. In those areas where it is trending up, we are taking strong and considered action to combat it.

In the Strengthening Community Safety Act we introduced measures to further protect the community and tackle the behaviour of a small cohort of serious repeat offenders. As I said, overall, the number of young people offending is decreasing. It is now the lowest it has been for a decade. In fact, we have seen a 37 per cent reduction in the number of 10- to 16-year-old offenders in the past 10 years, taking into account that 17-year-olds came into the youth justice system in 2018. More recently statistics show that since 2019 the number of distinct young offenders has decreased or remained steady in more than 60 local government areas across the state: on the Sunshine Coast, down 125 offenders or 50 per cent; Mount Isa, down 40 offenders or 32 per cent; Cairns, down 56 offenders or 19 per cent; Gold Coast, down 34 offenders or 11 per cent.

In the past five years the number of young people with a proven offence has decreased from 4,338 in the year ending September 2018 to 3,315 in the year ending September 2022. That is a 23.6 per cent decrease. When accounting for population changes, the rate per 10,000 young people with a proven offence has decreased from 96.6 per 10,000 to 61.3 per 10,000 over the same period. For Mount Isa, the number of young people with a proven offence has decreased in the past five years from 138 young people for the year ending 30 September 2018 to 82 young people for the year ending 30 September 2022, a 40.6 per cent decrease.

While this is encouraging, I know it will be of little comfort to Queenslanders affected by youth crime. However, this reduction affirms the Palaszczuk government's approach under our Working Together, Changing the Story youth justice approach. It also demonstrates our significant investment of \$1.2 billion in services and programs that have been delivered across government to prevent and address offending and reoffending.

Community safety is paramount, and must be any government's first consideration. We have listened to the community, and we are taking tougher action that is targeted at the small cohort of serious repeat offenders who are committing roughly 50 per cent of youth crime. That is why, alongside legislative reforms, the government is investing an additional \$100 million in existing and new diversion and rehabilitation services. These programs and services are evidence-based and we know they will achieve results.

The highly successful joint Queensland Police Service and youth justice co-responder teams are being expanded to Mount Isa, Hervey Bay, Darling Downs, South Brisbane and Ipswich. We are investing \$18 million to expand intensive case management services which target serious repeat offenders and their families. The early action group operating in Townsville is being rolled out to Mount Isa and Cairns. We are investing \$27.6 million to continue community response and diversion services to provide after-hours support; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural mentoring; bridging to flexi

school programs; and intensive case management for high-risk young people. We are also targeting extensive bail support, with a \$25.4 million to support high-risk people on bail and their families. It is already available in Brisbane north, Caboolture, Redcliffe, Gold Coast, Logan and Townsville and it will now be rolled out to Toowoomba and other locations.

We are investing a further \$4 million in our on-country programs to provide cultural rehabilitation programs to First Nations young people. We will soon be announcing the next round of community partnership innovation grants, where community solutions and place-based programs are being funded and supported.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.21 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 18 April 2023.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ABSENCE OF MINISTER



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.21 am): I rise to advise that the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities will be absent from the House today due to medical reasons. I therefore advise the House another Mark—Minister Ryan—will take all questions in question time on Minister Furner's behalf.

ETHICS COMMITTEE

Report



Ms HOWARD (Ipswich—ALP) (11.22 am): I table report No. 212 of the Ethics Committee titled *Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 13 October 2022 related to an alleged deliberate misleading of the House by the member for Oodgeroo relating to social housing in the Redlands*.

Tabled paper: Ethics Committee: Report No. 212, 57th Parliament—Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 13 October 2022 relating to an alleged deliberate misleading of the House by the member for Oodgeroo relating to social housing in the Redlands [\[408\]](#).

The report deals with allegations made against the member for Oodgeroo. The committee has recommended that the House take no further action in relation to the allegations against the member for Oodgeroo and that the Committee of the Legislative Assembly consider whether to strengthen the member's code of ethical standards to offer more guidance to members in relation to substantiating information that forms the basis of statements made in the House which amount to allegations of serious misconduct.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude today at 12.22 pm.

Health System



Mr CRISAFULLI (11.22 am): My question is to the Premier. Since 2015, ambulance ramping has nearly tripled, elective surgery waitlists have nearly doubled, over 22 per cent of patients do not get their elective surgery on time and the number of patients waiting longer than 24 hours in an ED is 225 per cent higher. When will the Premier admit that Queensland Health is in crisis and resource and empower our frontline staff to fix it?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I might start with the last part of the question. Today I was interested to see a tweet from the member for Broadwater along the lines of 'Let's invest in our frontline workers'. I find that absolutely ironic. It would be great to see the member for Broadwater go into the community and talk to some nurses, doctors and midwives and say to them: 'Do you remember Campbell Newman? I sat next to him and made the decision to cut over 4,700 workers.' The member wants to talk about

2015. Since 2015 there have been more than 10,000 new nurses and midwives, more than 3,000 new doctors, more than 1,000 new ambulance officers and more than 2,000 new allied health professionals. That is investment in our frontline workers. That is our record.

In addition, we are investing in over 1,350 extra new beds. We are expanding hospitals because the population is increasing. It has increased a bit since 2015. At last count I think we are up to about 5.3 million, but I will clarify that figure for the House. Everyone was asking what we are going to do for the future. Here is the plan: the Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan. It outlines new hospitals. Does the member for Coomera not want a new hospital? Does the member for Toowoomba South or the member for Toowoomba North want a new hospital? The plan outlines an expansion of hospitals around our state. The member for Nanango should thank me: we have a new expanded hospital out there.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Nanango.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I look forward to these election debates where we will talk about health. I look forward to it.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: We invest in frontline services. We have the record and the stats. On that side of the House they just cut, sack and sell.

Ambulance Ramping

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Premier. Ambulance ramping had already doubled before COVID, and the latest ramping data for December shows that Queenslanders have a greater than fifty-fifty chance of being ramped at nine major hospitals. When will ambulance ramping return to the 15 per cent it was when the Palaszczuk government came to office?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I think the health minister was very up-front when she previously quoted your former health minister, Lawrence Springborg, talking about ramping under the LNP government. That is why we are investing in our frontline services, and that is why we are working—

Mr Crisafulli: Thirty per cent under Bligh.

Ms PALASZCZUK: So rude.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, the Premier is responding to the question. I am listening to her carefully. I ask you to cease your interjections.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We are also investing in more paramedics. We will deliver 735 additional paramedics. Those opposite at the last election promised 320. That is their commitment to frontline services—more than half of what we said.

Mr Smith interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: The most recent performance data shows improved response times for code 1A: 50th percentile, 8.8 minutes this quarter compared to 8.9 minutes in the previous quarter; 90th percentile, 17.4 minutes compared to 17.9 minutes in the previous quarter. The RoGS data shows that Queensland is the third best performing ambulance service when it comes to ambulance response times. The ACT is the best.

Mr Powell interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am answering the question.

Mrs D'Ath interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is exactly right. All we hear from those opposite is whingeing and whining. There are no plans. We know their plan. Their plan is to cut frontline services. Their plan is to cut infrastructure spending. Let me make it very clear—

Ms Simpson interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Member for Maroochydore, I am not even commenting. She is a member who has been in this place for many years and we look forward to hearing about all of the achievements in Maroochydore after 30 years. I am just being honest. I will stand on my record—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will.

A government member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right, keeping people safe during COVID. I am happy to stand on that record.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Gympie and member for Warrego, you will both cease your interjections. Leader of the Opposition, you need to cease the persistent and constant interjections.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is okay: it is just like looking at Campbell Newman. When I sit here, it is like seeing Campbell Newman. The Leader of the Opposition has exactly the same mannerisms—learned from the master—and probably still gets his instructions from him. It is honestly the same mannerisms, the same rude interjections, the same whingeing—exactly the same. We will back—

(Time expired)

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I will wait for silence, members to my left.

Mr Purdie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Who was that member? Member for Ninderry, that is twice in two days. You are warned under the standing orders.

Housing

Mr HEALY: Good morning. My question is of the Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Premier, what is the Queensland government doing to speed up the delivery of the housing supply and is the Premier aware of any other approaches?

Mr SPEAKER: Member, you need to rephrase your question so it does not ask it directly to the Premier.

Mr HEALY: Thank you, Mr Speaker; I appreciate your direction. My question is of the Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. What is the Queensland government doing to speed up the delivery of housing supply and is the Premier aware of any other approaches?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Cairns, and good morning to you as well, member for Cairns, and we are of course looking forward to going to Cairns and joining the members there for the parliament. I am quite sure that the Speaker is looking forward to having a few nights at home as well. As we know, it is very important for families to have a roof over their head, and that is why we are taking action in the face of these national housing issues. In the parliament this week we announced that we will be building a QBuild depot in Cairns like the one that we opened at Eagle Farm to ensure that we have a ready supply of prefabricated homes that can go up to the Far North. We know that QBuild tradies and apprentices get a lot of jobs and it was great to meet those apprentices. It is part of our over \$500 million Government Employee Housing construction program which will build 439 homes over the next five years which will provide housing for 550 frontline workers, because we on this side of the House appreciate our workers, we thank our workers and we value our workers.

Unlike those on the opposite side, we know that they do not appreciate apprentices and they do not appreciate people who work in QBuild. That is why in 2012 the former premier spoke of the 304 jobs that the LNP would cut from QBuild—304 jobs. At that time he said, 'There'll be cuts, and I apologise for that.' Can members see a trend here? Those opposite say one thing and they do something else, and they decimated QBuild—the mighty QBuild.

Government members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right: and they still have not apologised. Then of course we know that their plans will be cutting, sacking and selling. I found an old article where Campbell Newman confirmed that the 300 QBuild jobs would go, saying that 304—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Some of the members opposite were in the government. They were in the cabinet. They have form and—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Springwood and member for Miller!

Ms PALASZCZUK:—I came across this article where the then transport minister said that they cut 2,000 jobs from the Department of Transport and Main Roads as well. So we know what is happening, we know what is going to come and we know that we will stand up for workers in this state and that their jobs are safe under a Labor government.

Health Funding

Mr BLEIJIE: My question is to the Premier. The Premier claimed to have secured fifty-fifty funding for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Why has the Premier been unable to deliver on her fifty-fifty health funding repeatedly championed prior to the federal election?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Kawana for that question. As the member for Kawana knows, we had a deal with some LNP prime ministers over many, many years—

Mrs D'Ath: Many, many prime ministers.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right: many, many prime ministers who took Queenslanders for granted and did not deliver for Queensland.

A government member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Actually, I do talk to the Prime Minister quite a lot.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No, I do.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I do. Yes, I do.

A government member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is refreshing; I take that interjection.

Mr Mander: Is the Premier upset at him?

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: What was that?

Ms Grace: Are you upsetting him?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Unbelievable!

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you will cease your interjections or you are going to be warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I have said in this House before, I still maintain that we need fifty-fifty funding, as do other premiers, and all of us are working collaboratively. In fact, I think there is going to be even better collaboration now as the landscape continues to change, which is good. I will say this to the member for Kawana: Queenslanders work best when they work together, and that is what we are seeing. I was at the Coomera Connector the other day with Minister Watt—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK:—Minister Bailey and Minister Scanlon. Guess what: we are delivering the second M1, working together in the best interests of Queenslanders. We saw cuts in federal health funding from the LNP government—cuts—so I find it—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Here we go again.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: Those opposite have form because federally they cut funding to health and now they are saying, 'What about the fifty-fifty funding?' I find that completely ironic coming from the member for Kawana, and I do not know whether he sat to the right side or the left side of the former premier but obviously he was guilty with all of the damage that was done—and still no apology at all. We will continue to work with the federal government. A federal budget will be coming down in the not-too-distant future.

Mrs D'Ath interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, that is right; I take that interjection. It actually recognises that we need extra GPs. It recognises that unlike—

Mr Janetzki interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: We will always back our health system.

Manufacturing

Mr McCALLUM: 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 how the Palaszczuk government is bringing manufacturing back to Queensland and is the Deputy Premier aware of any other approaches?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Bundamba for his question. With his support, the Palaszczuk government is bringing manufacturing back to Queensland. We are making trains in Maryborough, we are making batteries in Townsville, we are making electrolyzers in Gladstone and we are making armoured vehicles in Ipswich. The member for Bundamba, the Premier and I were there last week to see the first locally made Boxer reconnaissance vehicle start its journey along the production line at Rheinmetall in Ipswich and got the chance to meet some of the 600 Queenslanders enjoying highly skilled, secure jobs at Rheinmetall helping to build the Land 400 phase 2 vehicles, as well as Rheinmetall's other projects. The first Queensland-made armoured vehicle is only possible because the Palaszczuk government fought to get Rheinmetall in Queensland and together with Rheinmetall we funded and built the Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence, a world-leading facility in Ipswich.

We believe that we can and should make things here in Queensland, while those opposite never, ever did. Who could forget they built their trains overseas instead of making them here.

Mr Hart interjected.

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

Dr MILES: We are still fixing those trains here in Queensland that those opposite bought from overseas. They still will not tell us which projects they will cut to fund the \$10 billion in increased building costs. There are opposition frontbenchers who have said there is a secret plan to cut billions of dollars from the budget and yet days later the Leader of the Opposition has still not stood up and either said that the member for Chatsworth was wrong and there is not a secret plan to cut billions of dollars or stood up and said where those billions of dollars of cuts will come from. Queenslanders deserve to know what is in their secret plan to prune public services, to prune our infrastructure spend that is supporting jobs and delivering for communities right across this state. This side of the House will always stand for investing in our public services, manufacturing here and delivering infrastructure because that is what is good and what is right and what Queenslanders want to see.

Health Funding

Ms BATES: My question is to the Premier. Nearly one year on from the election of the federal government, does the Premier's failure to deliver her fifty-fifty health funding promise mean that there are fewer available beds now than 12 months ago?

Ms GRACE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I think there is an imputation regarding the word 'promise'. I do not know what evidence that is coming from. Under the standing orders can I ask that you rule on the question and clarify.

Mr SPEAKER: The way I heard the question is that the words have been used in a very general way. However, I will ask the Premier to respond in any which way she feels.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Once again I find it ironic that the member for Mudgeeraba asks a health question when, when her leader says 'let's invest in our frontline workers', the member for Mudgeeraba calls them duds—the health workers working in regional Queensland are duds. Member for Mudgeeraba, every time you ask me a question I will remind Queenslanders of what you have said.

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair, Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: You have still not apologised.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I ask you to direct your comments through the chair.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Mudgeeraba has still not apologised to those regional health workers and the member should. Secondly, we are getting more out of the Labor federal government than we ever got out of the former LNP governments. Already we have seen urgent care clinics being rolled out across Queensland—two extra for Queensland; extra funding coming in; and a commitment from the Labor government to invest in removing, as a priority, those patients who should not be in hospitals, who should be either in the community or in aged-care facilities. There is a first! Not once did I hear the member for Broadwater talk to Scott Morrison about that—not once. We are getting urgent assistance when it comes to that.

On top of that, we are investing in thousands of new beds across this state. Our government is expanding the hospitals because we know that is the best thing. Let me say this very clearly: we recognise how important health care is for Queensland families. I will not be lectured to by an opposition that decimated a health system. We had to pick up the pieces and restore those frontline services. I will not be lectured to by a tweet from the member for Broadwater saying that he is going to invest in frontline workers. That is never going to happen and the people of Queensland know it. If he does not think they know it, the member should go out there. Start at Longreach, because they suffered a huge loss of workers out there. Go to Townsville. There was a very clear reason why the member for Broadwater was sacked by the people of Townsville: because they cut the health system. That is the whole reason why a number of those opposite lost their jobs—because of their treatment of the health system.

Taxation

Ms PEASE: My question is to the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. Will the Treasurer tell the House how Queensland's tax competitiveness compares with New South Wales?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Lytton for her question. The answer is Queensland compares with New South Wales very well indeed. Like the Broncos last Friday night, Queensland's tax competitiveness demonstrates that we are match fit, lean and better than the opposition. Thank you, member for Hill!

Queensland's tax rates are among the most competitive in Australia. Queenslanders pay \$647 less tax than other Australians. Importantly, Queenslanders pay \$1,000 less tax than New South Wales residents each and every year. It has been a tough 12 months for the people of New South Wales, suffering under that burden of high tax, exploding Liberal budget deficits and crushing Liberal state debt, with Liberal state net debt this year to be five times that of Queensland.

At the recent election the people of New South Wales knew they were not getting value for money. I compliment Chris Minns, now Labor New South Wales Premier Chris Minns, for his positive campaign for better pay for frontline workers and his campaign against cuts and privatisation.

I heard the member for Chatsworth—we have not forgotten the member for Chatsworth this week—say that they were going to find billions of dollars in savings. I heard him yelling out about BPICs. That is what they are going to cut. What we now know from the LNP and the member for Chatsworth is that every worker in this state working on an infrastructure project will either get their job cut or their pay cut. We have two admissions from the member for Chatsworth. Not only will they cut infrastructure projects from the Leader of the Opposition's infrastructure hit list, they are now going to cut the wages or jobs of construction workers in Queensland because that is the LNP way. The cat has been belled again by the member for Chatsworth. We know what the plan is. The truth is we do not have an honest Leader of the Opposition.

I will say this for Chris Minns—and Dominic Perrottet: they both fought that campaign on the issues. The day after the election what did we see from the Leader of the Opposition? He did not announce policies; he announced candidates. All politics, no policies is the form of the Leader of the Opposition. He has one policy which is cuts. Why are you not honest, Leader of the Opposition?

CHAIR: Through the chair.

Mr DICK: We hear it day in, day out from the member for Chatsworth. The Leader of the Opposition has never resiled from anything the member for Chatsworth said. He has not said the member for Chatsworth was wrong or he was misinterpreted or he twisted his words. That is because it is true. The Leader of the Opposition would have denied it if it was false. That is what we know from the Leader of the Opposition. We know what is coming—cuts. I will say this about the Leader of the Opposition: he is no Chris Minns; he is not even a Dominic Perrottet. That is what Queenslanders face in the future.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Miller, you are warned under the standing orders. I have already cautioned you today about making comments.

Public Hospitals, Beds

Dr ROWAN: My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. On 25 May 2022 the minister confirmed there were 12,769 available beds in Queensland public hospitals. Since question time yesterday the health minister has had 24 hours to find out the current figure. How many more or less available beds are there in Queensland public hospitals today than 2022 for sick Queensland patients?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for his question. As I said yesterday, when it comes to hospital beds that is a point-in-time data. In fact, in a couple of weeks it will go up again.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, the minister, as I am hearing her answer, is being responsive to the question asked.

Mrs D'ATH: As I said yesterday, it is a point in time and the figures do fluctuate, but the fact is that we are increasing bed numbers as we continue to open mental health units, as we continue to open units such as Catherine's House in partnership with the Mater—that unit will bring online an additional eight beds for mothers suffering with mental health conditions—and the additional beds in our accelerated program. I again remind members—here we go, just in case they do not know how many beds are being delivered—that there are 869 already in the pipeline—

Mr Powell interjected.

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

Mrs D'ATH: I find it astounding that those on the opposite side want to play cheap politics with the numbers of beds when it is this government and this government alone—the Labor Party—that delivers on new hospitals and expansions. There was nothing offered up at the last election—sorry, there was something offered up at the last election: fewer health workers. Well done! How do you think you will open beds if you do not have the doctors, nurses, midwives and allied healthcare professionals to manage the beds? You have to have operational staff. When you provide fewer staff you get less services. It is not that difficult to understand.

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b). The minister gave a number last year and we are asking for the same number now.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I am sorry, member. Members to my right, I need to hear the point of order without commentary.

Mr POWELL: My point of order is on relevance under standing order 118(b). The minister gave a number last year and we are simply asking for the same number today.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, the question is reasonably direct. I ask you to please respond to the question as asked.

Mrs D'ATH: I will go back to look at the latest data. I will say that the question without notice where they claimed that we said that we could not collect this data also points them to it. However, the most current data is reported quarterly. They can find that data and look at it. I can point them to where they will find the performance data for the last quarter. That is reported. The member's question is around how many there are today. Our bed numbers change on a regular basis including the new ones that we are bringing online, which is the 869 beds that are in the pipeline, 289 beds in the accelerated infrastructure program and 2,220 extra beds as part of our expansion. None of those beds were offered up by the opposition. All we were going to get was—

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

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

Mrs D'ATH:—3,270 fewer health workers. How many beds do members think can be managed across our health system with thousands fewer health workers?

(Time expired)

Racing Industry

Mr SMITH: My question is of the Minister for Racing. Can the minister please advise how the Palaszczuk government is supporting the Queensland racing industry and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for Bundaberg. Didn't we have a good time at the Bundaberg Cup last year? I am looking forward to it again this year. The member also supports the greyhound and thoroughbred racing clubs in his electorate. Over \$1.4 million is going to country racing this year alone. That is exactly what the Palaszczuk Labor government is doing with racing in this state. It is going from strength to strength. I love racing just like my dad, whose office was the TAB in New Farm. He was a keen punter. We are doing what we can to support the industry.

We have listened to the industry and we have set up the new Racing Appeals Panel. It commences tomorrow, 31 March. I congratulate Kerry O'Brien AM, a former chief judge of the District Court, on his appointment as the panel's inaugural chair. The panel also has two deputy chairs and a pool of other members who have decades of professional experience in racing, veterinary science and the law. I know the panel will do a great job in streamlining the appeals process. We have the best integrity measures in the country with regards to racing—members need only ask the Tasmanian government about what they are going through in relation to integrity in racing in that state at the moment.

When I look for alternative policies, I do not hear much. The worst deal in history was given to us by a Campbell Newman ex-minister who still sits on the front bench of the opposition. He sat at the table with the tired old stale Campbell Newman government. The tired old stale LNP is still here. We had the worst deal ever and we have been able to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. We also have some of the best conditions with the amounts that are coming into racing. The shadow spokesperson is another ex-minister who sat at the Campbell Newman cabinet table. Ten of the 18 shadow spokespeople are ex-Campbell Newman ministers, assistant ministers and even a Speaker. If we are talking about alternative policies, I am not going to get much from those opposite.

While I am on my feet I will address the Channel 7 issue. Nothing has changed. Channel 7 covers racing. He can watch his racing. They have extensive coverage. The Premier is not the CEO of Channel 7. We have even extended coverage to providers such as Ladbrokes, bet365 and Dabble. If we talk about growth in the industry, since we were elected the industry has grown by over \$2 billion. That shows what we have done for racing.

In relation to air conditioning in a little classroom somewhere in Dalby, there is over \$60 million in repairs and maintenance. We will make sure it is fixed.

(Time expired)

Dental Services, Wait Times

Mr LANGBROEK: My question is to the Minister for Health. In 2015, the number of patients waiting longer than clinically recommended to see a dentist was reduced from 62,513 Queenslanders to zero. How many Queenslanders are waiting longer than clinically recommended for their dental appointments today?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for his question. I am happy to look up the current waiting list for dental services. I do recall, as we all do, that it was the Howard government that cut the Commonwealth dental scheme which led to the states and territories having to, once again, fill the gap because of cuts to health by Liberal National Party governments.

We have continued to invest in dental services. We partner with the private sector to get people treatment as quickly as possible. We know that dental care is just as important as all other outpatient appointments and care because often it is linked with chronic and complex illnesses. That is another reason why we need to invest in primary health care as well as in our public and private hospitals. If people are managing their chronic illnesses with their local GPs then they will not necessarily end up with serious issues in relation to dental care.

As I said yesterday, those on the opposite side come in here and talk about waiting lists. What about those people—

Ms Simpson interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: I take the interjection from the member for Maroochydore. I am sure plenty of people were contacting the LNP when they were in government who were waiting more than two years on the elective surgery list—more than two years. There were 15,000 Queenslanders. It was the Palaszczuk government that got that list down to 73 people prior to COVID and there are still fewer than 2½ thousand people on that list compared to 15,000 people who were waiting more than two years. They talk about people waiting more than 24 hours in ED. They had people waiting more than two years for surgery. However, when they were in government we never heard them raising those issues. They never talked about what they were doing for those people. We heard about the millions of dollars being wasted on the wait-time guarantee. We know that people were not getting on the waiting list for surgery. Those numbers were quite good generally because you could not even get an outpatient appointment. There was a waiting list for the waiting list, yet millions of dollars were spent on marketing their wait-time guarantee. You could not go anywhere without seeing it. At the train station there would be a sign about the wait-time guarantee.

Under an LNP government what you are guaranteed is that they will cut the staff, they will cut services and they will cut funding to NGOs. We now know that for a fact because we have their cuts.

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am seeking confirmation that the member is taking that question on notice pursuant to the standing orders.

Mr SPEAKER: The minister indicates that she is not taking it on notice under the standing orders. Minister, you have 13 seconds remaining.

Mrs D'ATH: As I said, there is one thing we can guarantee that the people of Queensland would get from an LNP government: they would get cuts, they would get sackings and they would get sellings. We have proof of that with their cut list.

(Time expired)

Rockhampton, Health System

Mr O'ROURKE: My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Can the minister update the House on the investment in improved facilities and staff in the Rockhampton region, and are there any alternative approaches?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for Rockhampton for his question. It is a very important question. There are certainly alternative approaches to what the Palaszczuk government is doing. Firstly, I thank the members for Rockhampton and Keppel, who joined me in visiting the wonderful refurbished Rockhampton Ambulance Station and Operations Centre, a facility that houses over 100 staff. Not only do they do amazing work each and every day in servicing their immediate community in relation to ambulance services; the operations centre, taking triple 0 calls, actually manages to dispatch ambulances over Central Queensland, the Central West and the Mackay districts—a huge area of Queensland. It was a \$7.7 million refurbishment. When we walked through with staff and they showed us their facilities, including their training facilities, they were so proud of what they do and how they serve the community. It was a pleasure to meet Uncle George from the local ambulance committee—he gave us a beautiful welcome to country—and other former staff.

I am concerned about the past actions of the LNP. We know that in 2012 they cut 4,400 staff. We know that in 2020 they went to the election promising that if you voted for them they would guarantee over 3,000 fewer health workers—well done. In fact, in this term of government alone the Palaszczuk government will deliver 735 additional paramedics. If the LNP had been elected, there would be 415 fewer paramedics. Members opposite want to talk about ramping. What do they think happens when there are fewer paramedics? There is less ability to respond, of course. They have come in with their chests puffed out again talking about ramping—

Ms Bates interjected.

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

Mrs D'ATH: On 17 August 2012 the *Courier-Mail* carried an article with the headline 'Ramped patients should see a GP, says minister'. It stated—

Up to 40 per cent of patients at some Queensland public hospital emergency departments should be treated by general practitioners, Health Minister Lawrence Springborg says.

I do not recall the outrage of members opposite at ramping back then, when they were telling people they should go to see their GP—except that there are fewer GPs now and there is less access to GPs than ever, because there is less affordability—

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: I take those interjections. If anyone on that side believes they can stand up and say that they do not have constituents concerned that they cannot get access to a GP or cannot afford to see a GP, I will be amazed. Can they stand up and say that they have never received a complaint in their electorate about access to a GP.

(Time expired)

Dental Services, Wait Times

Mr MICKELBERG: My question is to the Premier. Buderim grandfather Graham has suffered after all of his lower teeth were removed in August last year, meaning he struggles to eat, and his mental health is deteriorating. Graham was told that he would not have bottom teeth for over a year, prompting me to escalate the matter with Queensland Health. Moments ago, Graham was told that he would finally get free treatment from Queensland Health via outsourcing to the private sector. Why does it take the intervention of a member of parliament to get action for Queensland patients?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. I will not talk about individual cases. People do have the right to go and see their local members. Members' job is to advocate on behalf of people. That is not unusual. I am glad that the member for Buderim has woken up to that fact. I will not talk about that individual case. If the member has any further inquiries about that particular matter, he should take it up with the health minister.

Women and Girls

Ms HOWARD: My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Can the Attorney-General please inform the House how the Palaszczuk government is investing in outcomes for women and girls, and is the Attorney-General aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for her question. She is a wonderful feminist role model for women and girls in Ipswich. She is quite right that the Palaszczuk government is investing in better outcomes for Queensland women and girls. That is why we have invested over \$1.3 billion into tackling domestic, family and sexual violence since coming to government in 2015. This is in stark contrast to those opposite, who cut funding from DV services and gagged them from speaking out. It is also why we have delivered free period products in Queensland state schools. I thank the education minister for her work in delivering this wonderful outcome for young students across Queensland. Every achievement that we have made for women and girls has been possible because we listen to the voices of women and, most importantly, put them in this parliament.

The LNP's women problem is becoming more and more evident every day, and the Leader of the Opposition refuses to do anything about it. If he were serious about listening to women, he would say where he stands on quotas to get more women into this place—more women into safe seats into the parliament—but he refuses to say what he thinks about quotas. If he were serious, he would say where his party stands on what they will do about a woman's right to choose if they are elected. Despite being asked six or seven times at a press conference, he refused to say what the LNP would do if they were elected into government. It was a Labor government that finally took a woman's right to choose out of the Criminal Code and made it a health issue.

If the opposition leader were serious about tackling the LNP's problem with women, he would have stood up by now and apologised to the members for Mackay and Redlands. While he is at it, he can apologise to the member for Ipswich, whom he also called a 'nodding donkey' back in 2018. He refuses time and time again to take responsibility for the things that he says and the things that his government did. He has refused to apologise for cuts to domestic and family violence services—\$25,000 was cut.

Ms FARMER: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This is a serious issue and the member for Broadwater is actually laughing at being called out for—

Mr SPEAKER: Please resume your seat, Minister. I will have control of the House. Attorney-General, do you have anything further to add?

Ms FENTIMAN: The Leader of the Opposition refuses to apologise for name-calling women in this House. He refuses to apologise for cutting funding to domestic and family violence services. He needs to take responsibility.

Hinchinbrook Electorate, Housing

Mr DAMETTO: My question is to the Minister for Communities and Housing.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, if there is a microphone issue, please use your neighbour's.

Mr DAMETTO: It has come good now.

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry, can you please turn yours off, member for Hill? Thank you. It is like the *Benny Hill Show*!

Mr DAMETTO: Availability of public housing within the Hinchinbrook electorate is at an all-time low, in line with other regions. Will the minister advise why persons from other parts of the state have been successful in accessing Hinchinbrook social housing while locals and their children sleep rough in their cars and in makeshift bush camps?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. We know that right across Australia we are seeing incredible pressure in our housing system. Every single state and territory is dealing with housing challenges. That is why on this side of the House we have been taking action. Not only have we seen a record investment—\$3.9 billion—to ensure we establish the \$2 billion Housing Investment Fund, very well managed by Treasury; we are also expending over a billion dollars for new social housing across the state. In fact, since the second action plan was launched in July 2021 we have seen 816 new social housing dwellings added to our stock. We have over 500 in construction right now and more in the pipeline. What that equates to in terms of the number of homes we have seen delivered is: every day for the last 21 months we have seen another social housing home added to our stock—every single day at least one. That means more roofs over people's heads.

Member for Hinchinbrook, we know that there is more to be done. We need the federal government to be part of this. The federal government needs to be part of this story. When we see at the federal level the LNP and the Greens blocking the \$10 billion Housing Australia Future Fund, which would equate to 30,000 new social and affordable homes across this country, including in Queensland and potentially in Hinchinbrook, these are serious blockages. That is why—

Mr DAMETTO: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Could I ask the minister to come back to the question. It is about moving people from other parts of the state into Hinchinbrook and them accessing social housing and locals not being able to access social housing.

Mr SPEAKER: I believe the minister is providing contextual information. I assume she will be coming back to that issue.

Ms ENOCH: Absolutely. I want to acknowledge the member for Hinchinbrook's passion for this space. I know that it is something that every single person in this House is concerned about. When we hear the announcements from the Premier about more funding to be able to support families in particular into emergency accommodation that is very much welcomed. Some of the outcomes coming from the round table held just the other day are absolutely welcome and will see more opportunities for more housing to be built.

In terms of managing the social housing register in each location, that is determined by local housing service centres matching the need they are seeing. I am happy to provide the member for Hinchinbrook with a briefing and have the department work through that with him. We know that this is an incredibly challenging and complex issue. We need everybody working together to be able to get through these challenging times when it comes to housing. I am happy for the department to provide a briefing about those particular issues to the member for Hinchinbrook.

Townsville, Social and Affordable Housing

Mr HARPER: My question is to the Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts. Will the minister update the House about how the Palaszczuk government is investing in social and affordable housing in Townsville?

Ms ENOCH: I want to acknowledge the member for Thuringowa, who, as we on this side of the House all know, is an incredibly passionate member of parliament and a great representative for Thuringowa. The people of Thuringowa could not be more proud and happy to have this member of parliament standing up for them every single day on multiple issues, including the assurance of more social housing in his area.

I am happy to provide an update to the House about how we are increasing social housing across the Townsville area. When cabinet was recently in Townsville I had the opportunity to visit a number of social housing developments, including homes that are under construction and those that are ready for tenants. It was fantastic to meet tenants who are ready to move in.

The Palaszczuk government has already delivered some 394 new social housing dwellings in Townsville since coming to government and we have more planned. Earlier this month in Townsville I saw firsthand the new social housing stock we are delivering in partnership with community housing provider Yumba Meta, which I know the member for Thuringowa is a huge advocate for. At two sites in Currajong and Heatley we have delivered more social homes to ensure more people get a roof over their head. These two projects have seen the creation of two- and three-bedroom duplex units, helping those who need it the most.

These are just some of the many examples of new social and affordable housing being built across the Townsville area—not to mention, of course, the 40-unit youth foyer that we are delivering in Gulliver to support young Queenslanders in need. That is 40 new homes for young people between the ages of 16 and 25 to access stable housing in a supported living environment.

We are also delivering more support for specialist homelessness services—more than \$16 million in funding for 10 organisations in the Townsville LGA to support those in need. Since the Housing Summit, more funding has been provided, including for outreach services in that area.

What is the LNP's big plan? They have a three-point plan. That is it. It is apparently about local councils, community housing providers and KPIs. We know what their real three-point plan is; it is to cut, sack and sell. We know how they treat social housing. We saw a 90 per cent reduction in the construction of social housing in this state. In fact, under the opposition, led by the member for Everton in the housing space, we saw 428 fewer social homes left in the state as a result of their policies. On a rough estimate that means that in the LNP's almost three years in office, 11 social housing projects simply evaporated every month. Meanwhile we are seeing one home every day being added to the stock as result of our policies. We build them; they get rid of them.

Police Service, Integrity

Mr BERKMAN: My question today is to the Minister for Police. Queensland police union boss Ian Leavers told media this week that 'all police involved should be commended for their actions' in the fatal shooting of 27-year-old Aboriginal man Aubrey Donahue, which will now be investigated by the QPS. Given the clear conflict of interest, will the government finally establish an independent, civilian-led police integrity unit as recommended by the Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service responses to domestic and family violence?

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Maiwar, I am cautious that this may be offending sub judice if the matter is being investigated by police. If no-one has been formally charged then I will allow the question, but minister I urge you to exercise caution in terms of your response.

Mr RYAN: Thank you very much for making that point because the matter is before the Coroner. The matter is being investigated on behalf of the Coroner by the Ethical Standards Command, with oversight by the Crime and Corruption Commission. I will not speak to the particular matter.

I will note that it is obviously a very tragic set of circumstances. The thoughts of everyone are with the gentleman's family—there has been a loss of life—and the community but also with the police who often have to confront very violent situations.

In respect of that recommendation, that is the responsibility of another minister. In response to the domestic and family violence commission of inquiry the government has expressed its support in principle for all of those recommendations. I know that Crime and Corruption Commission Chairman Bruce Barbour is actively working on how those recommendations in respect of police oversight and civilian oversight of police discipline matters can be implemented.

We have a very robust police discipline system in Queensland. I acknowledge the opposition's contribution to that. Something which took many decades was able to be improved and strengthened as a result of cooperation between both sides of politics, the police unions, the Police Service and the Crime and Corruption Commission. A few years ago we implemented in a bipartisan way a very robust system, but there are always opportunities to improve. That is why the government supported in principle those recommendations and why the chair of the CCC is leading the work around how that might be implemented.

Training and Skills

Ms LAUGA: 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 government's plan to train and retain Queensland's workforce for the future and are there any alternative approaches?

Ms FARMER: I thank the member for her question. I know how delighted she is at the priority that the Palaszczuk government places on skills and training with an investment of over \$1.2 billion a year. Our goal is to have more workers with the right skills to fill those jobs that are critical for our state's economy and to make sure we have quality service delivery. With 224,000 jobs created in this state since before COVID—and we are projecting another 280,000 to be created in the next three years—those skilled workers are going to be even more important.

That investment includes \$100 million for our Equipping TAFE for our Future strategy which is going to see new and upgraded facilities at 19 sites over 15 campuses: Bohle, Bowen, Hervey Bay, Mooloolaba, Robina, Toowoomba, Southbank, Yarrabilba, Cannonvale, Cairns, Bundamba, Bundaberg, Mackay, Rockhampton and Eagle Farm. We have our Fee Free TAFE initiative. At the end of last year we announced the \$200 million partnership with the federal government that is going to see 37,000 fee free TAFE places. Some 16,000 people have already enrolled. We have seen key demand in early childhood, IT and individual support.

Often people will do these courses because they want to get better outcomes in their jobs. I was feeling for these guys opposite because it seems that it does not matter what they do they do not seem to get the outcomes. I was wondering if there were any free courses that they could do. I know the member for Chatsworth loves pruning so he could do a cert III in horticulture. I know the member for Clayfield is into retail—he likes selling—so he could do a cert III in business. We know the Leader of the Opposition likes to do cutting so he could do a cert III in carpentry or even an apprenticeship in it. It is free.

In the blurb for this we say that these 80 priority courses are the courses that will be most in demand by employers. I was thinking that all those backbenchers over there want to do well so they could go and have a look at the courses. We know those in the LNP have to be good at cutting, good at sacking and good at selling.

They had better hurry because if they get into government there will not be any free TAFE. If they get into government there will not be any TAFE campuses. We know that they cut all the TAFE courses. We know that they sold off five campuses. We have seen the beginning of the list. We know that there is going to be no more TAFE. They want more health workers but there will be no TAFE campuses to train healthcare workers. We are into jobs for Queenslanders.

Police Resources

Mr LAST: My question is to the Premier. Latest Public Service Commission workforce data for March 2022 shows there are 12 fewer frontline full-time-equivalent police on the beat in Queensland. Will the Premier be open and transparent with Queenslanders and finally release the PSC workforce data report for September 2022?

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. My understanding is that there was an answer to a question on notice on this. That data is currently being double-checked by the PSC and will be released once that data is finalised.

Police Resources

Mr MELLISH: My question is of the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services. Will the minister update the House on the investments the government is making in frontline police and community safety and if there are any alternative approaches?

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

Mr RYAN: Thank you for your generosity, Mr Speaker. What an outstanding question from an outstanding member. The member and all members on this side know that under Labor there will always be more frontline police and emergency service personnel. Also under Labor there will always be stronger laws when it comes to paedophiles, stronger laws when it comes to bikies and stronger laws when it comes to youth offenders and breach of bail. Under Labor Queensland will always have a government that backs its frontline workers and backs community safety.

The member for Aspley and all members on this side of the House know that when it comes to, for instance, the fire service this government is committed to backing the front line and ensuring our firefighters are well resourced. When it comes to election commitments, we promised hundreds of extra firefighters and they promised none. We are delivering—delivering for Queensland and delivering for safety.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES (JACK'S LAW) AMENDMENT BILL

POLICE SERVICE ADMINISTRATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2)

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from 29 March (see p. 800), on motion of Mr Ryan—

That the bills be now read a second time.



Mr CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (12.23 pm): I am truly privileged and delighted to be able to speak on a piece of legislation that will do great good. It will do great good for Queenslanders across the state thanks to the expanded safe night precincts. It will do great good for the future of young people who just want to go and have a safe night out. It will do great good for our reputation as a state where people can feel safe. I wish the circumstances in which I met Brett and Belinda Beasley were different, but I am so glad that I met them. Through their grief they have driven that good.

I want to acknowledge the contribution in recent times of the police minister. During the course of the formulation of this legislation he has come to see the decency, strength and compassion that Brett and Belinda have summoned through their loss in driving this change. It is something that the member for Nanango saw up close and personal for a long time when she was leader of the opposition. I want to acknowledge that. It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the member for Bonney, Sam O'Connor, and what he has done in working for that family and his tight-knit community—from the Rugby League club at Helensvale to his electorate. Jack Beasley was a young man who touched the lives of so many. The work Sam has done with the Jack Beasley Foundation and as a confidante of that family—selling tickets, being a shoulder to cry on, pushing them through the desire to make this legislative change—is something he should be very proud of, and so should his community.

There is an increasing frequency with which young people are carrying weapons in this state. That is deeply troubling. The fact that we are here having to debate these laws shows that there is a real issue. Hundreds of weapons have been detected during this trial. One must therefore ask what might have happened if it were not put in place. With that in mind, I make a heartfelt plea to all members in this House to adopt the amendment that has been put forward.

Jack's Law should never end. His legacy is worth more than just two years. It is a legacy that must continue indefinitely. I cannot think of a single good reason we would not want to send the message that this law should continue in perpetuity. No-one is suggesting for one moment that there should not be the requirement for a review—that is fair and reasonable—but to not send the strongest of signals that that young life mattered and that some good must come from it in the long term would be a mistake of this House.

This is change that is desperately needed. It is change that has been fought for. It is change that this trial has proven works and will work in other parts of Queensland. Because of this law, there will be other families who do not have to wake up to the news that Brett and Belinda did. It is worth more than two years. I say to all members in this House: this is the kind of change that we are elected for. Every family wants to know that when their young kids go out to a safe night precinct they are going to come home. It is something that everybody thinks of. The knowledge that police have the tools to keep kids a lot safer is something we should all embrace. It is worth more than two years. I wholeheartedly endorse this bill and I wholeheartedly endorse the proposed amendments. I ask every member of this House to do the same.



Mr RUSSO (Toohey—ALP) (12.28 pm): I rise to speak in the cognate debate on the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2022 and the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill 2022. The Community Support and Services Committee, in its report No. 26, has recommended to the Assembly that the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) be passed.

The main objective of the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) is to deliver operational improvements and efficiencies for the Queensland Police Service and the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. The bill proposes amendments to the Police Service Administration Act, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act, the Weapons Act, the Fire and Emergency Services Act and the Disaster Management Act. The key issues raised by stakeholders and considered by the committee during the examination of the bill included: the police discipline system; reducing the legislative burden on the QPS; weapons licensing, in relation to the delegation of administrative power for more efficient processing of applications; and proposed amendments to the Fire and Emergency Services Act, in relation to clarifying the power to enter premises without a warrant, communicating local fire bans via community radio and the proposed new or amended offences.

Overall, the committee supported the purpose of the bill to enhance the operational effectiveness of the Queensland Police Service and the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services to ensure both of those bodies are able to meet the needs and expectations of Queensland communities. The Queensland Police Union stated that overall they supported the proposed amendments to the Police Service Administration Act and the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act. Recommendation No. 2 of the committee stated—

The committee recommends the Minister for Police and Corrective Services, through the Queensland Police Service, continue to monitor the effectiveness and efficiency of the application of the Police Service Administration Act 1990, and where improvements are identified, consider further enhancements to maintain optimal operational efficiency.

Another recommendation was—

The committee recommends the Queensland Government continue to engage with other Australian jurisdictions and the Commonwealth Government to ensure a consistent, efficient and safe approach to Australian weapons licensing practices.

The bill proposes changes to the Fire and Emergency Services Act and the Disaster Management Act to support the ongoing effectiveness of services delivered by the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services by clarifying when an authorised fire officer may enter premises without a warrant and by including proposed new or amended offences—for example, failing to maintain fire safety installations.

I now wish to move to the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill. Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the hard work done by Brett and Belinda Beasley, the parents of Jack Beasley, who these proposed laws are named in honour of. Jack was a 17-year-old who was tragically stabbed on a busy street in Surfers Paradise in 2019. Brett and Belinda established the Jack Beasley Foundation and they want Jack's legacy to be a safer community. I would also like to acknowledge the passing of Raymond Harris, who was fatally stabbed in Surfers Paradise in September 2020. Jack's Law extends the Gold Coast knife-wandering trial for another two years and expands the powers for police to cover all 15 safe night precincts as well as public transport infrastructure.


The Community Support and Services Committee in its report has recommended that this bill be passed. The main objective of the bill is to extend and expand the trial of handheld scanners, or wands, to detect the unlawful possession of knives, which was carried out in Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise safe night precincts. The bill proposes amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act to: extend the expiry date of the scanning provisions to 30 April 2025; increase the scope of prescribed public areas for scanning to include all 15 safe night precincts and all public transport stations, including public transport vehicles; and strengthen the criteria that a senior police officer must consider before approving the use of a handheld scanning device.

The key issues raised by stakeholders and considered by the committee during the examination of the bill were around public safety, authorisations and safeguards, expansion to public transport stations and vehicles, and the importance of public messaging and education. The committee was satisfied the Queensland Police Service will support police officers with appropriate training and comply with reporting requirements to ensure police undertake wandering searches appropriately.

The committee made recommendations to support the expansion and extension of the trial, including that the Queensland Police Service be adequately resourced across the state and that a public education program be implemented that is relevant and appropriate to the unique characteristics

of safe night precincts, the public transport setting and the Queensland community. The committee also recommended that the extended and expanded trial be independently evaluated prior to consideration of further legislative reform. I commend the bills to the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Members, I will read to the House the names of the members who have been warned under the standing orders. They are the members for Nanango, Bundaberg, Ninderry, Kawana, Warrego, Toowoomba South, Burleigh, Miller, Glass House, Broadwater and Mudgeeraba.

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (12.34 pm): I rise to contribute to the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill 2022. I also want to place on the public record my sincere condolences, respect and gratitude to Belinda and Brett Beasley, their son Mitch and all of Jack's friends. They have demonstrated, through community action and advocacy as well as by working collaboratively with the police minister, their local member and the Queensland Police Service, what you can deliver and what can come out of what was a heinous tragedy.

I would also like to acknowledge and place on record my thanks to the member for Bonney on behalf of all communities across Queensland. He has demonstrated what a local member can achieve by listening to his community, by being an advocate and by spending his time contributing as he does as a member of the Jack Beasley Foundation. I would also like to acknowledge the work of our previous leader, Deb Frecklington, the member for Nanango, and our current Leader of the Opposition, David Crisafulli. They have continued the advocacy with Brett and Belinda.

'Detect knives, save lives'—I am a mother of young adult children. I recall some years ago when my son was at Schoolies Week in Airlie Beach the take-up and the threats that were apparent amongst youths in particular around knife crime and the number of young people who were carrying knives. My son is now 22 so this was some five years ago. This trial was a success because hundreds of knives and weapons were picked up. We acknowledge the extraordinary powers that police have with this trial that was undertaken, but the evaluation of the trial has demonstrated that it has worked. We will never know the number of lives, injuries or violence it has prevented, but we are certainly grateful for what it has delivered. This law and the Jack Beasley Foundation will continue the advocacy and education, and I would certainly welcome them across my electorate, as I know many Queensland MPs would.

I have two safe night precincts in my electorate for my community—that is, Airlie Beach and Mackay. I would like to acknowledge those members of the safe night precincts as well as my local Queensland Police Service. Post COVID the government and the Attorney-General threatened to decrease funding, and we waited months before we knew whether funding was going to be available to support our safe night precincts to proceed. I am pleased that the government did reinstate that funding and I am pleased that I had that advocacy with members of the Queensland Police Service. I engage with them regularly across my community, and I thank them for their service not just in the safe night precincts but across the community in crime prevention every single day. I also acknowledge Anglicare North Queensland in Airlie Beach and Mackay Street Chaplaincy in Mackay. They work alongside the many people who want to keep our streets safe, and they also engage with young people and ensure they are well looked after during those wild nights out that we sometimes see.

As outlined by members on this side of the House, we will be moving an amendment to this legislation that looks at the review period of two years and that the evaluation actually be a legislative review. While we acknowledge there should be an independent evaluation after two years and that things may need to be tweaked, as outlined by the Leader of the Opposition, Jack's Law is a legacy that should not be limited to a short period of time. That is not a message we want to send to criminals across our state. It is not a message we want to send to young people who are engaging in knife crime. It is not a message we want to send to our broader community when it comes to public safety.


Laws are put in place to protect people. Public safety and the role which legislators play is critical to upholding our community safety. It is the one role that we have where we can make a real difference, and in particular when it comes to Jack Beasley, it is the least we can do when it comes to legacy in this state. Let us not ever have his loss of life be in vain.

I also want to put on the public record the absolute disdain that I witnessed in this House by the member for Maiwar. I do not often worry or concern myself too much with what members of the Greens say in this House, but I must say it is an absolute insult to every serviceman and servicewoman of the Queensland Police Service what I heard from that member. It is an absolute insult to parents across this state what was outlined by the member for Maiwar, his concern that illicit drugs might be picked up, that there are other issues which may arise that impinge on people's freedoms. We need to send a very clear message: if you are partaking in illegal activity, there are consequences for your actions. I hope

the member for Maiwar goes back and expresses to his constituents in the community that he does not support the Queensland Police Service, that he does not support this trial, that he does not support this law, because it was an insult, an absolute insult.

I certainly want the people of broader Queensland and those here in South-East Queensland and in the member's electorate to know that on this side of the House we take very seriously law and order and we take very seriously our emergency services' contribution to this state. Let us never forget: they are the people who put their lives on the line each and every day to keep our communities safe.

With that, I am pleased to be able to contribute. Once again, I thank the member for Bonney who has demonstrated the real depth of what a true parliamentarian can deliver in this state.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (12.41 pm): Here in arguably the most disaster-prone state, our first responders are world-class. In the most challenging of times, these are the heroic ones amongst us who run towards danger, instead of away from it. The Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) ensures that we are best placed to continually improve to create a public service that is more professional, delivering improvement and remaining contemporary.

I sat on the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee when we were first examining the police discipline system in the last term of parliament, so I followed with interest the amendments this legislation proposes to keep the system contemporary and as functional as possible. While the amendments proposed to this legislation are all worthy and need to be addressed, I think the substantive content in the amendment indicate to the public that this is a robust system that delivers. I was particularly interested in the provision that would see the dismissal from the QPS of a police officer or police recruit immediately on being sentenced to imprisonment, including a suspended sentence for an offence.

Recent corporate data breaches by multinationals have highlighted the very serious and real ramifications on everyday Queenslanders. Provisions in this bill will make the penalties more severe for the misuse of QPS information. We know that it is a detrimental practice not only for the individual but also, in this context, for criminal investigations and operations.

In respect to Weapons Licensing, the committee heard that as of 31 August 2022, there were 213,917 weapons licences issued in Queensland, and 962,374 firearms on the register. On a weekly basis, Weapons Licensing receives an average of 350 new licence applications, 360 renewal applications and 1,100 permits to acquire. An internal review, conducted by Weapons Licensing Branch, identified that there should be scope for an authorised officer to delegate powers to a police officer or a QPS staff member to address this high volume of applications. We have heard the minister speak of the high volume of applications here in this chamber.

As a local member, I have community members and representative organisations like the Shooters Union raise this issue with me directly, so I am very pleased to be part of a government that is delivering reform to provide a better service to the community. We know our weapons licence owners are responsible, upstanding members of the community, and I have a large number of them in my community. We always have very informative and productive discussions. Licensed weapon owners, legislators and the Queensland Police Service all want to achieve the same outcome when it comes to the weapons licensing system, and that is a system that is robust and timely. I commend the minister for making these adjustments to ensure the community's expectations are met in a sphere that is often sensationalised and politically weaponised.


I take the opportunity to place on record my community's heartfelt thanks to those wonderful first responders that we are fortunate to have. When it comes to the Jack's Law legislation, the QPS tells us that from 30 April 2021 to 29 January 2023, we had 21,362 people that had been wanted for knives or weapons, resulting in the seizure of 242 weapons and 656 offenders being charged with various offences. The weapons detected included folding knives, flick-knives, machetes, a bush saw, a tomahawk, sharpened screwdrivers, replica firearms, knuckledusters and tasers.

In our safe night precincts where we see a congregation of a large number of people in the evenings and on weekends, coupled with intoxicated and charged environments, of course antisocial behaviour does present. These measures take proactive action against knife crime. They provide greater public confidence and increase community safety.

I recognise the contribution of the Beasley family and their strong advocacy in bringing these reforms to this point. These reforms will undoubtedly save lives. In the words of Belinda Beasley—

We just want kids to understand that it isn't a video game, you can't press restart, it's real life and by them carrying a knife, that can be used on them.

We are not the first jurisdiction in Australia to permit limited scanning in public places; these provisions are already in use in Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. These are good, quality reforms, and I commend them to the House.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (12.46 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the cognate debate on the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) and the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill. I would like to limit my contribution to the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill aspect of the debate as I have had a bit to do with the Beasley family. Brett and Belinda are certainly great people. I cannot fathom the pain they have gone through, losing their son at such a young age over something so senseless. Out of the nightmare they have gone through, they have started a dream to stop this type of violence, and that is something that they should be certainly very much commended for. They should also be commended for their courage; they are courageous people who are determined to stop this scourge of knife crime in our communities.

I note the committee's report recommendation No. 3 which says, 'The committee recommends that the public education program is developed in consultation with the key stakeholders.' I want to put on record and table in the House a program that the Beasley family does in our local schools. This program certainly does have merit in this debate because it is targeting young people to say to them, 'You do not need to carry a knife.'

Tabled paper: Letter, undated, from the Secretary, Jack Beasley Fund Incorporated/Jack Beasley Foundation, Ms Belinda Beasley, regarding an education campaign called 'I live my life without a knife' [\[409\]](#).


The reason I am so passionate about this is that a little while back I was doing a community roadside near one of the larger schools in my electorate and a group of young people walked past. A person who was with me at that roadside asked those students if they ever carry a knife. Those young people said they do because they think it is a way of protecting themselves. This is why the program that the Jack Beasley Foundation is doing is so incredibly important to have in our education system, to teach these individuals that it is not okay to carry a knife. You do not need to carry a knife because potentially what is going to happen is that knife will be used against you and may cost you your life.

I do thank the Beasley family for doing this and pushing these programs. I hope that all members can show their local schools that this program is something worthwhile and needs to be taken across Queensland to stop this scourge and to tell young people, 'No, you don't need to carry a knife.'

I would also like to give a big shout-out to Wayne and Leanne. Wayne is the Hornets president and is a fantastic man, and I have a lot to do with Leanne and the Helensvale markets. Their support of the Beasley family is commendable. You could never ask for better friends in life than these individuals.

I want to state my concerns about the expiry date of this bill. I agree with the LNP members wholeheartedly that this bill should continue the trial in perpetuity; it should be ongoing. After the next election the make-up of the House could be very different. A minor party could hold the balance of power and one of the minor parties has already stated they do not agree with quite a few aspects of these laws. I fear that this will eventually place other young people's lives in danger. As a parent—and all parents in this chamber would agree—I would hate this to happen to a person I know. I just say: we need to be very careful. Therefore we need to accept the amendments to be moved by the member for Burdekin, the shadow minister, to allow this trial to continue in perpetuity.

I aimed to keep my comments as brief as possible because many other people want to speak, but I do worry about that aspect. I want to ensure that Queenslanders are kept safe and young people understand that having a knife is not something they need for their own safety as they could potentially be killed by their own knife.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (12.51 pm): I rise to speak in support of the two cognated bills, the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill and the Police Service Administration and Other legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2). The policy objectives of the Jack's Law bill and the reasons for them are to extend and expand the trial of the handheld scanner provisions to detect unlawfully possessed knives and other weapons beyond the Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach safe night precincts. The bill will achieve this objective by: amending the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 to extend the expiry date of the scanning provisions to 30 April 2025; increase the scope of the prescribed public areas for scanning to include all 15 safe night precincts and all public transport stations, including public transport vehicles; and strengthen the criteria that a senior police officer must consider before approving the use of a handheld scanner device.

This bill is part of the Palaszczuk government's ongoing commitment to deliver better services and keep Queenslanders safe with the bill to expand and extend an Australian first trial to detect weapons in order to combat violence. This important step brings the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill one step closer to being legalised. If passed, the bill will be known as Jack's Law, named after Jack Beasley, who was tragically fatally stabbed in 2019. We will see the Queensland Police Service trial of wandering powers extended for two years and expanded to all safe night precincts, public transport modes and associated transport infrastructure. The bill is all about community safety so that people venturing out at night spots can feel some degree of safety.

The Palaszczuk government is always looking at ways to improve community safety, and not only will Jack's Law give Queenslanders using our rail networks and going into safe night precincts some piece of mind, but we firmly believe it will reduce knife crime and save lives. Our government wants to give our police and other agencies and organisations, including the Jack Beasley Foundation, the powers to keep crime off our streets.

The Queensland Police Service have confirmed that, in the Gold Coast trial, wandering has proven to be a very effective, proactive initiative for the police to prevent violent crimes in Surfers Paradise and they support the expansion of these measures across the state. The police further advise that the Gold Coast trial has seen hundreds of dangerous weapons being detected and taken off our streets. There is absolutely no reason why law-abiding citizens need to arm themselves with knives, knuckledusters and screwdrivers, as we have seen on the Gold Coast. Police conducting wandering in certain areas have sent a very clear message to anyone contemplating taking a weapon into a public place that it is an offence and they will be caught.

In December 2019, 17-year-old Jack Beasley was fatally stabbed outside a Surfers Paradise convenience store while on a night out with friends. The family subsequently established the Jack Beasley Foundation in a bid to drive change and educate young people about the dangers of carrying knives in public places. Tragically, in September 2020, 27-year-old Raymond Harris was fatally stabbed after an altercation on Cavill Avenue in Surfers Paradise. The bill has been named in honour of Jack but also recognises the passing of Mr Harris.

Founders of the Jack Beasley Foundation, Brett and Belinda Beasley, have dedicated their lives since Jack's death to educating people about the dangers of knife crime. Mr Beasley is quoted as saying—

"Jack's Law is about child safety and it's about keeping all our kids, and the wider community, safe," ...

...

"I think every single Queensland parent should be right beside us in doing this. At the end of the day, we just want to keep our kids safe.

"I'm hoping Jack's Law will clean up these knives and stop these kids carrying weapons.

"It's important we're at this stage, but the trial needs to be extended."

The Police Union President, Ian Leavers, supported the government's statewide expansion of these powers and urged the committee to also support the expansion of the wandering statewide. As Mr Leavers said—

"These wandering powers for police have been hugely successful in the trial on the Gold Coast. We know these powers work, so I encourage the Committee to recommend that police are given these statewide powers immediately to ensure we can keep people safe.

I met with Jack Beasley's mother, Belinda, and members of the Beasley Foundation just this weekend and I know they want these laws to be statewide too.

Ultimately, Police and the community across Queensland will be better off when police can utilise these laws."


In closing, I would like to thank Minister Ryan, the Minister for Police, for introducing this important bill to the Queensland parliament. I would also like to thank the Community Support and Services Committee, the committee secretariat, the submitters and Hansard. I commend the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill and the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr McDonald, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 12.58 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Sunshine Coast, Transport Infrastructure

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): Sunshine Coast residents will have heard for many years about the CAMCOS corridor. We know it as the Sunshine Coast heavy passenger rail, joining rail infrastructure from Beerwah to Caloundra, to Kawana, to Maroochydore. The CAMCOS corridor was first parroted by Labor governments in 1999. Since then we have had plan after plan, business case after business case, study after study. Guess what the Palaszczuk Labor government are doing now: another business case. From 1999 to 2023—24 years later, the state Labor government are doing another business case, like they have to be told how important heavy passenger rail is for the Sunshine Coast community! For goodness sake, the time for planning and looking into the Sunshine Coast heavy passenger rail is finished; the time for action is now. The time to build the rail is now. The time to dig with the shovel is now. They absolutely must get on with delivering the Sunshine Coast heavy passenger rail.


Sunshine Coast community residents have waited too long for this heavy passenger rail. Now the rumours are circulating that the state Labor government, through this business case, is only looking at extending the line from Beerwah and finishing it at Caloundra. If that is the case, it is disgraceful. It is not good enough for the residents of Kawana and Maroochydore to miss out on the Sunshine Coast heavy passenger rail.

The other rumour circulating is that the state government will deliver the heavy passenger rail to Caloundra and then there will be the light rail being proposed by the Sunshine Coast council. This means that a tram up Nicklin Way on our coastline communities will pick people up from Caloundra to Maroochydore. That is not acceptable. The Sunshine Coast community does not support the light rail down Nicklin Way and on our coastal communities. It will wreck the environment and it will wreck livability on the Sunshine Coast.

I see the Minister for the Environment smirking at me about the environment. We have one of the largest turtle nesting colonies in the world along my beaches in Buddina and Kawana. Lights from road and rail traffic have an impact on turtle nesting. The light rail proposed by the Sunshine Coast Council will have a detrimental impact not only on livability but also on the environment, particularly the turtle nesting that we see across Kawana Beach, and on the community.

I call on the Labor state government to stop the planning of the Sunshine Coast heavy passenger rail and deliver it. It is about time the rail is delivered. If the Premier wants legacy projects for her Olympics in 2032 then I say: put the Sunshine Coast heavy passenger rail in the mix, because the Sunshine Coast community have missed out from the Labor Party for too long.

Laming, Mr A; Redlands Electorate

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.03 pm): Today is the third day of this sitting week, and that means there have been three opportunities for the Leader of the Opposition to demonstrate that he is doing politics differently in this place. We have seen no apology to the member for Mackay and no apology to the member for Ipswich in those three days. As the member for Redlands, I can speak from significant experience on the LNP's problem with women. When you look at what has come before, the former member for Bowman, Andrew Laming, did nothing but bully and harass. Everyone remembers the picture in the park and 'Skimmy & the Shirty Shovel'. Things have not changed for the LNP. Until they can own it when they have said something that is not appropriate, they will continue to have a problem.

Mrs Frecklington: You might like to look at the history of this morning.

Ms RICHARDS: I can tell the member for Nanango about the history in the Redlands. She only needs to look at the former member for Bowman's Facebook page to see the history. I will not be lectured to by the member for Nanango on this topic.


Last night I spoke of our track record versus the LNP's track record in the Redlands, on health care particularly. As I said last night, their candidate was extraordinarily delighted to stand beside me, along with the Minister for Health, at the sod turn for the satellite hospital. She loves that project. The LNP really do love that project. Today the current member for Bowman is out there lauding our project. It is fantastic news that the LNP are on board with our satellite hospitals, because it builds on what we are delivering and our track record. I put my five years next to the 10 years of the LNP any day of the

week, particularly when it comes to education. I thank Minister Grace for all the work she has done to help me deliver for my Redlands community. Air conditioning and solar panels were delivered before time and on budget at every one of my Redlands schools. The Redlands District Special School—

Mr Brown interjected.

Ms RICHARDS: That is right, member for Capalaba; it is one of the pieces of infrastructure I am most proud to have delivered for my community—an \$11 million specialised learning space. There is \$11 million in a new STEM and hospitality building for Victoria Point State High School, investment in Redland Hospital and a doubling in our police force. When you throw out what you think you will campaign on as we head towards an election, you might want to look at my track record versus the track record of the LNP in the Redlands, because it is absolutely shocking and the comparison is stark. Take a look at our track record in roads and in transport. There are new ferry terminals for each one of my islands—\$46 million worth of delivery. This is unprecedented in five years. I will fight for my Redlands community every day.

Digital Driver's Licence


 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (2.06 pm): In 2023, all Queenslanders should be able to get a digital driver's licence. Whether you are going to the bottle-o, making a visit to 'Uncle Dan's', or going to a pub or a nightclub and having your ID scanned for entry—it has been a few years, thankfully, since I have needed to have that done—or any other situation where you need photo identification, you should be able to obtain it digitally. It is especially important for that one mate we all have who has to fumble for a passport, who continually loses their ID or who gets stuck outside and cannot go in with everyone else.

For many of us, so much of our life is digital—whether it is our bank card, concert tickets, movie tickets or plane tickets. So many things are digital in this day and age. The government agrees, because half a decade ago, in 2018, the state government said 'it could be an option soon'. The Labor Party has a very different definition of 'soon' to most people. Since that announcement five years ago, in September 2019 a trial was announced for Maryborough and Hervey Bay. From March to September 2020 the trial did occur. In April 2021 there were media reports that the trial could be rolled out across all of Queensland. Then in February 2022 the transport minister announced that Townsville would get the licences by the end of the year. Then at the end of the year in 2022 we saw reports that the Townsville rollout had been delayed, and there has been no action since.

I hate comparing us to New South Wales, especially when they are doing better than us, but in New South Wales, 4.4 million people have a digital driver's licence. That is three-quarters of all eligible people in that state. They are looking to add Medicare cards to their digital wallet as well. Queensland does not even have a digital wallet app. The government has not rolled it out. In 2023 you should not have to carry around a piece of plastic to identify yourself.

Digital licences should be opt-in, of course. No-one is going to force anyone to get one, but they should be an option. It is particularly important for young Queenslanders because, as I said, so much of our life is digital. Queenslanders expect that they should have a digital driver's licence. I call on the state government to get this rollout underway and to deliver what they announced half a decade ago.

Union Movement, Women in Leadership; LNP Opposition

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.09 pm): Women on this side of the House are proud to be unionists. It is the union movement that mentors women into leadership roles within their unions and as activists and leaders in their workplaces, making sure that workplaces are safe and fair and helping to crack glass ceilings. I am grateful for the many years of membership that I have had within the QTU and the United Workers Union.

Today women in Australia can celebrate being the first to have a vote in a national parliament anywhere in the world. This is because of the great work of the wonderful unionist Emma Miller. Emma Miller is recognised by the Queensland Council of Unions every year with the Emma Miller Awards. Unionists nominate strong women making changes and standing up for fairness in their workplaces. This is what the sisterhood of women looks like—that is, women and men getting together to celebrate the strong achievements of women.

On the other side of this chamber is a leader who is obsessed with donkeys and belittling women. The 'donkey-gate' scandal enveloping the LNP leader is widening. He has no idea on how to show respect towards women. When the Attorney-General called him out today about his abuse of the

member for Ipswich, he and his mates over there just sat and laughed. They have a problem with women and a policy vacuum. However, I do congratulate those opposite for finding some new female candidates, but over there chaos reigns. No-one is sure who is in charge. One night when I was speaking and I referred to the Leader of the Opposition, it was another member who got to her feet—maybe jumping the gun on another leadership reshuffle. I will go back to the sisterhood, women supporting women and women being guided and mentoring other women and junior girls into leadership positions.

Mrs Frecklington: How's this women supporting women? Labor women are bullies!

Mrs GILBERT: The member for Whitsunday ran a campaign in her electorate against a vote taken by Mackay Regional Council—

Ms GRACE: Mr Deputy Speaker Martin, I rise to a point of order. The member for Nanango made a comment just before. I am a Labor woman. I take personal offence and I ask that it be withdrawn.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): The member has taken personal offence. I did not hear what was said, but the member has taken personal offence. Will you withdraw?

Ms SIMPSON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I do not believe the minister was personally named and it requires someone to be personally named.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, I did not hear what was said. I understand, getting advice from the clerks at the table, that no-one was personally named, so there is no point of order.

Mrs GILBERT: There was a campaign against a vote taken by the Mackay Regional Council to remove artwork from one of its structures in a skate park, and that is fair enough. The campaign got ugly. Women councillors told me that they were invited to a public meeting on the issue in good faith and the member for Whitsunday screamed and yelled at them and built up a very angry crowd. Councillors' names listed on her Facebook page started getting death threats and she gave them no protection. That is not what women do. Women stick together. They look after each other, and these are women who supported her at pre-poll. This is not what women do. We stick together.

Maroochydore Electorate, Rail Infrastructure; Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance


 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (2.13 pm): It is time to build the rail to Maroochydore, not block it. The 2032 Olympics are at risk of becoming Premier Palaszczuk's personal plaything rather than a games for all of Queensland after the eye-watering \$1.7 billion blowout on the Gabba upgrade has put at risk true legacy infrastructure that will serve all communities on the Sunshine Coast, South-East Queensland and all parts of Queensland. The failure of this government to grasp the \$1.6 billion that was available from the previous federal coalition government, match it and then get on with the business of building the rail is not just disappointing; it is a lost opportunity to build the infrastructure we need today and into the future. It is also a failure of the Premier's leadership when she has promised to be a Premier for all of Queensland, but apparently she is only a Premier for her mates.

Former premier Beattie promised to have rail to Maroochydore built by 2020 and then transport minister, Minister Bailey, shunned the \$1.6 billion by delay and distraction and any disruption he could come up with and any excuse not to match it. Last night he tabled a redacted copy of the North Coast Connect business case and claimed that he could not read a single figure. Perhaps the minister should ask his department for those figures given that it was involved in that business case. As the member for Kawana outlined earlier, there have been a lot of business cases and there has been a lot of work, but what we are seeing now is a government desperate to spin its wheels and go nowhere on the infrastructure that is required for all Queensland communities. Whether those communities vote for this government or not, it is time that this was a government for all of Queensland. It is a disgrace that it has failed to step up and get this project happening. It desperately needs to happen.

I also want to address a serious issue around workforce reports. The Palaszczuk Labor government has turned its back on transparency with revelations this week that it has deliberately withheld a critical report which we believe shows cuts to frontline police, teachers and nurses. A question on notice has revealed that it has scrapped the latest release of the *Queensland public sector workforce profile* report and I believe this is a deliberate move to keep Queenslanders in the dark, not being open and transparent with Queenslanders, throwing out the Coaldrake report about letting the sunshine in by hiding the figures and saying that it needs to work on them more. We do not know when

it is going to release the report. We do not know what format it is going to release it in given that there has been an established format. There is a real risk that it is going to launder the figures—wash the figures, hide the information—and Queenslanders deserve more.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Women

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (2.16 pm): This morning in question time I asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence a question and in her answer she very kindly referred to me as a strong feminist and a mentor for women and girls in my community.

A government member interjected.


Ms HOWARD: And a very strong unionist, but her answer made me reflect a little as to what has made me a feminist in my life. Like many women, we think about our mothers who are our first mentors and our first leaders in our community. My mother raised the three of us by herself. She had quite a serious illness, but she raised us. She was an incredibly strong and intelligent woman and she led by example as a parent. She showed us that you have dignity and respect for others and that you show kindness and compassion and that none of those things are a weakness because you are a female.

I also reflected a little on the Attorney-General's answer to my question about what the Palaszczuk government has done for women in the last few years, and I am really happy to share some of those things that we have done. We have decriminalised abortion for women which was an incredibly important achievement. It is something that all of my sisters right throughout my adult life have felt passionately about. We have invested \$1.2 billion towards ending violence against women. We have established the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce and we have committed to criminalising coercive control. We were the first state to introduce paid domestic and family violence leave and we are the first cabinet in Australia to have 50 per cent women. I also want to acknowledge the Minister for Education, who is in the House, who is a fantastic role model as well for women and girls. One of the fantastic things that she has done which has really resonated in my electorate is provide free period products in our schools, which is a great achievement.

I grew up in Mackay, as I said, raised by my mother. I had a teenage pregnancy, so members can imagine that I was judged quite harshly. People look at you differently. The father of that child was not judged and looked at differently. I am really proud of both of my children. It is a disadvantage—a background of having a teenage parent—but they have both gone on to achieve incredibly in their lives and it showed that that discrimination and that judgement was harsh and unnecessary. That is something that we should all be mindful of in this House and it is something that women experience more than men—quite a lot more. I am not asking for any tiny violins to be played in here. I know that I am a white woman and I do not have a disability, so I am already doing better—

(Time expired)

Nanango Electorate, Health Services

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.19 pm): In 2022, 1,777 people, including Rosie and Riley, had to travel outside of our region for life-saving chemotherapy or anticancer treatment. Being diagnosed with cancer is bad enough, but the added stress of having to travel such long distances is exhausting and expensive. The figures that I have revealed today came from a question on notice. It is shocking. It revealed that since 2018, the number of people—children and adults—from the South Burnett requiring chemo has more than doubled. It confirms that all these people must travel for at least two hours, some of them up to four hours, each way because they cannot access chemo locally.

Yes, Premier, we do have a brand new hospital, but we do not have the services in it. On behalf of those 1,777 people I am calling on the Premier to give us what she promised. In a press statement the health minister said she would give us telechemo. We do not have telechemo. It is in the documentation from the very beginning. The hospital has now been open for two years and this House has heard all of the issues with it, but we do not even have this service. Instead the health department is saying they are currently evaluating the suitability of expanding this service to the South Burnett.


Those opposite talk about women's rights, but what about women who are suffering from breast cancer who have to travel for four hours to get chemo? What about women who live in the Callide electorate who have to travel for hours to give birth? That is what I am talking about when it comes to women's rights. How about the Palaszczuk government start looking after women of rural and regional Queensland and everyone else in the South Burnett who is suffering from cancer. We know the figures

are going up. We know more needs to be done around cancer awareness. The stress and strain on families who have to travel outside of the region for treatment is unbelievable. Glenys wrote to me sharing her deep concerns for her elderly neighbour, a woman in her eighties, who is travelling to Toowoomba every two weeks for chemo. She wrote—

Surely a town as big and thriving as Kingaroy could offer this vital service to their local community.

There are so many other sad stories. I have been calling for a specialist cancer care navigator nurse as well. The Palaszczuk government got rid of that in 2020. We want that service back. We want a chemo nurse in Kingaroy!


Bundamba Electorate, Manufacturing

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (2.22 pm): We are delivering better services and more infrastructure while creating more good jobs, including through local manufacturing in our local community in Redbank. Full-scale production is underway for the very first locally made Boxer combat recognisance vehicles at our local Rheinmetall Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence in Redbank. I was proud to welcome the Premier and the Deputy Premier back to Redbank to catch up with some of the 600 workers at Australia's most advanced military vehicle manufacturing facility, a facility that was secured in Queensland in our local community thanks to the Palaszczuk government.

Also in Redbank, Queensland Rail and its partners are transforming train travel with a new world-class signalling system, the European Train Control System, that is supporting up to another 200 local jobs. Still in Redbank, Progress Rail is keeping our iconic regional locomotives and tourist trains on track with state-of-the-art upgrades as part of a \$21 million investment that is supporting around 50 more local jobs. Moving next door to Swanbank, we are creating jobs at South-East Queensland's very first clean energy hub at Swanbank—where we saved Swanbank E power station from being sold off. Under proud public ownership, we are installing a 250-megawatt battery that is providing 60 jobs in construction alone, as well as looking at a solar farm, renewable hydrogen production and refuelling, as well as community co-designed spaces. We are also creating jobs through a brand new state-of-the-art health facility, our \$85 million South Ripley satellite hospital that is currently under construction. Recently I had the opportunity to inspect the progress, and it is coming along extremely well. It was great to catch up with the workers who are working there and who are soon going to be joined by more frontline health staff.

Bundamba is booming under the Palaszczuk Labor government, but all of that is at risk under the LNP. They have revealed their plan to cut, sack and sell and they have Bundamba squarely in their sights as part of their billion dollar cuts hit list. Their hit list, published by the LNP themselves, includes the South Ripley satellite hospital, the ETCS train project at Redbank and no doubt they will likely try to shut down Swanbank E power station again to sell it off. They even have listed the Centenary Bridge upgrade on their list so traffic will get worse. In contrast, we are delivering on our commitment to bring back more manufacturing and deliver jobs for Bundamba.

Burdekin Electorate, Teachers

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.25 pm): We know that as of July last year the Department of Education had almost 900 vacancies to fill and even today, just like in other areas throughout the state, teachers throughout the Burdekin electorate are going above and beyond to minimise the effect of those vacancies on our children. Members will remember how the last time I stood in this place and raised an issue regarding air conditioning at Dysart State High School I was ridiculed. I was targeted by the minister for making up stories about an air conditioner issue in my electorate. Those vacancies continue and I will continue to stand up for my schools in the electorate because I pay particular interest—

Ms Grace: The best schools in the nation!


Mr LAST: They are the best schools, I agree with the minister, and I will always stick up for the schools and the teachers in my electorate. Whilst there are vacancies I will continue to advocate for those vacancies to be filled because it has a massive impact on those communities, as the minister well knows. I often like to say that the reason families go to these areas is for health and education. If we do not have those two right then we will not attract families to those particular areas. The big blue shed—the minister knows it—at Moranbah State High School is still closed today while we are waiting for a teacher to take up an appointment at that particular locality.

The main issue I want to talk about today is the substandard accommodation that exists throughout the Isaac area and the impact that is having on attracting and retaining teachers into those particular areas. We have graduates going out there, taking one look at this accommodation and turning around and hightailing it out of the Isaac region because of the substandard accommodation. Rents in Moranbah are \$600 to \$900 a week. Why would you want to go there and be forced to live in substandard accommodation? Why would you want to go there and be forced to share a house with people you do not necessarily get along with? Why would you want to go to Dysart and be forced to live in a mining camp? You know what I am saying is true, Minister. They need accommodation.

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

Mr LAST: The minister knows that if you are going to attract and retain teachers in these areas they need suitable accommodation. What currently exists in those areas does not meet even the most basic standards. I will continue to stand up in this place and advocate for all those teachers who deserve better. We know it is a tough environment. They deserve to go out there and have decent accommodation. The minister should step up to the plate and provide it.

Bribie Island Satellite Hospital

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (2.28 pm): Having more free public health care closer to home is crucial for people in Pumicestone so our satellite hospitals are just what the doctor ordered for our community. I recently toured the Caboolture satellite hospital, which is a few months ahead of my one on Bribie, and I was so impressed. Bribie residents will be delighted to have an innovative satellite hospital in the heart of our community, bringing locals free public health care closer to home. Whether you have a chronic illness, whether you need renal dialysis regularly, whether you need an outpatient mental health appointment—that I advocated to be included so strongly—or other hospital care, our local satellite hospital will be there for you.

With fewer and fewer GPs in our area offering bulk-billing, having a minor accident and illness centre open until late at night will be a support to people who find themselves struggling to afford the cost of a doctor's appointment.


We are building seven satellite hospitals across South-East Queensland and we are investing in the \$400 million redevelopment of Caboolture Hospital that will see it doubled in size, adding a whole new list of services and 130 beds. We are doing all of that because our government is determined to do what matters for Queenslanders.

However, Queenslanders are asking themselves if the LNP is doing what matters and the answer is absolutely not. This week we have heard more about the LNP's infrastructure cuts list, where they are planning to 'prune back' billions of dollars. We know that the LNP have their secret infrastructure cuts list and we know our satellite hospitals are firmly on that list. It is no surprise because the Queensland LNP and our local LNP members in Pumicestone never miss a chance to talk down our satellite hospitals.

In 2020 when we announced our Bribie Island satellite hospital, local LNP figures attacked me about why we did not give the money to a private consortium to build a private hospital instead. That is what they wanted: privatisation. It is straight from the LNP's privatisation playbook where they back big business over the free public hospital care that our community needs most. They are always talking down and undermining our free public healthcare system in Queensland. They always want to back in cuts and privatisation.

Let us make no mistake: the flailing lame-duck LNP leader will 'prune back' our satellite hospitals. He will privatise them for a quick buck and direct the work towards his big business mates, just like Campbell Newman did. The LNP simply do not back government services. If Queenslanders elect them then they will cut services, sack health workers and privatise public health care to boost profits for their business mates. The LNP use slurs against women while talking about merit. There is one member in this House who is absolutely not here on merit and that is the LNP leader, the member for Broadwater. Our government is doing what matters on health, on housing, on cost-of-living support and on supporting our frontline workers and we will always do that.

Clayfield Electorate, Resilient Homes Fund

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (2.31 pm): I just heard the member for Pumicestone say 'doing what matters'. How about doing what matters to the people of Clayfield who are still waiting, a year after the event, for flood buyback offers and resilient homes funding to be made available to them? This

government has \$741 million to spend on the Resilient Homes Fund and 50 per cent of that, of course, was courtesy of the then federal coalition government last year. The promise was that that money would give struggling home owners affected by the disastrous 2022 February floods a new start with a chance to repair, a chance to enhance flood resilience and, in some cases, a chance to sell their home and move somewhere else under a flood buyback scheme.

While purchases of \$2.5 million are reportedly going ahead at lightning speed, in my electorate owners whose homes were flooded up to the ceiling are still waiting for a response. Right now in my electorate of Clayfield that is happening in Windsor along Enoggera Creek and in Kalinga along Kedron Brook, more than one year after the flooding of both Enoggera Creek and Kedron Brook. Over many months I have been assisting residents in Victoria Street, Windsor, and Millman Street, Woolloowin, who are frustrated, confused and distressed by the inability of this Labor government to simply do what it promised to do, which is to help those most severely affected by last year's damaging floods, that is, those who have lost their homes.

Residents have been looking for clear, concise and accurate information for months—for months—about their eligibility under one of the three funding scheme options. However, to date, and despite many calls and emails, they are no closer to getting an answer. A timeline provided by one of my constituents shows that they first contacted the fund administrator in April 2022. It is now March 2023 and they are no further down the track. It appears that the funds agents who are supposedly helping home owners navigate the convoluted mess of bureaucracy that is the Resilient Homes Fund are themselves up the creek without a paddle.

I take the case of Marco from Windsor. He reports that the fund gives conflicting deadlines, has extensive delays in assessment and apparently has never heard of that revolutionary concept known as communication back to the customer. One might think that in a process as crucial as this, clear and concise information would be of the utmost importance. The fund's public website seems to have been taken out of a choose-your-own-adventure novel. The Resilient Homes Fund offers not one but two fact sheets with identical first steps, only to diverge about halfway through. Home owners like Roger and Judith from Kalinga are left wondering whether they will ever receive their report. Flood-affected locals like Roger, Judith, Marco and his neighbour Jo have been left waiting in rapidly deteriorating neighbourhood properties. I call on this government and the Deputy Premier to get this matter sorted.

Mount Gravatt Community Centre



Ms McMILLAN (Mansfield—ALP) (2.34 pm): The Mount Gravatt Community Centre is a well-loved hub in the Mansfield electorate that has a wonderful reputation for the delivery of high-quality programs and services that benefit the whole community. The centre was established in 1990 by state Labor member Judy Spence. It was a Labor government that purchased and renovated 1693 Logan Road through the then department of communities, disability services and seniors, formerly the department of family services and aboriginal and islander affairs. The centre's four core services and program areas are aged and disability care, the neighbourhood centre, the Ways to Wellness program and training.


Firstly, the centre offers a range of supports for our young-at-heart residents to enable people to retain their independence and live in their own homes. This includes support for a regional assessment service and aged-care assessments.

The neighbourhood centre works with other agencies and organisations to collaboratively deliver flexible, responsive and holistic services for the community. The centre provides information and referrals, individual and family support, and community services programs. This includes holding community markets, iftar dinners, multicultural days, activity sessions, vaccination pop-up clinics and running donation drives for back to school. Recently, the centre's food pantry received \$111,305 from the Palaszczuk government's Food Rescue Grant Program to purchase a new refrigerated vehicle and employ a truck driver to cater for the increased demand in food resource operations as the cost of living rises.

In 2019 the centre's Ways to Wellness program was established with seed funding of \$100,000 from the Palaszczuk government. The program was initiated by myself in conjunction with the University of Queensland and the Queensland Community Alliance, drawing on leading research from the United Kingdom and in response to an issue that I was hearing about when I spoke to my constituents at their doors, on the phone and at local shopping centres. The aim of the program is to address and reduce social isolation in my electorate by implementing a social prescribing model through the engagement of a social worker.

Since 2018, the centre has delivered nine Skilling Queenslanders for Work programs. The Palaszczuk Labor government has proudly funded over \$786,100 to skill up and support people to secure work in my community. The centre has worked with over 160 disadvantaged Queenslanders, 91 of whom have secured employment as a direct result of the program. The program contributes to the low unemployment rate of 1.3 per cent experienced in my community. I congratulate CEO Deb Crompton and her staff for delivering these services to our community to ensure all can experience the hope and dignity of a good job.

Swimming Lessons

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (2.37 pm): Currently the state government does not provide funding towards swimming lessons for children who are not yet at school, from the age of six months. Recently, swimming great Dawn Fraser launched an attack on the state's lack of funding towards private swimming lessons and the imperfect program delivered through the state school system. The swimming legend summed it up perfectly by saying that if a child is learning to read and write before going into school then why not teach them to swim?

Other states in Australia invest heavily in swim safety programs with Victoria contributing \$72 million over four years while our state invests only \$16 million for school-based programs. However, statewide only 200 of the 1,200 public schools have their own pool and the gap is far greater in regional centres. When it comes to children who drown in Australia each year, those aged under five are at the highest risk as they are yet to enter school where swimming lessons are taught.

An article in the *Courier-Mail*, which I will table, states that there are also problems with the school-based learn-to-swim programs, with parents claiming that the program rollout in schools is inconsistent because it has been left up to individual schools and principals to implement. The article further states that some students are reportedly only getting lessons in certain year levels and some parents are being asked to pay extra for lessons. In addition, it is becoming increasingly tougher for those who live in rural and regional areas, particularly where they have to travel to a pool.


Tabled paper: Media article, dated 16 January 2023, titled 'Olympic legend Dawn Fraser rips into government, school principals over state's water safety program' [\[410\]](#).

In Queensland we do not have one dedicated learn-to-swim program outside the school-based programs. Currently Western Australia leads the nation by providing funding towards holiday and targeted swimming programs. Swim Australia chief executive Brendan Ward told the *Australian* recently that private lessons were the best way to ensure children were confident in the water, stating—

We would love to see some more incentive from government to help people get into those lessons.

There is massive cost-of-living pressure on low- and middle-income families. These families are forced to make a choice between putting food on the table and spending money on private lessons. Every life is valuable. Even one child's death from drowning is one too many, especially if this could be avoided. I call on the state government to deliver funding to families to cover or subsidise private swimming lessons for children between the ages of six months and five years and to make the delivery of school-based swimming lessons mandatory.


Rockhampton, Education Infrastructure

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (2.40 pm): Education is something that is incredibly close to my heart. I know that is true for all of us on this side of the House. We all know that a great education can change a child's life for the better. It can break the cycle of poverty. It can offer children pathways to trade, tertiary education and a career. It can provide friendships and skills that last a lifetime. That is thanks to the hard work of our fantastic local educators. It is important that our government supports them to do their great job with world-class education infrastructure.

From 2015 to 2022 our Palaszczuk government invested over \$80 million in infrastructure for our local schools in the Rockhampton electorate. We have a huge pipeline of projects still to come, with a further \$33 million allocated for education infrastructure in Rockhampton for the 2022-23 financial year. I am incredibly proud of everything our government has been able to accomplish for schools in Rockhampton since 2015. I am particularly pleased with what we have been able to deliver for our special schools in both North and South Rockhampton. At Rockhampton North Special School we have delivered a special education space and an upgraded quadrangle. We are in the process of delivering a new multistorey learning centre with 11 new general learning areas for local students, thanks to an investment of over \$18 million. At Rockhampton Special School, we purchased two new buildings for students to use as the school grows.

Over at our wonderful Hall State School we have recently completed painting, and construction of a new \$13.8 million multipurpose hall for the school is nearing commencement. Of course, as we swelter through the beginning of autumn, I am grateful to see that our government has finished air-conditioning in every classroom in every school, not just in Rockhampton but across Queensland. This is in complete contrast to the LNP, which closed schools and tried to privatise our hardworking cleaning staff. We know that they like to sell, and they would sell out our children. I will always fight to make sure the Rockhampton electorate gets the investment it needs to support our thriving community so that families will keep coming to Rockhampton to live and learn for the decades to come.

Parliamentary Committee System

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (2.43 pm): The operation of this parliament's committees is crucial to our Queensland democracy and how MPs as representatives of our communities are able to effect the changes they seek. This process is to ensure an opportunity for all Queenslanders to express their opinion on legislative changes and have these views published and publicly considered by committees in their inquiries. Given the Queensland parliament is unicameral, our committee system acts as a de facto upper house, and its efficient functioning is vital.

On 15 May 2019—yes, four years ago—I spoke in this House regarding identified flaws in the operation of this system. Extensive research by our interns over two years clearly demonstrated why a review was needed. This included chairs having casting votes, the inability to have minutes released into the public domain as a standard, limits on questioning during the estimates process and short consultation and inquiry time frames amongst others. The Coaldrake report identified that committees must be given independence in oversight of integrity bodies, including budgets and appointments, separate from executive government. In October 2021 streamed live across Queensland was a panel which saw all basically agree that the committee system does need tweaking. Requests to the Committee of the Legislative Assembly for a review have so far not yielded any results, and this has been detrimental to all Queenslanders including victims of crimes.

Currently the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee has two bills to scrutinise—we have just got another—and, additionally, is conducting a review of the support for victims of crime which encompasses analysing the Victims of Crimes Assistance Act and the victim support operations of Queensland police, the DPP and court services. This is an enormous body of work, and that we have not been able to secure a longer time frame than eight weeks is not acceptable for victims, their families or any Queenslanders. It also makes a mockery of what reviews and inquiries are supposed to achieve for our communities: to fix what is flawed and to do so in a transparent, respectful and efficient manner.


Given the ongoing trauma from crime in our electorates—just last night I spoke of the alleged torture of a young girl in my community—we owe more to victims than eight weeks. Having sought unsuccessfully this week for leave for the member for Scenic Rim to move a general notice of motion to extend this time frame and having written a letter to the CLA, the reality is that, should a considerable extension not be granted, we are failing Queenslanders. That goes for every single person in this chamber, including those who voted against the member for Scenic Rim—

Ms GRACE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I think some of the member for Noosa's comments may be straying into anticipation of debate. I know that the member's time is almost over, but I want the chair to rule about the anticipation of debate.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): I will just get some advice. Member for Noosa, you are anticipating debate. You have some time left. I ask that you move on to something else.

Ms BOLTON: This is not good enough and that is why it is more important than ever to make the essential tweaks to our committee system now, not in four years time.

Nicklin Electorate, Sport


 **Mr SKELTON** (Nicklin—ALP) (2.47 pm): I am pleased to continue updating the House on the good news coming out of Nicklin. As we all know, sports play an essential role in our communities, bringing people together and promoting healthy lifestyles. Nicklin is no exception. As many members may know, Nicklin is home to some of the best sporting teams in the region. Last weekend, the mighty Yandina Raiders Rugby League Club took on the Pomona-Cooran Cutters at their home grounds at the Yandina multisport complex. The Raiders dominated the field, with a final score of 38-4. We must commend player Jesse Brann for his remarkable debut performance which earned him the man-of-the-

match award. I apologise to the member for Noosa; that was one of her teams. The Palmwoods Devils seniors team also played on the day, coming up against the Kilcoy Yowies. I am delighted to inform the House that the Devils did not disappoint, with a thrilling 44-10 victory over Kilcoy.

The Nambour Crushers took on the Maroochydore Swans at their brand new clubhouse, provided in part by a \$750,000 contribution from the Palaszczuk government under Works for Queensland. It was a nailbitingly close win of 28-26, but I am glad to report that the Crushers ultimately prevailed under the captaincy of the recently returned Martin Cordwell. The game was a testament to the hard work and dedication of the Crushers and of their fans who have been tirelessly supporting them. I look forward to the weekend, when both the Hinterland Blues AFL team based in Palmwoods and the team from Caloundra that my colleague supports will be taking each other on. I wish all the participants the best. As a community we have much to celebrate and be proud of, especially when it comes to our local sports teams.

With the ongoing support of the Palaszczuk Labor government, the Sunshine Coast's sports stars will be sure to keep shining long into the future. I mention Works for Queensland which has partnered with clubs and the council to deliver much needed infrastructure. I will have the pleasure of representing the Deputy Premier next week when the Palmwoods Warriors soccer club have the official opening of their exceptional facility. I am confident that we will continue to see many more successes in the future and I look forward to sharing them with everyone in this House.

Dental Services, Wait Times

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (2.50 pm): Today, Buderim grandfather Graham visited parliament to fight for the thousands of Queenslanders languishing on the dental health waitlist. I questioned the Premier on his behalf: why does it take representations from MPs for Queensland patients like Graham to get the treatment they deserve?

Graham has been suffering since August last year after all of his bottom teeth were removed. He cannot eat. He is losing weight and he is losing hope. While he was offered an appointment at the end of April, Graham was told he would not have any teeth for at least a year because of the lack of capacity that exists within the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service.

Graham told me of the impact it has had on his mental health and of the sense of helplessness and frustration as he has spent months unsuccessfully trying to get the help he needs to fix his teeth. In desperation Graham finally came to me this next week to ask for help. After I went in to bat for him, Graham has been advised that he will finally be able to get the help he deserves as Queensland Health is going to pay for a private dentist to deliver the treatment he needs. But why does it take political and media pressure for Queenslanders to get the medical treatment that they deserve from Queensland Health?

Although Graham is going to get the treatment he needs, Graham wants to help the 365 other Sunshine Coast priority 2 dental patients who are all waiting for longer than clinically recommended—some of whom have been waiting for more than a year. Five patients in the member for Gympie's electorate have been waiting for longer than a year. That treatment should have been provided to them within 90 days.

Graham's journey over the last year has been a difficult one so members can imagine Graham's disgust at the Premier's arrogant and dismissive response when I questioned her on his behalf. For the Premier to suggest that it takes political influence for Queenslanders just to get an appointment from Queensland Health is a disgrace. As Graham said, 'What about all the other Queenslanders who are in the same boat as me?'

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: I can hear the member for McConnel shouting. Constituents in the member for McConnel's electorate are waiting longer than clinically recommended as well. Across the state there are 2,403 priority 2 dental patients waiting—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): The level of interjection is getting a bit much. I would ask that we all hear the member for Buderim in silence.

Mr MICKELBERG: As Graham said, 'What about all the other Queenslanders who are in the same boat as me?' Across the state there are 2,403 priority 2 dental patients who are waiting longer than clinically recommended for the dental treatment they deserve. Some 562 of those patients have waited for more than a year—more than a year!

Queenslanders deserve better than the arrogant response that we see from the Premier and the Minister for Health every time we go in to bat for Queensland patients. We would not have to come in here and go in to bat for Queensland patients if the hospital system was delivering the health services they deserve and need.


Mrs GERBER: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. The member for Logan was interjecting with some unparliamentary language and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I did not hear anything. Member for Logan, if you used unparliamentary language would you withdraw.

Mr POWER: For the good order of the House, I am happy to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I appreciate that, member for Logan. Before I call the member for Lytton, I acknowledge that we are joined in the gallery by 28 QBuild apprentices from across Queensland. I also acknowledge parishioners from the St Paul's Anglican Church, Manly.

St Paul's Anglican Church

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (2.54 pm): I am always delighted to rise and speak about my beautiful bayside electorate. I would particularly like to acknowledge the St Paul's Manly parishioners who are here today.

As church attendance drops to an all-time low, one parish in my electorate has forged forward with an innovative model inspired by an ABC television series. St Paul's Anglican Church in Manly faced the same challenges as faith communities across the country: low numbers of predominantly elderly people, ageing assets and dwindling finances. They were no longer viable yet remained determined to stay together as a community. Instead of poking their heads in the sand, this committed and courageous group decided to try something different.

As a proactive response to their situation, and with a heart for the whole Manly community, St Paul's voluntarily opted to sell the site of their current church to enable the much needed expansion of the neighbouring Manly State School. Education Queensland will build new classrooms and playgrounds and, in consultation with St Paul's, will retain the church and refurbish it as a student performance centre.

Meanwhile, St Paul's will relocate to a local Anglicare chapel, but not as a traditional parish. Instead, St Paul's is creating a new model of faith community inspired by the ABC's *Old People's Home For 4 Year Olds*. The transition would not just be a physical move but a huge shift from the traditional Sunday attendance model of church to an intergenerational community offered in partnership with staff and residents at Anglicare's EM Tooth Memorial Home and students from local schools visiting as part of service learning agreements.

Partly seed funded by the sale of their former site and partly by parishioner generosity, this new model is now fully funded for five years and guided by a strategic plan informed by the whole community. The plan incorporates traditional ministries like Sunday services and mothers union while casting a vision for a new faith community centred on intergenerational wellbeing. This took four years and a huge amount of hard work and courage—something St Paul's parishioners have in spades. All too often these days we are quick to dismiss older Australians, and yet here is a group of elderly faithful on the front line of innovation.

None of this would have been possible of course without strong leadership and authentic relationships. In the face of seemingly insurmountable challenges, St Paul's parish priest, Father Daniel Hobbs, was relentless in his commitment to his people, gently and lovingly leading them through unprecedented change and uncertainty, always with an unshakeable conviction. His approach to community engagement powerfully brought together other great leaders in my electorate like Manly State School Principal Clayton Carnes and the St Paul's parish council.

Fittingly, the final service in the church will be Good Friday, with the first service in the chapel held on Easter Sunday. It has been a blessing and honour to work alongside the people of St Paul's, Manly. I am excited that something unique and hopeful has emerged in my electorate. I look forward to continuing the journey with these, as Father Daniel calls them, beautiful humans.

Gympie Hospital



Mr PERRETT (Gympie—LNP) (2.57 pm): Gympie's health services are on life support. An AMA report last month painted a grim picture of waiting times at the Gympie Hospital. This is a crisis. Locals attending the Sunshine Coast University Public Hospital are told by staff treating them that the Gympie Hospital is a basket case.

The government's own master clinical services plan said Gympie needs a new hospital. It recommends preparing a business plan for a new hospital and to find a new site. This sort of project takes years to deliver. The minister refuses to fast-track the business case or identify and secure a new site. The plan said that Gympie Hospital cannot provide the level of service we need. It recognised facilities are old, not fit for purpose, with services fragmented and spread across multiple buildings.

For years we have had problems with services cut, reduced or intermittently available. We have had issues with the paediatric ward, ambulance ramping, the emergency department, the contraction of services in obstetrics, gynaecology and orthopaedics, and the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme. Patients travelling long distances for medical services are forced to wait excessive times for financial assistance. Three weeks ago, the administrative assistant at Nambour Hospital was working on 1,100 PTSS claims still outstanding from November 2022.

The fracture clinic closed last year. In 2021 it was the paediatric ward. Some 5,000 petitioners asked to keep it open. When residents petitioned to keep services, the minister's response was evasive, she argued about the terminology and cherry-picked time frames. Last month the Imbil Medical Centre closed with two weeks notice. It puts more pressure on the hospital. I am yet to hear back from the federal health minister.

This week a mother told me about her distressing experience caused by the hospital's lack of adequate facilities. A six-year-old child suffered for a week with a ruptured appendix because the hospital has no medical imaging on a weekend. The mother was sent home with painkillers and advised that if things worsened to travel 90 minutes to SCUH because 'there is no point bringing her to Gympie as they could not do anything for her anyway and they do not have access to medical image on the weekend'.

Six days later, Friday, they were back in the Gympie emergency department at 11 am. Medical imaging closes at 4 pm. By 3.30 the mother was pressuring staff for an ultrasound. She was refused. After more pressure an ultrasound was taken after 4 pm. By 10.30 at night they were in an ambulance to SCUH. After an emergency operation the mother was told her child had a ruptured, abscessed, septic appendix. Medical staff said it was a mess, extremely bad. At another hospital her child would have been diagnosed and treated within hours. She suffered because of the lack of adequate facilities. Imaging should always be available to emergency departments regardless of the day and time. This is unacceptable. Gympie needs a new hospital with better services.

Housing



Mr KELLY (Greenslopes—ALP) (3.00 pm): Like many members in this House I have had many inquiries and contacts from constituents with concerns around housing. It is clearly a very significant issue in our community. That is why I am very pleased with some of the announcements from the Premier this week, particularly the move towards buying properties coming off the NRAS scheme and to limit rent increases to once a year. These things augment many of the programs we are rolling out. Having the QBuild apprentices here is an example of how we are trying to deal with the housing crisis because we are creating more workers for that very important construction industry.

In my area we have just opened 12 new social housing units in Holland Park. They are excellent units, built to the highest standards that can accommodate anybody with any level of ability or disability. I am really pleased to say that we have funded and are moving forward with 82 new units delivered by the Brisbane Housing Corporation in the Stones Corner area.

This is in contrast to what is happening in the federal parliament, where unfortunately our colleagues, the Albanese government, are trying to get a housing bill through the Senate but are being blocked by the LNP and the Greens. They are shamefully running around talking about a housing crisis but are completely and utterly incapable of taking any action to resolve that issue other than playing politics with it. I tell you that the people of Greenslopes—the people of Queensland—are sick of this, but I will tell you who else is sick of it and calling on the LNP and the Greens to do something and pass this bill through: none other than the Community Housing Industry Association, that is one organisation; National Shelter, a second organisation; Homelessness Australia; and of course the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Association. They are all calling for that legislation.

A government member: You would think they would listen to each other.


Mr KELLY: Even though you are out of your seat I will take that interjection: you would think they would listen. The actions of the Palaszczuk Labor government in relation to housing are just the latest example of the Palaszczuk government, with a great leader, stepping forward to tackle difficult and challenging issues in our communities. We have taken on jobs and we have driven unemployment down. We have built so many new schools and so much infrastructure. Cross River Rail, a project that nobody else could get going, is underway and will serve my community. We dropped the price of buses and trains with Fairer Fares. We tackled COVID. We have taken on domestic and family violence and we continue to work hard on that with the coercive control legislation coming through. We have tackled youth crime, we have tackled the treaty and we have tackled climate change. We are the team that steps forward when there is a big challenge and works hard to resolve that challenge. We are the team that is capable of delivering the Olympics and delivering a great future for Queensland.

STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

Resumed from 23 February (see p. 272), on motion of Mr Whiting—

That the House take note of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee Report No. 28, 57th Parliament, *Inquiry into the Independent Assessor and councillor conduct complaints system*, tabled on 14 October 2022.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (3.03 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the State Development and Regional Industries Committee report No. 28, 57th Parliament, *Inquiry into the Independent Assessor and councillor conduct complaints system*. I want to thank the committee members for their input into this report. I also thank the mayors and councillors who came forward with submissions and presented at the public hearings. The report itself references the fear and hesitation of many local government councillors. It says that the apprehension and the fear amongst councillors about the councillor conduct system impacts on how they interact with the complaints framework and it is leading to unnecessary overlegislation of the system. The fear is real. Some submitters had sleepless nights before appearing at this inquiry. It is appalling to see how the Labor government has treated elected representatives in local government, and women feel that fear the most. Let's face it, the committee report lays bare the broken integrity body that is preventing elected local government representatives from doing their jobs for their communities.


With 40 recommendations, I would call this an overhaul of the Office of the Independent Assessor and the councillor conduct complaints system. The system is not working in the best interests of local government and it is costing valuable ratepayer funds. The report lays that failure bare. It finds that 'the system needs to more closely and efficiently align with the intent of the legislation and public interest' and that 'each body can improve its processes in order to contribute to a better functioning councillor complaints system'. The most prominent issue raised was dissatisfaction with the length of time taken to resolve complaints. The true cost to ratepayers of these failures will never be fully calculated. It is somewhere in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Some examples are that it has already cost the Gold Coast \$200,000; Mount Isa City Council, \$200,000; and in Rockhampton it cost a by-election for a new mayor and councillor. What has the ratepayer received for this expenditure? They have got nothing. It has wasted ratepayers' money. Surely ratepayers deserve better from this Labor government.

Not only have there been costs to ratepayers but significant delays are occurring in the complaints system. The report states 'it was universally agreed that the delay to the resolution of complaints was unacceptable'. The report goes on to identify the source of these delays. The president of the Councillor Conduct Tribunal indicated they were 18 months behind in cases. There is an old saying that justice delayed is justice denied. The practice reforms identified in the report can and should be implemented without delay.

In relation to the recommendation regarding social media, I would like to publically acknowledge and thank Mayor Sean Dillon of Barcaldine for his courage in standing up for free speech and bringing this issue into the public eye. It is now incumbent on the government, especially the minister for local government and Deputy Premier, to heed and implement these recommendations. I reiterate the call from the deputy chair of the committee, the member for Lockyer, for a progress update to be provided to the committee every three months on the implementation of the recommendations. They should not just sit there and gather dust. Those recommendations need to be implemented. A lot of them do not

even require legislative change. This is needed. There are far too many examples of where this Labor government is slow to act. I commend the member for Lockyer, the deputy chair, for making sure there is a benchmark to look at how those recommendations are being implemented.

Unfortunately, this government ignored the pleas of local government until it became an embarrassing problem of free speech on the front page of the *Courier-Mail* like we saw in the case of the mayor of Barcaldine, Sean Dillon. Queensland local governments deserve so much better. They need to see the recommendations from this committee report implemented sooner rather than later.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (3.08 pm): On 14 October 2022 the chair of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee, Chris Whiting, tabled report No. 28, 57th Parliament, *Inquiry into the Independent Assessor and councillor conduct complaints system*. The committee's task was to consider the functions of the Office of the Independent Assessor and the performance of those functions and identify any amendments desirable for a more effective operation of the local government complaints system.

On 27 October 2021 the committee resolved to conduct an inquiry into the functions of the Office of the Independent Assessor and the performance of those functions, including: the performance of the Independent Assessor's functions and whether it is consistent with the intent of the local government complaints system; whether the powers and resources of the Independent Assessor are being applied in accordance with the public interest; and any amendments to the Local Government Act 2009 or changes to the functions, structures or procedures of the Independent Assessor considered desirable for the more effective operation of the Independent Assessor and/or the local government complaints system.

The Office of the Independent Assessor has jurisdiction over the assessment of complaints made against local government councillors in Queensland. The Independent Assessor undertakes the initial assessment of all complaints about councillor conduct in Queensland. It investigates misconduct complaints about mayors and councillors and, where appropriate, prepares applications for hearing by the independent Councillor Conduct Tribunal which decides misconduct matters. Previously, complaints about councillor misconduct were assessed by the council's CEO or the chief executive officer of the department of local government.

The Queensland government initiated an independent review of the complaints process in 2016, resulting in the *Councillor complaints review: A fair, effective and efficient framework* recommending reform. The Local Government (Councillor Complaints) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2018 established the Office of the Independent Assessor to investigate and assess councillor complaints, ensuring the process remains transparent and accountable. The Independent Assessor reports directly to the Minister for Local Government. The amended Local Government Act 2009 states that the Independent Assessor is not subject to direction by any person in regard to exercising its powers.


The committee also considered the operations of the Councillor Conduct Tribunal. The Councillor Conduct Tribunal has been established under the Local Government (Councillor Complaints) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2018. The tribunal is an independent body made up of six members and a president appointed by the Governor in Council. It is responsible for dealing with complaints of misconduct by councillors.

The Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning provides administrative and secretariat assistance to the tribunal to enable it to effectively perform its responsibilities. The functions of the tribunal are: firstly, to hear and decide complaints of misconduct by councillors as referred to it by the Office of the Independent Assessor; secondly, to investigate the suspected inappropriate conduct of a councillor referred to the local government by the assessor and to be dealt with by the local government; and, thirdly, to make recommendations to the local government about dealing with conduct issues. After conducting a hearing, the tribunal must decide whether or not a councillor has engaged in misconduct. If the tribunal decides the councillor has engaged in misconduct, the tribunal must then decide what action to take to discipline the councillor.

Queensland's councillors fulfil a fundamental role in their communities, providing leadership and delivering services worth billions of dollars. Queenslanders expect their elected officials to be accountable, and the independent councillor complaints system is key in providing this accountability and fostering integrity in the sector.

The committee found that the system is broadly sound but improvement is needed. Specifically, the system needs to be more closely and efficiently aligned with the intent of the legislation and public interest. Although much of the attention of the committee was focused on the Office of the Independent

Assessor, the complaints system is made up of several independent bodies. The committee found that each body can improve its processes in order to contribute to a better functioning councillor complaints system. The committee made 40 recommendations to adjust and refocus that framework with the goal of achieving a simpler, streamlined and fairer system for all. With its review, the committee's focus increasingly moved to issues concerning the Councillor Conduct Tribunal.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (3.13 pm): I thank the committee for undertaking this inquiry. I have said previously that there are some good findings and recommendations in the report but that it could have gone further in recommending reforms to the councillor conduct system. I recall that this inquiry came about due to a couple of triggering events. Firstly, there was the outrageous decision to refer Councillor Sean Dillon from Barcaldine to the OIA for the overwhelmingly benign statement about the COVID-19 vaccine rollout. It was reported at the time that Councillor Dillon said—

I'm sorry but I've got no confidence in them.

and—

... to think they're gonna do it in one pass, is someone who's got no idea in regional Queensland. Like it's just not gonna work.

That was enough for him to be referred to the OIA and to start the legalistic and sometimes lengthy process of OIA assessment.

Secondly, there was considerable media coverage of an outrageous case of a small Boonah-based newspaper having to lodge a Supreme Court application against the OIA in order to stop the OIA taking action to seize journalistic notes in relation to a complaint made against former councillor Derek Swanborough of Scenic Rim Regional Council. This saga, it was reported, arose because the IA considered she had been misrepresented in the media through comments made by that councillor. It was reported that, when a retraction was not forthcoming, instead of letting the matter rest, an investigation was launched and a notice was given demanding journalistic notes be handed over to the OIA. The newspaper in question refused and went to the Supreme Court. Subsequently, the deputy IA took over the investigation and promptly dismissed the matter.

These two stories should deeply concern all who care about freedom of speech in Queensland, both for local councillors and for media outlets. I am aware that other media outlets have been subjected to this same type of treatment from the OIA. Frankly, it is a massive power that the OIA has and it has extremely limited oversight. In my view, the report is a missed opportunity to recommend an overhaul of the conduct regime and the assessment of complaints. Instead the government has responded by not fixing a system that is flawed—not fatally but in many respects—and instead throwing money at a problem in a typical Labor government response to problems that actually require structural change, not just more operational funding to fix them.


I again call on the government to fix these problems—some of which are recommended to be fixed in the report, but quite a few are not. On a related note, it has now been 614 days since Minister Steven Miles put out a press release saying there would be a 'streamlining of the conflict of interest declaration process' but what have we seen in terms of action? Nothing, and councillors and the LGAQ continue to call for action to fix the regime that can lead to politicisation and weaponisation of the conflicts process, undermining all the time confidence in local government democracy.

I also consider the OIA must be subject to continuous oversight in much the same way as the CCC is through the PCCC. After all, the power to compel parties to provide documents to the OIA is a significant privilege for the OIA. Not only that, but the actions of the OIA can impair the ability of councillors to carry out their duties to represent their constituents, and in more ways than one. Having a complaint made or, as was the case with former councillor Derek Swanborough, 70 complaints in three years or so can be time-consuming, expensive and ultimately devastating to the effectiveness of a local representative as they need to devote considerable time and energy merely to responding to the OIA. Complaints can take months if not longer than a year to finalise. I am glad that this report has recommended a limitations period be imposed for complaints to be made and time frames within which complaints must be dealt with, but these must be monitored. There must be oversight of not only the way in which the OIA exercises its powers but also the way it operates in general, given the potential it has for its actions to have such a huge burden on the local government representatives that we in this House give the job to of representing people in councils through the Local Government Act.

Finally, recommendation 12 of the report is something I have been calling for since at least 2020. It has not yet been legislated. It arose from the ridiculous situation where the OIA wanted to withdraw a matter from the CCT but was not permitted to do so under the law. Nigel Waistell, a former Scenic Rim councillor, was at the OIA for the, again, incredibly benign matter of forwarding an internal council

email to a constituent in answer to a question. When he did not stand again for the election, the OIA in their wisdom decided not to pursue the matter further. This again ended up in the Supreme Court, which declared the laws did not permit the OIA to withdraw a matter once it had been to the CCT. Of course, the whole thing should never have got that far, but the government could have fixed this problem I reckon three years ago.

The government appears to want to subjugate local government representatives through a mountain of red tape, rules and punitive processes that frighten councillors from speaking out and discourage locals from putting their hand up for election. Queenslanders deserve better.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (3.18 pm): I welcome this committee report that was initiated by the Deputy Premier. The inquiry included 14 committee hearings in nine towns and cities and it heard from 47 witnesses and received 59 submissions. I thank the committee and all stakeholders engaged in working so diligently and thoroughly on this body of work.

While there is overwhelming agreement that there needs to be an independent councillor complaints system in Queensland, there have been many areas identified as needing strengthening, clarification, resourcing, better streamlined processes, explanation and further reform. The government's response to this report details support for the 40 recommendations, and I know that work has already commenced in earnest to get a bill before the House this year.

These measures are essential for the community to have confidence in the integrity and accountability in local government. The committee has worked hard in a bipartisan way to deliver a report that articulates the issues clearly and comprehensively, and steps out sensible resolutions and processes forward.

I attended the LGAQ 2022 annual conference in Cairns where the committee chair and deputy chair ran a session informing delegates and attendees around the content of the report and inquiry outcomes and saw firsthand the way they worked cooperatively and constructively. I place on record my appreciation for the professional and bipartisan way that they approached this inquiry. It seems that some on the opposition benches have missed the memo where today we have seen the shadow spokesperson, as well as the member for Scenic Rim, stand up and make contributions that were entirely partisan in their nature, aggressive in their approach and just showed how out of touch they are with the work that the committee has done and the way that they have conducted themselves. Admirably, the committee undertook to use this inquiry as an opportunity to improve the whole councillor complaints and conduct system.

As assistant minister, I hear from elected officials, officers and the public right across the state firsthand on how they want, and how Queensland needs, a robust system. This system must have rigour for our 77 local councils, 578 elected representatives and the communities they serve. Working with the sector, it is clear that there must be a better system in place for particularly elected officials to be able to create a healthier workplace.


I have been updating the sector in my conversations around the opportunity that legislative change here will also bring with it the opportunity to clarify the conflict-of-interest system. This work also progressing and work I look forward to delivering, along with the Palaszczuk government members in this House. Work has already commenced with the department and the OIA to consider these changes in the report and, in some instances, getting to work on their implementation or drafting the necessary legislative change for the needed reforms. This is happening right now and the sector is continuing to work with us.

I extend my thanks to the LGAQ for their really strong continued advocacy in this space. It is through collaboration and processes such as this inquiry that we will provide government with a fulsome and comprehensive approach as we move forward. In addition, I look forward to continuing to engage with the sector and our local government elected officials to be able to adapt, inform and respond to the challenges and the opportunities that face us into the future. We need a robust and timely system. We need a system that the sector has confidence in and one where they are sufficiently supported in, informed and equipped to be able to navigate effectively. These changes will effectively divert and curtail the weaponising of complaints in a timely manner and will address not just vexatious complaints but vexatious complainants. I believe that this is the reset and refocus that is desperately needed in the sector and provides a solid process to continue to monitor and be responsive to areas of need into the future.

I commend the committee wholeheartedly for their hard work and thank the sector for their very active participation. I thank the local government sector for their faith and goodwill as we work together to get to a better position. I look forward to making more of a contribution to this work in my role as

assistant minister as we craft these reforms into legislation and that legislation makes its way through this House later this year. I am confident that it will build a better, effective, more robust system that will enable us to put our focus where it should be.

We have so many opportunities working with local government to make our communities and the lives of Queenslanders better. That is the work that we need to be focused on, and that is the job that we are excited to do in partnership. Thank you to the committee, the committee members, the committee secretariat and all of those participants who came before the committee to engage in this process that has delivered this report and outcomes that we very much look forward to implementing.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (3.23 pm): I would also like to contribute to the debate on this committee report. I would like to thank the committee for doing their work and for what they had to go through. The reason I am standing is I want to obviously draw the House's attention to what actually happened in regard to a mayor out my way who is a mate of mine and a very close friend and that is Councillor Sean Dillon, the Barcaldine Regional Council Mayor. What we have to understand when it comes to being a mayor and being a councillor in rural and remote areas is that it is not a career, it is a service. We are finding it harder and harder to get people to stand up and want to take on this service.

The size of the Barcaldine Shire Council is the size of Tasmania and a bit more. It goes from Muttaborra all the way to Aramac and slides just east of Longreach all the way to Alpha, which is a huge area. The concern I have is what happened to Sean Dillon when we were going through the COVID vaccine rollout where he alerted us to an obvious matter. What was his crime? His concerns about a COVID vaccine rollout in a rural and remote council. His concerns were how do we vaccinate the entire shire and how do we get that entire shire vaccinated. That was his crime. As a mayor, he has a right to express that as a mayor and as a councillor. No-one knows Barcaldine Regional Council like Sean Dillon. He knows it like the back of his hands. He comes from Alpha. He knows where Muttaborra is, he knows where Barcaldine is, he knows the area and he knows the resources we have out there.

What happened to Sean Dillon? Because he made those comments, he was referred. That put a lot of stress on him and obviously his council. I think that was totally unfair. I think if we are going to encourage people to take on local government representation, we have to provide them with the resources and the assurance that they will be helped, not hindered. I thought that the way Sean Dillon was treated was not right. I remember talking to him when this all came out. He was nervous. He did not do anything wrong. All he wanted to do was make sure that, as we went through the COVID vaccine rollout and we went through the COVID issues, we had the right people in place. The concern was that some of the directives coming to the COVID vaccine rollouts were being dictated out of Brisbane, or the message was sent out of Brisbane. Those people in Brisbane were trying to do the right thing, but they needed to work with the local mayor and work with the local council to make sure that they had the right resources in place.


My concern—and it has been my concern for a while—is that when it comes to rural and remote councils and local government, we have to provide the resources and we have to provide the assurances that they will be helped, not hindered. It is getting harder and harder each term to find people willing to put their hand up. The amount of by-elections that we have in rural and remote areas is high, where people say, 'I cannot do this anymore.' It is a service, not a career. They say, 'It is just too hard.' I remember one mayor down at Barcoo who spent a lot of time having to go to Brisbane because of complaints—frivolous complaints—but he had to pay for his own airfare and pay for his own accommodation. He had to be away from his property for at least three or four days before he could get back home.

Ms Leahy: Plus his legal advice.

Mr MILLAR: And his legal advice. I take that interjection from the member for Warrego, who, like the member for Scenic Rim, understands the remoteness of our rural councils. I call on the state government to seriously look at how we deal with rural and remote councils. I understand the issues when you get to the bigger councils and obviously the south-east councils—I do understand that—but it is a service when it comes to us in rural and remote areas, not a career, and we need to encourage new, young people to take that service on because it is going to get to a stage where we will have a local council election and we will have vacancies that are not filled. It is important that we have representation.

I would like to reiterate the comments of the member for Scenic Rim that this government appears to want to subjugate local government representation through the mountain of red tape and rules and punitive processes that frighten councils from speaking out and discourage locals from putting their

hand up for election. Queensland deserves better than that, and the government should get on with implementing this report's recommendations but should also go further and looking again at the conduct regime and fix the broken conflicts-of-interest system. Thank you.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (3.28 pm): I rise to speak on the report into the OIA. I firstly congratulate the chair, the deputy chair and the committee for their work on this. It was quite an extensive report and recommendations as well. I congratulate them. I also congratulate the assistant minister for local government because the assistant minister for local government is travelling all around this state all the time meeting with as many mayors and councillors as possible and is doing a fine job. I know I have had councillors from my local area meet with the assistant minister to deal with some of the matters that are addressed in this report here today. It is good to see that this important reform that we brought in a few years ago is being looked at and fine-tuned because it can be fine-tuned.

One particular area that I am concerned with is ensuring that the process that links the OIA with the tribunal could be sped up, and that is important. There was a former LNP councillor in my area, who was not re-elected at the last election. His 21st misconduct matter was decided on by the tribunal 18 months after he had been booted out of council. He received a misconduct finding and a fine. I hope the recommendations and the reforms that come along address that because I know there is another matter dealing with another high profile LNP personality that is before the tribunal. I hope that is decided before the election is held.

Another point I do not think has been addressed in this report is the inappropriate conduct matters. There were a couple of inappropriate conduct matters in Redland City Council which were given back to the council. They did the right thing and allowed an independent investigator to investigate it. The independent investigator came back with a report saying the case would be dismissed. Councillor Berridge had taken a hard line and spoke out against Councillor Williams' drink driving. The councillors from Councillor Williams' 10 decided they would overturn that decision and independent investigation and follow through with an inappropriate conduct matter. Councillor Adelia Berridge then had to seek legal advice and take the matter to the Supreme Court to try to have this overturned. This resulted in Redland City Council pursuing it even further. They took up advice from King and Co., wasting \$20,000 of ratepayers' money to fight this. King and Co.'s advice was, 'If you are going to knock it back, at least give some reasoning.' It goes to the show that if the mayor has the numbers in council, they can throw their weight around to support her, even though there was an independent investigation that said the case should be dismissed.

On the other hand, there was another inappropriate conduct matter, again relating to the drink-driving incident. In that instance, the deputy mayor took over the chair in the mayor's absence and would not read out the petitions. Do honourable members know why? It was because they all related to the drink-driving incident. This is clear-cut inappropriate conduct. Guess what the numbers did? They dismissed the case.

I think there is some room for reform in the case of inappropriate conduct matters that are sent back. The numbers are being used to overturn matters both where there are clear cases of guilt and where there are clear cases of innocence to suit the power bloc of the day.

Mr Nicholls: You could change the whole Criminal Code to protect someone.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Member for Clayfield, order.

Mr Nicholls: I always remember Gordon Nuttall.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Clayfield, order.

Mr Nicholls: I remember Jim Soorley, too.

Mr BROWN: I seem to have touched a nerve with them. I thought they were agreeing with me on this, but it is interesting that they are reacting.

What I am concerned about is that what we have heard from the other side is cherry-picking one little case to start to make the case to prune this organisation altogether. We can see it in their eyes and in their speeches here today. They take one little case, speak about it and use it as a reason to get rid of this organisation altogether. This organisation has done fine work since it was established. We can do better. We can look at the recommendations and fine-tune this for the betterment of the OIA and councillors in this state.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note



Ms RICHARDS (Redlands—ALP) (3.33 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Education, Employment and Training Committee Report No. 26, 57th Parliament, *Mount Gravatt TAFE Upgrade Project*, tabled on 18 October 2022.

I am so proud of our Palaszczuk government's investment in our TAFE buildings. The opportunity to inquire into the upgrade at Mount Gravatt TAFE demonstrated our commitment in spades to skills and training and to providing state-of-the-art environments for those skills to be honed. As part of the inquiry we looked at the \$19.78 million Mount Gravatt TAFE campus. It had three overarching projects under the Advancing our Training Infrastructure. It included a new Fashion Centre of Excellence and revitalised horticulture and state-of-the-art filmmaking and amphitheatre spaces. It also included the upgrade of A block, facilitating the relocation of TAFE Queensland's corporate team to the campus. Another fantastic initiative within the project was the refurbishment of J block to provide social enterprise tenants with safe and fit-for-purpose facilities. They are fantastic upgrades in amazing spaces.

I spoke with the students and the trainers there on the day and they absolutely love this new space. The Fashion Centre of Excellence—seriously, I was nearly ready to take away an enrolment form myself and sign up. It is absolutely state-of-the-art. The 3D modelling technology that was there was the latest in digital technology so that students can design and create fashion; it was incredible. The printers were amazing whether they were looking to print on fabrics or on leathers. It is state-of-the-art equipment. The laser cutters were incredible. One of the trainers specialises in making leather goods and she had beautiful bags on display that day.

The digital aspect of this is quite incredible. I was blown away by the big digital screens that are on the front facade of the building. They are absolutely magnificent. It is like watching a digital catwalk of the students' work that is constantly on display for anybody at that campus to check out. They have positioned TAFE to be the leader and that is why it is called the Fashion Centre of Excellence: it is absolutely excellent.

The horticulture space was amazing, too. I walked away on the day with a few extra plants in the car to bring back to parliament. Again, they have established it in such a way that there is a retail nursery component. It is converting the skills and training into employment. We heard from a number of students and trainers there who said they were either working for Bunnings or had been able to get into boutique nurseries or landscaping firms. I was really surprised to see the internal training spaces for the horticulture; they looked like laboratories for horticulture. They were absolutely outstanding. Again, they were state-of-the-art for people looking to train in that horticultural space. That was absolutely fantastic.

In terms of the film space, we could just see the students were so engaged. Again, there was state-of-the-art equipment in a state-of-the-art space training our filmmakers of the future, our editors of the future and our directors of the future. All in all, I do not think anyone can doubt how good the Mount Gravatt TAFE upgrade is or what absolute value for money we have seen in that space. As I said, we also saw the spaces that have been refurbished and upgraded to allow for the move of the corporate headquarters. I think that is a sensible way of consolidating space and making sure that our campuses are fully utilised.

I say thank you very much to the committee for our day trip there. It was fantastic. I also say thank you very much to the department that provided an awful lot of information on the project and the way it was broken down. The Mount Gravatt project was part of the \$85 million Advancing our Training Infrastructure that looked at Mount Gravatt and Alexandra Hills in my patch—and I have seen some great work there as well. I am so proud of the work that the member for Capalaba and I have done in revitalising that campus. It will always be the Palaszczuk government that backs in our skills and training and delivers the infrastructure we need to ensure we can provide jobs for today and jobs of the future through our skills and training investment. I commend the report to the House.



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (3.39 pm): On 21 February 2022 the Education, Employment and Training Committee of the 57th Queensland Parliament resolved to conduct a public works inquiry into the Mount Gravatt TAFE upgrade project with terms of reference set out in accordance with section 94 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001.

With a total budget of \$19.78 million, the upgrade project for the Mount Gravatt TAFE included such works as the creation of a Fashion Centre of Excellence; the renewal of the A block cafeteria and hospitality facilities; new signage; upgrades and refurbishment of the A block administration, including

the facilitation of relocating TAFE Queensland's corporate team from the Brisbane CBD to Mount Gravatt; upgrades to horticulture, general learning areas as well as pedestrian pathways and external lighting; upgrades to the G block facade and the entry deck and walkway; the revitalisation of the theatre; and creation of a new horticulture maker space area; the relocation of security and the installation of new CCTV; and, finally, the refurbishment of J block to provide tenants, including social enterprises, with safe and fit-for-purpose spaces. It is clear in the committee report that these works were welcomed by various stakeholders.

Within the committee's scope of inquiry were matters such as the stated purposes of the works and the apparent suitability of works for the purpose; the necessity for, and advisability of, the works; whether value for money was achieved, or likely to be achieved, by the works; consideration of the impacts of the works on the community, economy and environment; the procurement methods for the works; and the suitability of the works in meeting the needs and achieving the stated purpose of the work.

I acknowledge that on 18 October 2022 report No. 26 of the Education, Employment and Training Committee was tabled and included the following considerations and conclusions of the committee: that the building upgrades are suitable for their purposes; that the project was necessary and advisable and that the decision to upgrade the facilities at the campus was reasonable; that the project was reasonable value for money; that the cost revenue and recurrent costs are reasonable; that the work had a positive impact on the community and economy; and that measures to minimise the impact of the project on the environment are satisfactory. It also concluded that the procurement method for the work was suitable, that the balance of public and private sector involvement in the work was satisfactory and that the performance of the constructing authority, the consultants and, importantly, the contractors for the work was satisfactory. Accordingly, just one recommendation was made by the committee: that the Legislative Assembly notes the contents of the report.

Whilst the overall findings of this report are encouraging—particularly with respect to value for money, procurement processes and the scope of works carried out—it stands in stark contrast to the unfortunate recent examples of other infrastructure projects delivered via other government agencies, including those under the responsibility of the Minister for Education. Just last year, the Queensland Auditor-General reported a staggering cost blowout of more than \$23 million across two education infrastructure projects: the Brisbane South State Secondary College and the Fortitude Valley State Secondary College. Stringent delivery of infrastructure projects, with appropriate protocols and mechanisms in place to protect Queensland taxpayers from costly overruns, is critically important and must be continued in the future.

In conclusion, I would like to commend the Education, Employment and Training Committee of the 57th Queensland Parliament for its thorough report. There were certainly great contributions from both sides of the House and members of the committee in relation to their evaluation of this important project, from those who made submissions and from the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training, the Department of Energy and Public Works and TAFE Queensland. I know that they put an immense amount of time and effort into preparing their submissions and the information they provide to committees. Without those departmental representatives who do a lot of research and prepare information—without all of that being done—members of the committee would not be able to make detailed contributions and conclusions when they finalise these reports.

I commend the secretariats of the various Queensland parliament committees because, likewise, they do a tremendous amount of work in preparation not only for the hearings that take place but also in receiving the submissions and ensuring all of the agendas and the papers are available for the committee members to undertake their deliberations, even when committees do site visits as well. I commend the committee secretariat as well.



Mr O'ROURKE (Rockhampton—ALP) (3.44 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Education, Employment and Training Committee's report No. 26 of the 57th Parliament. Our committee was tasked with looking at the upgrade of the Mount Gravatt TAFE and the costs involved in delivering the project. In May 2022, the committee visited the TAFE campus. Mount Gravatt TAFE offers a wide range of courses in various fields including business, fashion, hospitality, health, beauty and horticulture, to name just a few. The TAFE is now well equipped with modern facilities including training kitchens, hairdressing and, of course, the new Fashion Centre of Excellence. The TAFE has a strong reputation for providing quality vocational education and training, with a focus on practical skills and hands-on learning. The courses are designed to prepare students for the workforce and may include work experience or industry placements to give students real-world experience. In addition to vocational


courses, the Mount Gravatt TAFE also offers a range of support services to help students succeed in their studies. The campus is in a convenient location, with easy access to public transport and nearby amenities.

We looked at three key components: firstly, the construction of the new Fashion Centre of Excellence; secondly, the refurbishment of A block including the refit of the admin areas to facilitate the relocation of TAFE Queensland's corporate team from the Brisbane CBD to Mount Gravatt; and, thirdly, the refurbishment of J block to provide tenants, including social enterprises, with safe and fit-for-purpose spaces.

The total approved funding for the upgrade project was \$23.37 million. However, through cost-saving measures, the final budget was reduced to \$19.78 million. I was impressed by the very high standard of the upgrades. Students I spoke to were also extremely impressed with the facilities, including the furniture and fittings. I must say that I was a bit envious of the Mount Gravatt TAFE campus and would like to see something similar in Rockhampton.

The students in the Fashion Centre of Excellence showed us some of the outfits they were working on. It was interesting. The clothing they had designed was the art of creating clothing, fashion accessories and textile designs. It involved designing and creating new and innovative styles of clothing incorporating different elements such as colour, texture and pattern to produce the desired effect. They used various techniques including sketching, printmaking and sewing. They also created clothing accessories. One student showed us a handbag that she had designed. When you unclipped it, it had a light inside so you could see the contents. In the horticultural area they had a great plant nursery where they were selling directly to the public.

Overall, the committee was impressed and made only one recommendation—that the Legislative Assembly note the contents of this report. I would like to thank the other members of the committee, particularly our chair, the member for Redlands, Kim Richards. I thank the department for their briefings and the secretariat staff for their support. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (3.48 pm): I, too, want to contribute to the debate of the report that my committee did on the Mount Gravatt TAFE upgrade. I do not mind doing this. I think we have a good committee. I feel that I get along very well with the other members of our committee: the chair, the member for Redlands, who I see over there; the member for Rockhampton; the member for Stafford; the member for Theodore, who is gesticulating that he urgently needed me to acknowledge him—he is a terrific bloke; and the member for Hinchinbrook. It was a very interesting visit.

One of the great things about this committee system is that backbench MPs get to see government in all its forms and all of the different departments—how it works and the internal operations of the departments that deliver services to Queensland. This experience was no exception. I quite enjoyed going. I note that the member for Redlands as the chair said some things about the project and the visit, and I would agree with those things. It was a good project; it has delivered some great facilities.

Ms Richards: The fashion centre.

Mr LISTER: I take that interjection from the member for Redlands. The Fashion Centre of Excellence was very interesting. I am not exactly a fashion aficionado but I went from being not much of one to perhaps a little bit more of one, which is no small thing.

Ms Richards interjected.

Mr LISTER: I take that interjection from the member for Redlands. It was also interesting to see the upgrades generally. The administration block upgrade enabled the relocation of TAFE's headquarters to the Mount Gravatt campus which provides economies of scale. The refurbishments to J block will enable social enterprises to work from TAFE which is a very healthy thing because that provides potential inspiration and pathways for the students at TAFE to take their training and their qualifications out into the real world. I also enjoyed seeing the production facilities for training the directors and producers and so forth of tomorrow. It was great to see them at work learning their trade. Again, that was something that I have never been exposed to and I enjoyed seeing it.

It is an impressive facility and I want to thank the staff of TAFE Queensland for their engagement with us and for proudly showing us the facilities and making their time available to us. I noticed that the member for Redlands also mentioned the big three-dimensional screen in the sense that it pokes out in all different directions. It was quite amazing. I would say to anybody who is entering that building and passing underneath it to go into the Fashion Centre of Excellence because it is doing something special.


Mr Boothman: You could watch the footy on it.

Mr LISTER: Yes, you could watch the footy; I take that interjection from the member for Theodore and, yes, I would probably find that quite interesting. One thing I would say is that I would have liked to have seen more students there. Perhaps it was not a busy day or it was a certain time of the year or whatever, but the facilities looked terrific and deserved to have as many students availing themselves of that training as possible.

One general observation I would also make is that TAFE exists in a particularly competitive marketplace and there is more that it could do in engaging with perhaps school leavers or other places where it is likely to come across people who are in want or in need of vocational training. That would help it fill some of the spaces and I would encourage TAFE to always be conscious of the needs of industry and the needs of small businesses in particular.

Just to give an example of some holes in the market that perhaps it could explore, I was talking to the member for Theodore earlier and he was saying that in his electorate there are very big boat-building operations but no-one can find upholsterers. That is a trade which seems to have receded into the darkness of history, but we need them. I have been speaking to people involved in the mining industry in my electorate and they were saying that geology assistants and surveyor assistants are very hard to find, so I wonder whether there are opportunities there for TAFE Queensland to embark on that sort of thing.

I commend the report to the House. It was a good facility. I am satisfied that the project was delivered within budget and achieved value for money for the taxpayer. I also want to thank the committee secretariat, led by Rob Hansen, for the work that it did to make that visit possible. Our committee has travelled a lot. I know the member for Redlands would agree that we have done a lot of travel together and there is a lot of work involved in preparing that travel by the secretariat, so I thank it for that and for the work that it will be doing in the future for the travel we have coming up.


 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (3.52 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on report No. 26 of the Education, Employment and Training Committee from October 2022. It is great to follow the deputy chair who reflected that our committee comes together and works quite collegiately, and I appreciate that work under the leadership of the member for Redlands. The inspection and briefing showed the brilliant upgrade to and investment in the Mount Gravatt TAFE. The Fashion Centre of Excellence is extraordinary. It is such a great example of cutting-edge design, different characteristics and, like the member for Southern Downs, things that are beyond my wavelength but stunning nonetheless. It was somewhat fortuitous because the Stafford Salvos has a fashion parade for charity every year and it was soon after our visit that members from the Mount Gravatt TAFE presented their designs on the night and were involved in the event. It was great to see some of the very same teachers, designers and students given that platform to contribute to that in the name of charity and also as a chance to extend their skills and their publicity, which was fantastic. I teamed up again with the wonderful Jacqui Lewis, who was emcee this year. I am looking forward to the next round.

The Fashion Design Museum is an extremely professional and an extremely inviting place—something that all of us can be proud of as a publicly owned building. It was great to see in person. I am a visual person, so in addition to the briefings from TAFE and the department it was wonderful for us to get out there and see it in real life. The technology upgrades were very impressive, particularly in relation to the film and TV department—high-end training, high-end quality technology that is so inspiring for the students—and I cannot wait to see what will come in future years.

In terms of the infrastructure, there are great facilities for students and staff alike. As the chair mentioned, the upgrade included the relocation of central office so that it was integrated into the redevelopment, meaning that the administration and leadership roles of TAFE can be closer to the front line of teaching and training. That sends a very good message and it will provide good practical outcomes as well. I also want to reflect on the horticulture upgrade. There was such science behind it which was impressive to see. There was practical training too with the outdoors and the greenhouse space as well as the business skills behind it—the business plans they had to come up with and the customer service that they provided—and that also provides real benefits for those in the local community in that they can purchase top-quality plants, seedlings and related products while supporting their local TAFE at the same time. It is such a win-win.

The design of the open areas and walk-through areas is well done and creates an inviting and effective campus feel which is so important to the student experience on campus, so well done for that. It was an absolutely great investment. Thank you to the committee secretariat. I align myself with the member for Southern Downs in his thanks for the great work that it does for us as MPs individually and

collectively. Likewise, the department put a lot of work into this inquiry, so I thank it for the extraordinary amount of information it provided us. Thank you also to TAFE Queensland, the leadership team and those officers who briefed us both at the hearings and on campus. It was a worthwhile experience. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (3.56 pm): I rise to make a contribution to report No. 26 of the Education, Employment and Training Committee into the Mount Gravatt TAFE upgrade project. From the outset I also want to thank the secretariat and my fellow committee members. Rob Hansen does an absolutely enormous job organising a lot of these visits and it is a testament to him and his team that all of these visits go very smoothly. I certainly agree that the facilities are second to none. There is an enormous TV as you first come in the entrance. I must say that it would be very good for watching the football and I wonder if they ever do watch football on that very large—massive—TV, but it might cause a few problems with your neck going back and forward due to the very size of it.

As I say, the facilities are second to none and were very interesting to see, especially in terms of film making. As somebody who has a degree in multimedia, it is very interesting to see that the technology that they use these days far outstrips what we used back in 2008. It was fantastic to see that technology and also how 3D printing has come of age. Students are making pendants and other jewellery with 3D printing. This helps them to learn how to design, which is certainly very important.


I want to touch on the leather goods and the leather design and the need in my area for upholsterers, especially for the boat manufacturing industry. One thing about pleasure craft and boats is that you need something to sit on and it would be lovely if there could be some type of arrangement in the future so that Coomera TAFE could pair up with the Mount Gravatt TAFE to get this trade happening in Queensland.

Training of upholsterers to work in boat manufacturing is crucial and something that we need to focus on as it is a dying industry. I highlight the comments of the member for Southern Downs. On the day we visited it was a bit quiet in the facility and we did not see that many students around. I hope it was just a case of it being a quiet day, because when it comes to upholsterers there is a huge need for them in my region on the Northern Gold Coast. I thank my fellow committee members. We do get on quite well. It was a very interesting and wonderful experience to see the technology outcomes at that facility.

Debate, on motion of Mr Boothman, adjourned.

MOTION

Regional Sitzings of Parliament, Cairns; Temporary Sessional Orders

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.01 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

1. That the House notes that the Legislative Assembly will sit in Cairns at the Cairns Convention Centre from 9 to 11 May 2023; and
2. That the days, hours of sitting and order of business for the sitting week of 9 to 11 May 2023 contained in the temporary sessional orders circulated in my name be agreed to.

Sessional Orders for the Sitting of the Legislative Assembly at the Cairns Convention Centre, Cairns from 9 to 11 May 2023

Hours of Sitting and Order of Business

Unless otherwise ordered and notwithstanding anything contained in the Standing and Sessional Orders, from 9 to 11 May 2023, the hours of sitting and Order of Business for each days sitting at the Cairns Convention Centre, Cairns shall be as follows—

Tuesday 9 May 2023

9.30am—10.15am—*Preliminary Business* *

Prayers

Messages from the Governor

Matters concerning privilege

Speaker's Statements

Appointments

Petitions

Citizen's Right of Reply

Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk
 Ministerial Papers
 Ministerial Notices of Motion
 Ministerial Statements
 Any other Government Business
 Personal Explanations
 Tabling of Reports
 Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument
 10.15am—11.15am—
 Question Time
 11.15 am—11.35 am—
 Business Program Motion (in accordance with Sessional Order 4)
 11.35am—1.00pm—
 Government Business
 1.00pm—2.30pm—
 Lunch break
 2.30pm—3.30pm—
 Matters of Public Interest
 3.30pm—7.00pm—
 Government Business
 7.00pm—7.30pm—
 Automatic Adjournment

** (If completed before 10.15am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)*

Wednesday 10 May 2023

10.30am—10.45am—Preliminary Business *
 Prayers
 Messages from the Governor
 Matters concerning privilege
 Speaker's Statements
 Appointments
 Petitions
 Citizen's Right of Reply
 Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk
 Ministerial Papers
 Ministerial Notices of Motion
 Any other Government Business
 Personal Explanations
 Tabling of Reports
 Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument
 10.45am—12.30pm—
 Government Business
 12.30pm—1.00pm—
 Introduction of Private Members' Bills #
 1.00pm—2.30pm—
 Lunch break
 2.30pm—5.30pm—
 Government Business
 5.30pm—6.00pm—
 Ministerial Statements
 6.00pm—7.00pm—
 Question Time
 7.00pm—7.30pm—
 Automatic Adjournment to commence after Question Time ends

** (If completed before 10.45am, Government Business will commence earlier.)*

(If there are no Private Members' Bills to introduce, or any introduction to complete, the next item of business to commence with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)

Thursday 11 May 2023

9.30am—10.15am—*Preliminary Business* *

Prayers

Messages from the Governor

Matters concerning privilege

Speaker's Statements

Appointments

Petitions

Citizen's Right of Reply

Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk

Ministerial Papers

Ministerial Notices of Motion

Ministerial Statements

Any other Government Business

Personal Explanations

Tabling of Reports

Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

Notice of motion for debate during Private Members' Motion (Thursday 3.30pm—4.30pm) (Notice may be stated in the House and delivered to the Clerk)

10.15am—11.15am—

Question Time

11.15am—1.00pm—

Government Business

1.00pm—2.30pm—

Lunch break

2.30pm—3.30pm—

Private Members' Statements (Total time 60 minutes, 20 members x 3 minutes each)

3.30pm—4.30pm—

Private Members' Motion (motion for which notice was given immediately prior to 10.15am to take precedence)

4.30pm—5.00pm—

Adjournment

* (If completed before 10.15am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)

Questions on Notice

Standing Order 114(2) is suspended for Wednesday 10 May 2023 and every question on notice must be lodged with the Clerk by 1.00pm.

The motion before the House in relation to the regional parliament which will be held in Cairns between Tuesday, 9 May 2023 and Thursday, 11 May 2023 will be the sixth regional sitting of the Legislative Assembly in regional Queensland and a great opportunity for Queenslanders living in Far North Queensland to see their House, the people's house, live in action. This regional sitting of the Queensland parliament builds on successive sittings of regional parliament which have occurred under Labor governments in Townsville in 2002 and 2019; in Mackay in 2011; and in Rockhampton in 2005.

The motion before the House contains the bespoke sessional orders for the upcoming regional parliament sitting. These sessional orders are the same sessional orders as those that were used at the recent Townsville regional parliament and are designed to enable the democratic processes of the House to occur and allow MPs to engage with community members in the Cairns region.

In moving this motion, I also table the constitutional instrument dated 16 March 2023 signed by the Governor setting the time and place for the Far North Queensland regional sitting of the parliament in Cairns, the *Parliamentary Precinct Notice 2023*, which defines the parliamentary precinct in Cairns, and an extract from the *Queensland Government Gazette* dated 17 March 2023 which incorporates the gazettal of these papers.

Tabled paper: Constitutional Instrument, dated 16 March 2023, signed by Her Excellency the Governor setting the time and place for the Cairns regional sitting [\[411\]](#).

Tabled paper: Parliamentary Precinct Notice 2023 defining the precinct for the Cairns regional sitting [\[412\]](#).

Tabled paper: Extract from Queensland Government Gazette No. 45, dated 17 March 2023, regarding the regional sitting of parliament in Cairns [\[413\]](#).

I take this opportunity to thank the parliamentary staff and, in particular, the departmental staff, who are working together to organise this important democratic event. I commend the motion to the House.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date; Regional Sitzings of Parliament, Cairns



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.02 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 Legal Affairs and Safety Committee report on the Criminal Code (Serious Vilification and Hate Crimes) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 30 June 2023.

In relation to requirements for circulation of bills, the committee resolved to suspend the requirements to circulate 100 copies of bills, explanatory notes and statements of compatibility with human rights immediately after the introduction of bills during the Cairns regional sitting.

POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES (JACK'S LAW) AMENDMENT BILL

POLICE SERVICE ADMINISTRATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2)

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from p. 845, on motion of Mr Ryan—

That the bills be now read a second time.



Mr McDONALD (Lockyer—LNP) (4.04 pm): No person should have to bury a child. Whether it be through the tragedy of sickness or through the sudden taking of one through a tragic incident, no parent should have to bury a child. A few years ago, three days before Christmas, Brett and Belinda Beasley faced that certainty. I am sure their nightmares live on, although I am sure they have found ways to cope.

Through my years as a police officer, seeing some terrible things, I know that tragic circumstances can bring out the best and the worst in people. For the Beasleys it is a case of bringing out the absolute best. They harnessed their tragedy, their sadness and their anger towards something constructive—what became the Jack Beasley Foundation—and educated others on what can happen when somebody carries a weapon. They sent that powerful message right across the state. I cannot believe the strength and tenacity that Brett, Belinda and their supporters have shown through this tragedy. To harness that energy at a time of grief and put it towards something so positive shows the true character of a person. It is alright to be valiant at the time of triumph but to pick yourself up in times of adversity and grief shows the true character of a person. I, my community and my family congratulate them for the absolute resolve that they have shown.

I recognise my colleagues, Sam O'Connor, the member for Bonney, Deb Frecklington, the member for Nanango, as well as Mark Boothman, the member for Theodore, who have given some comfort to the Beasleys and who have assisted them and their community through this journey. The way in which they have been able to harness their community, whether it be the Rugby League club or the families in the community, and take their message across the state is a very wonderful legacy that I am sure their Jack would be proud of. It is something none of us should have to do. My prayers go to the Beasleys and their extended family and friends that they have had to play these cards they have been dealt. By heck, they are playing a wonderful round of cards.

We can change legislation in this place. We have seen a bill come to the House which has some very positive changes in it. I look forward to supporting the amendments that our shadow minister will be moving. The police face anguish in our society. In recent times we have spoken about youth crime and the tragedies and sadness that have occurred. I am very pleased to see that this Labor government

reintroduced breach of bail so a youth offender committing offences whilst on bail can be dealt with just like an adult. That is a start. These laws today, which will be known as Jack's Law, are a great extension of the powers and the success that we saw with the safe night precinct on the Gold Coast at Surfers Paradise. It was a great trial. The trial worked. There was no better evidence than the 21,000 people searched and the 240-odd items located.

When I spoke with the Beasleys I shared with them that one of the great frustrations for police in today's environment is they have a very large range of powers, and when they reasonably suspect something they can exercise those powers to the extent they can be invasive. I would argue that the use of wands is a very non-invasive power. I do not think it is unrealistic to use that power across the state on any occasion. Why would somebody go out with a knife? If it is innocent, such as a chef with a knife or a saucepan on the way to work, there is no harm done. To not give non-invasive powers is a frustration for me, given the extent of the powers police have when they reasonably suspect something. The police have to work with the powers the legislature gives them. I welcome the extension of the powers into all of the other safe night precincts. I recognise that is a concentration of people. I also welcome that this legislation will apply to public transport settings, which is a great outcome.

Again, I stress that the trial should be extended with a review, as we have recommended, but without an end date. I do not think setting a date of 2025 is necessary given what I have outlined about the powers that police already have. I understand that there are those amongst us who have made submissions about the extension of the police powers, but I think they are putting that in the context of giving police powers when there is no reasonable suspicion. We are talking about non-invasive powers that use technologies of today, such as the technologies that are used in airports. Every time we go to an airport we go through those scanners without asking questions because we want to get on our plane. For crying out loud! Surely we can give police the powers to use a wand as a precaution for both their own safety and to make sure that people in our community are safe.


I commend Belinda on her very articulate statement when she said that life is not a video game and there is no reset button. Life is not a video game and there is no reason for anybody to carry a knife in a public place. There is no excuse for it. I believe firmly that police should have the full powers to use wands wherever they are given their non-invasive nature and the safety that they provide.

I commend the Beasleys for their efforts to extend this message right across schools. Today Brett offered to come to the three high schools in my electorate to give that message. I look forward to taking him up on that really wonderful offer. The Beasleys are truly honourable Queenslanders who have the best interests of all at heart. They should be commended for their wonderful efforts in their fight against knife crime. I look forward to doing whatever we can to extend these powers into the future.

In my remaining time I will touch on the other bill, particularly regarding the changes to the police disciplinary process as well as some operational changes and changes to the Weapons Act. I certainly welcome the changes that will put some time frames around the disciplinary system within the Police Service. For a long time many good police officers have been affected by delays in the process. In some cases, it has cost them their lives and in some cases it has cost them their marriages and impacted other aspects of their lives because of the weight hanging over their heads. I welcome those changes. I think other changes can be made.

I also welcome the changes to the weapons licensing process to deal with the enormous backlog of thousands of applications and permits to acquire. Certainly it is not beyond time. I have asked many questions on notice on behalf of my community and others in Queensland have made representations as well. Finally, some things are happening in that space. As I said, it is certainly not before time.

Returning to the issue of the disciplinary process for police, this really is something where I am constantly at odds with some people in the legal fraternity who talk about having a different body or an independent body. People such as police, lawyers and teachers are professional people. The most important part of a professional organisation is learning and the continual improvement of practice. The best way for police officers to continue to do that is to be held to account by their own so they continue that professional learning. The responsibility on investigators within the police—and I was one for many years—is so heavy and accountable that you would not do the wrong thing. I say this to those who are concerned about not having an independent body: let us be and see the most professional police service possible, which is what we have in Queensland today.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (4.13 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill. Of course, this legislation is named in honour of Jack Beasley who tragically lost his life in a knife incident in 2019 on the Gold Coast, just a

few months short of his 18th birthday. It was an absolute tragedy. The bill also remembers the passing of Raymond Harris who was fatally stabbed in Surfers Paradise in September 2020. I extend my personal and sincere condolences and those of the Bundamba community to their families and loved ones.

I also acknowledge Jack's parents, Brett and Belinda Beasley. I join with others in paying tribute to their strength in the face of unfathomable sorrow. They have shown enormous strength to become strong advocates for positive change borne out of such deep tragedy. Since Jack's death, as founders of the Jack Beasley Foundation, Brett and Belinda have dedicated their lives to educating young people about the dangers of knife crime. It is because of their passion and dedication that we are here today, debating this bill.

The bill extends and expands on an earlier 12-month wandering trial that was held on the Gold Coast. The trial delivered outstanding results. The 12-month trial in two safe night precincts on the Gold Coast was a national first. It was the first of its kind in Australia. Its success was measured in terms of making real progress in combatting violence. From the commencement of the trial on 30 April 2021 to 29 January 2023, 21,326 people have been wanded, 242 weapons seized and 656 offenders charged with offences. The trial has shown that the practice of wandering and how it has been implemented and operationalised throughout the trial over the past 12 months has delivered real results.


The weapons that have been detected have included machetes, a bush saw, a tomahawk, sharpened screwdrivers, flick-knives, a replica gun, knuckledusters and tasers. That is absolutely extraordinary. I think that the vast majority of Queenslanders, whatever their age group or wherever they live, would be stunned by the range and the inherent violence of those weapons. There really is absolutely no reason why any law-abiding citizen would need to arm themselves with knives, knuckledusters, screwdrivers and the like.

Police conducting wandering sends a very clear message to anyone contemplating taking a weapon into a public place that not only is it an offence that is punishable under law but also it sends a very clear message that you will get caught. In fact, 656 offenders were caught during the trial. Jack's Law extends the trial for an additional two years and expands it to include all safe night precincts in Queensland and public transport hubs. People from the community of Bundamba, and right throughout Queensland, who might be going out in Fortitude Valley will now have the benefit of these wandering measures and the benefit of the protection provided by Jack's Law. Expanding the trial to capture all of the 15 safe night precincts, public transport stations and public transport vehicles will provide a greater level of certainty and public safety for Queenslanders.

It is important to understand what safe night precincts are. They are prescribed under the Liquor Act and are characterised by the presence of licensed premises and concentrations of pedestrian traffic, particularly in the evenings and on weekends—people going out to pubs, clubs and restaurants on the weekend at night-time and gathering. These areas tend to function increasingly as entertainment precincts where we have live music venues in these precincts, resulting in the congregation of large numbers of people. The sheer number of people in these areas can mean that the risk of harm being caused through the carriage of weapons is elevated. Because of that increased risk, there needs to be a response to it. That is what Jack's Law is providing: an effective response that has been based on evidence provided by the trial to the increased risk of people carrying knives and weapons into safe night precincts.

The rail network, like safe night precincts, is another area where we need to keep people as safe as possible and protected from any increased risk associated with people carrying knives. The Queensland Police Service Railway Squad in the first half of 2022 reported that there were 58 incidents of a person unlawfully possessing a knife. Just one is far too many. The reason for expanding the trial to capture areas of public transport stations, including public transport vehicles, is to provide that added public safety benefit and to reduce unlawful knife possession.

I thank the committee for its work in considering this bill. In the spirit of bipartisanship, I acknowledge the work of the member for Bonney in bringing this. Some things should be above partisan politics, whatever the particular differences might be. I think this is one of them. Congratulations to the minister for bringing forward this bill and to the Police Service for successfully conducting the trial that has led to the bill before parliament. This legislation is delivering nation-leading police powers to conduct metal detector wandering across our safe night precincts. Jack's Law will give more powers to keep our community safe. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (4.23 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the cognate debate of the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) and the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill. I do not want to labour the point because we have heard a great deal about the parents of Jack—Brett and Belinda Beasley—but I would like to add my remarks of admiration of them and thank them for having been present for so much of this important debate. One thing I know from talking to people who have been involved in the starting of a foundation is that it is a very significant undertaking. It is not just a committee getting together and writing to the department of fair trading; this is a very onerous creation. It shows the great dedication that Mr and Mrs Beasley and those who have assisted them on that journey have put in. I place that on the record.

I would also like to say what people have said to me—that is, what has happened to our society where those in the prime and flower of their youth have to arm themselves with deadly weapons for a night out on the town? That is the sort of thing we would laughingly have previously attributed to north English football hooligans or something like that, but of course it is no laughing matter. Collectively, society needs to have a good look at itself to try and arrest the sorts of trends we are seeing in terms of violent crime and people arming themselves with deadly weapons.

In my view, the use of wands and wandings is entirely appropriate and, on the balance of public interest, the benefits completely outweigh any concerns that civil libertarians might have about their use. I note what the Greens said in the House yesterday. I also support what the member for Whitsunday said in response to them. They are on the wrong track in saying that this is an inappropriate enhancement of police powers. The member for Maiwar made remarks which I think reflected poorly on the Police Service and indicated—


Mr Purdie: Shame.

Mr LISTER: Yes. I agree with the member for Ninderry, a fine former police officer and detective, when he says 'shame'. Our propensity is to judge the Police Service by the worst examples of its behaviour rather than the best. That would be akin to saying that all Greens are bad because vegan farm invaders go on to people's property, harass their staff and so forth. I am sure that many of them do not. I will leave the remainder of the criticism of the Greens to my honourable friends in the Labor Party, because I know that that is something they are very keen to do. I do condemn the Greens for what they said. I think the discipline system for the police is appropriate, very well thought out and ensures that the excellent proportion of the Queensland Police Service who are hardworking, respectable officers of integrity—

Mrs Frecklington: Hear, hear!

Mr LISTER: Thank you, member for Nanango. I certainly have no problem with it and I totally disagree with the remarks made by the member for Maiwar.

The amendment which will be moved in the name of the member for Burdekin, shadow police minister Dale Last, is a very good one. It is quite self-evidently true that the idea of safe night precincts and of enforcing, for the safety of all, not carrying dangerous weapons is very important. I certainly will be supporting that amendment. I thank the government for bringing this law forward. I thank the Beasleys and all those who have supported them, including the members for Nanango and Bonney. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (4.27 pm): I rise to speak in support of these bills in the cognate debate. In doing so, of course I recognise the very important reason we are here. I also recognise Jack's family, who have been present in the gallery throughout the debate. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to meet them briefly yesterday evening. It is truly remarkable, as many members on both sides of the House have commented, that they have turned their horrific loss into an opportunity to change our community for the better forever. All members of the House, I hope, are united in that purpose today.

New sections of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act contained in clauses 4 and 5 of the bill provide an important aspect of public reporting about the use of new handheld scanner powers. Firstly, new section 39J of the PPRA will require the commissioner to publish a notice about each of the handheld scanner authorities on the Queensland Police Service website within two months after the authority has been issued. This is really important.

I want to make some comments about wandering generally. I agree with comments made earlier by the member for Lockyer. This is an evidence-based approach and approval process and it is appropriate and fair. It strikes a sensible balance between addressing the unlawful possession of knives in public places and the human right to enjoy freedom of movement, which we all enjoy and will continue to enjoy, in this great state of Queensland.


Wandering is a reasonable and measured approach to what we all know is an incredibly serious problem that can also have catastrophic consequences. There is a real proportionality to the power we are giving the police and the offence it prevents. I have seen news reports of young people under the age of 18 being strip searched at musical festivals in other states. That is alarming when we compare that process to something as relatively benign as wandering. When I think about subjecting a young person to a strip search without a parent present because they might have a small quantity of drugs or a tablet on them, that is not a proportionate response like the one we are talking about here.

In comparison, wandering is something that every person who goes to an airport consents to, as the member for Lockyer said. In other words, it is a fairly normal part of life. It is something that happens regularly to a wide variety of people. It is not something that the average person would be disturbed to have done to them or concerned about. The principle of proportionality is important.

When I think about legislation like this and the alternatives, I view them through a parental lens. The idea of one of my children being strip searched is horrendous. We know that wandering happens where young people are more likely to be present. Therefore, they are more likely to be wandered. I have no problem with my child being wandered and checked for a knife. If they do not have a knife on them there is not going to be an issue.

I would think most Queensland parents would agree that these wandering powers get the balance right. They are proportionate. We want to make sure our young people are safe on their nights out. I certainly hope that this is something that I never have to worry about. I am sure members know that I am the mother of a young son. I have absolutely no problem with him being wandered because this legislation gets the balance right and I know that it will keep him safe.

I support Jack's Law. This is an important thing we are doing here today in the spirit of bipartisanship. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (4.32 pm): I rise to make a short contribution in this cognate debate on the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill and the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2). At the outset, I, like other members have—most recently the members for Bundamba, Mount Ommaney, Southern Downs and Lockyer and a long list prior to them—acknowledge Brett and Belinda Beasley who I know are still in the gallery and have been since the start of this debate. I have no doubt they are eagerly awaiting the passing of this bill soon.

Obviously their lives were thrown into disarray just before Christmas 2019. I do not intend to rehash the story about young Jack and how their life was up-ended in an instant. I also take this opportunity to acknowledge my friend and colleague the member for Bonney who, from the outset, has been a fierce advocate for the Beasley family. I first met the Beasley family, thanks to the member for Bonney, back in 2020. I have watched him and the family passionately fight for this legislative change.

While I am on my feet—and whilst it is not directly related—I also acknowledge the Stewart family. I am a good friend of Michael and his wife, Kerri-Lyn. They lost their son Balin only about a year ago in the Kawana electorate, unfortunately due to a knife crime incident. The member for Kawana and I recently had the opportunity to go on a walk with the family and other community members to raise awareness and funds for the #bintheblade for balin campaign foundation. Like the Beasley family, the Stewart family have also used their moment of grief to advocate for change and I applaud them for what they are doing.

I also acknowledge the Beaumont family who have been spoken about a bit in this chamber over the last few months. They are a family I have got to know well. I met them after the tragic murder of their young son, Angus, again to knife crime.

Knife crime is out of control. It is not just those of us on this side of the chamber and others who are saying that; it is also the police saying that. As reported on 26 February this year, a senior superintendent of police said, 'I'm at my wits end.' He said—

How many people have to die? How many families need to be wrecked because of the behaviour of a few?

The superintendent revealed in this media article that there had been a sharp rise in the rate of knife crime. He said—

We've had a 21 per cent increase in the last financial year of people between the ages of 10 and 21 with action taken against them for carry knives.

The superintendent said that there were 11 knife related murders in the past financial year and 3,000 offences for possessing a knife in a public place.

While I will be supporting this legislation and the sensible amendment to be moved by the member for Burdekin during consideration in detail, I want to comment briefly on what some members, predominantly on the opposite side of the chamber, said last night when talking about the amendments passed last sitting week in relation to youth crime, particularly increasing the penalty and sentence for the unlawful use of a motor vehicle to 14 years. I point out that under section 323 of the Criminal Code unlawful wounding, which is essentially stabbing someone, carries a maximum sentence of seven years. The amendments to the Youth Justice Act passed last sitting week were announced by the government shortly after a fatal stabbing at North Lakes on Boxing Day. They have not taken any action in relation to increasing the penalty for unlawful wounding, which is the offence in Queensland for stabbing someone with a knife or another object.

That brings me back to Jack's Law that we are debating today. Jack's Law extends the 12-month Gold Coast trial that gave police temporary powers to use wands to detect unlawful possession of knives until 30 April 2025 and expands the trial to all 15 safe night precincts throughout Queensland, including the Sunshine Coast. We know what the catalyst is for this legislative change.

The Jack Beasley Foundation, which has been spoken about a lot over the last two days, was established and is delivering the One Moment education program in schools to educate young people on the dangers of carrying a knife and the long-term effects of youth violence on offenders, victims and indirect parties, including friends and families. The one-hour presentation has been delivered in schools in Ipswich, Logan, Brisbane, the Gold Coast and New South Wales, and will be rolled out to schools in Townsville, Cairns and Victoria later this year. I once again thank and congratulate the foundation for their work in this space and for keeping Jack's legacy alive.

As the member for Lockyer has already put on the record, Mrs Beasley said—

Seven years for your child's life is really not much, is it? Life is not a video game, you can't press restart.

So true and so very sad for those families and communities who live in fear in these modern times that their loved ones may not come home from a night out.

During the law's one-year trial at the Gold Coast more than 16,000 people were searched by the police and more than 500 people were charged. Police found 242 weapons, including flick-knives, replica guns, machetes and knuckledusters. In light of these statistics and the increase in knife offences being recorded around the state, Jack's Law will be introduced to capture all 15 safe night precincts in Queensland, as I outlined previously.

Expanding the trial to capture areas of public transport stations, including public transport vehicles, is a positive step forward. As the member for Bonney said last night, every single person who is caught with a knife in these areas and who is deterred from taking one into these areas because they know the police have these powers is a potential life saved.


Last year, a 24-year-old was stabbed to death in Fortitude Valley Railway Station and a 16-year-old was stabbed at the Coomera Railway Station. The wandering trial was supplemented by the 2021 'I live my life ... without a knife' statewide crime prevention campaign, led by the Queensland Police Service in collaboration with external agencies and local partners. Through advertising community events and school presentations, the campaign raised awareness of the risk and penalties of knife carrying in public.

As the member for Bonney outlined last night, this is not a general search power for police. These powers are specifically about stopping knife crime, and 241 weapons are no longer on Gold Coast streets because of these powers. In over 21,000 interactions with police there has not been one complaint against police conduct. This is a commendable reflection on the professionalism of police.

This brings me to the contribution of the member for Maiwar which the member for Southern Downs referenced. It was disappointing that the member for Maiwar did not use the opportunity last night to acknowledge the sacrifices that people across our community have made to get us to where we are today. He opened his speech by saying that this legislation 'will not go far enough to stop the rot in the Queensland Police Service'. I want to put on record that I will be doing everything I can to

ensure that all of the police stations in his electorate find out what he and his party think about the great work the police are doing off the back of the condolence motion passed in the last sitting week. I think it is deplorable that the member for Maiwar would spend most of his contribution last night bagging our local police. We all know on this side of the House—and I am sure all members know—that every night they put on their uniforms and put their lives and the safety of others above themselves.


I am mindful that other members are interested to get their thoughts on the record before we run out of time. In relation to the police service administration bill, I support the comments made by others, particularly the member for Lockyer. We need to ensure the police discipline process is beyond reproach, because our police need the support and confidence of our community to do their job. I support the bills before the House and I also support the sensible amendments being moved by the member for Burdekin.

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (4.41 pm): I rise to add a brief contribution. In doing so, I acknowledge the tragic circumstances in which we are debating this bill. I would also, on the back of the member for Ninderry, thank the police, especially in my community of Bundaberg, as we do have a safe night precinct. They do an amazing job keeping our community safe, but most importantly they work with the community within the safe night precinct. It is such an important role that police have. It is not just about law enforcement; it is about engaging with community around the law. That is what is so important about these safe night precincts. It is also what is important about the wandering that will be coming into the Bundaberg region. It will be a communication where we will have senior police, dedicated police and well-trained police who will conduct themselves with the highest respect for their position in the community. That will ultimately be a good thing for the people of Bundaberg. I do note that Bundaberg is lucky in that we are not plagued with knife crime.

We are not plagued with knife crime in the night-time districts of the SNP; however, I have been speaking to publicans recently, especially leading up to this week. One in particular, Rodney Wheat, owns the Club Hotel, which is one of the most frequented and popular establishments during the night-time, especially on the weekends. He said that whilst there hasn't been knife crime in terms of the use of knives, he has definitely seen there is a greater number of people carrying knives and often they are hidden in some other form of instrument. He sent me through messages and photos of some of the products that young people are carrying around the streets of Bundaberg. They can purchase them at novelty shops and sometimes in supermarkets as well; for example, there are wristbands that detach and a knife interlocks into part of the wristband; belt buckles that, when removed from the belt itself, have a sharp blade a number of inches long; and novelty key chains that can become switchblades.

Whilst they have an element of novelty about them and that is why young people are purchasing these—maybe there is a bit of risk-taking and carrying around something that has an element of danger—we know that when you add alcohol into the equation people make horrible, horrible decisions. If they feel as though they are in danger or they want to compel themselves to commit an act of violence, how horrible it is to think they might react to that novelty item and how horrible and senseless it would be that a person would either suffer unlawful wounding or, even worse, lose their life because of a tragic incident that could have been avoided. That is why this piece of legislation is so important and that is why the legacy of Jack will be so important for generations of people into the future. It is about protecting people from not only dangerous weapons but also poor decisions and poor decision-making.

In the short time I do have I also want to thank the ChaplainWatch that is funded within the safe night precinct. ChaplainWatch in Bundaberg is led by Frank Fiorenza, Jo Blundell and Tia McLeod. I joined ChaplainWatch at the end of last year, and they do an amazing job going around. They work with security guards and publicans. They have a great relationship with the police and paramedics. They do a lot of preventative work with regard to people leaving pubs and clubs and getting home safely. We know that so often that is where this violence can occur. I want to thank the police and everyone who has been part of this bill. I want to thank the families who have really driven this. In saying that, I will allow time for other speakers. I just want to say that this bill is very, very important. I do thank the hardworking police in the Bundaberg district.

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (4.45 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill 2022. I acknowledge the presence in the gallery today of Mrs Belinda Beasley and Mr Brett Beasley. The loss of their son Jack in 2019 must still weigh heavily on them, and I extend my personal condolences for their loss. I know this Sunday will be particularly hard for their family, as Jack would have been 21. I know how appreciative Belinda and Brett are for the overwhelming support that has been shown for this legislation in this House by members across the political divide.

This bill is named in honour of their son, who was stabbed on a busy street in Surfers Paradise and passed away shortly thereafter. The bill also acknowledges the passing of Raymond Harris, who was also fatally stabbed in Surfers Paradise in September 2020. The Beasleys established the Jack Beasley Foundation in honour of their son and have since advocated to educate young people about the dangers of carrying knives in public places. Through the One Moment education program the Beasleys are partnering with Queensland police to ensure young people understand the dangers of carrying knives and the impact of youth violence on all those it touches. They have told me personally about their work in schools. It is terrific work. I know they have also met with the Minister for Education. I know they want to see that work expand to other states and territories. The strong attendance at the annual Walk for Jack in December and Ride for Jack in July is testament to how much the community supports their work. In December I was pleased to join cabinet colleagues to announce \$100,000 for the Jack Beasley Foundation to help them continue their very important community education programs.

We commenced a 12-month trial of wandering in May 2021, giving police the power to wand individuals to detect those carrying knives in public in Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach safe night precincts. On the first weekend of the trial police seized two weapons. This trial is getting knives off streets, thereby saving lives. During the 12 months of the trial 11,775 people were searched, resulting in 336 people being charged with 467 offences across the safe night precincts. I think every community would be concerned about the increase in the number of incidents of young people carrying knives in public. What this bill proposes to do is to extend and expand the trial of handheld scanners, or wands. The trial will be extended for two years and expanded to include all 15 SNPs in Queensland as well as public transport stations and public transport vehicles. As stated in the explanatory notes, the objectives of the bill are to—

- extend the expiry date of the scanning provisions to 30 April 2025;
- increase the scope of prescribed public areas for scanning to include all 15 safe night precincts and all public transport stations, including public transport vehicles; and
- strengthen the criteria that a senior police officer must consider before approving the use of a hand held scanner device.

A review of the trial was conducted by Bob Atkinson AO APM, and I would like to thank Bob for his willingness to undertake this review. His commitment to public service is commendable, and the review was undertaken with his characteristic diligence and thoroughness. The Griffith Criminology Institute also conducted an evaluation of the impact, effectiveness, efficiency and equity of the trial and published its findings in its *Review of the Queensland Police Service wandering trial* report in August 2022.

I would like to acknowledge the work of the police minister Mark Ryan, the Police Commissioner Katarina Carroll, Deputy Commissioner Mark Wheeler and Superintendent Rhys Wildman. I welcome this legislation. I again thank Belinda and Brett Beasley for their advocacy. I hope they consider that this bill in Jack's name is a fitting tribute to their son. Already lives have been saved in Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach SNPs by this trial and even more lives will be saved by the extension of this trial. I commend Jack's Law, this bill, to the House.



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (4.49 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the cognate debate on the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill 2022 and the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2022. From the outset I wish to associate myself with the contributions of Liberal National Party colleagues and the state member for Bonney in particular. I add my support to this important legislation and the amendment as foreshadowed by the Liberal National Party opposition.

I also want to acknowledge and pay tribute to Belinda and Brett Beasley who have worked tirelessly in Queensland to honour the memory of their 17-year-old son, Jack Beasley, who was attacked and fatally stabbed in Surfers Paradise just 12 days before Christmas in 2019. At the very heart of their work to honour the memory of Jack is their continued effort to ensure the prevention of knife crime in the future. Belinda and Brett Beasley certainly endured a pain and grief that no parents should ever have to go through, yet only weeks after the senseless attack on their son they found the strength and the courage to pursue reform and they launched the Jack Beasley Foundation. This foundation has led the fight for change to see additional security and detection measures and resources made available to further prevent unnecessary and violent attacks, especially those involving weapons and knives. Such advocacy is best captured by the stated mission of the Jack Beasley Foundation—that is, 'Detect knives, save lives'.

As the Liberal National Party shadow minister for education, I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge and again commend Brett and Belinda Beasley who, through the Jack Beasley Foundation, have also developed and delivered the One Moment education program. This important and life-changing program educates students and young Queenslanders on the dangers of carrying a knife and the long-term effects of youth crime on offenders, their victims and others, including friends and families. This program is presented in cooperation with the Queensland Police Service. It is a one-hour education program which has been delivered to many schools in Ipswich, Logan, Brisbane and the Gold Coast. I note that the Jack Beasley Foundation have plans to present to even more schools throughout 2023, with their hopes and aspirations being to further expand into other regions, including Townsville and Cairns as well as New South Wales and Victoria.

Specifically, in relation to the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill, the main objective of this legislation is to extend and expand the trial of handheld scanner provisions to detect unlawfully possessed knives beyond the current Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach safe night precincts. Through this legislation, the scope of prescribed public areas for such scanning by the Queensland Police Service will include all 15 safe night precincts in Queensland and all public transport stations including public transport vehicles.

The facts speak for themselves, and the expansion of the wand scanning trial is absolutely warranted. The Queensland Police Service advised the Queensland parliament's Community Support and Services Committee that between 30 April 2021 and 29 April 2023 over 21,300 people were wanded for knives or weapons. This resulted in the seizure of 242 weapons and over 650 offenders being charged with various offences, with weapons detected including folding knives, flick-knives, machetes, a bush saw, a tomahawk, sharpened screwdrivers, replica firearms, knuckledusters and tasers. I find those statistics alarming; it is extraordinary that people would be carrying those weapons concealed, and for what purpose? It is an indictment of our current society that people think they can carry these weapons even when there are real consequences when they use them. That is 242 weapons that might otherwise have been used to seriously harm or kill another Queenslanders, but they were taken off our streets.

It is worth noting and placing on the record the support that the Queensland Police Service has given to the extension and expansion of the trial to all safe night precincts and public transport stations and vehicles. I acknowledge that some concerns have been expressed about the broad powers, but they are absolutely needed. Again, the Liberal National Party through its proposed amendment supports the requirement for a legislated review to occur after two years, and I echo my support for that. I support this legislation and I certainly encourage all members to support the LNP's amendment.



Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (4.54 pm): I rise to speak on the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill 2022 and the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2022. We have heard a lot of mention about what happened on that day in December 2019. As other members have said, I do not want to go over it, but I do know that this bill is named in honour of Jack Beasley, as well as Raymond Harris, who was fatally stabbed in Surfers Paradise in September 2020.

The bill is a result of the actions of some very determined people of the Gold Coast doing all that they can to stop another family going through what these two families have—that is, Brett and Belinda Beasley, who join us today, and Sam O'Connor, the member for Bonney, who is a good friend and colleague. The Beasleys are a salt of the earth family. I have got to know them quite well over the last couple of years and I want to thank them for all of their efforts, because it would have been easy for them to not do the work they have done. Instead, they have persisted and have done all they can to make sure this bill has come here today.

I want to speak about the fact that knife crime is a concern for any community, particularly in the safe night precincts like Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise, which are both in my electorate. As the member for Surfers Paradise, I find it a real dilemma that many of the things that happen in Surfers Paradise are not done by the people I represent. They are done by people who come from other places into my electorate. My electorate is the heart of tourism in Australia so it is a real dilemma for me to then not publicise those bad things because I do not want it to reflect on my community—many of whom are concerned and do not live in that central part of Surfers Paradise.

This bill, which now proposes to extend and expand the trial of handheld scanners or wands to detect the unlawful possession of knives, is something that my community welcomes, and they also offer their support for our local police. I want to commend the speech of our shadow minister, the

member for Burdekin. We heard comments last night from the member for Maiwar basically impugning the reputation of all of Queensland's police based on the actions of one or two. As in any community, there will be one or two outliers. I want to repudiate everything that the member for Maiwar said. Based on what I know, having been involved with community consultative committees at my local police station when I was at the chamber of commerce on the Gold Coast and all the actions of the hundreds of police I have met over my 19 years in this place, I can say that the views of the member for Maiwar are not reflected by the other members in this House nor by the Queensland populace.

Many have spoken about the first Gold Coast trial in which 242 weapons were found—including knives, knuckledusters, a screwdriver and an axe—more than 16,000 clubgoers were checked across the safe night precinct, and 3,414 were charged with unlawful possession of a knife, which is on average nine offenders charged per day. It is obvious that more police resources will be needed on the Gold Coast for the extended trial.

Deputy Commissioner Mark Wheeler told the committee earlier this year at a hearing I attended that the expanded trial of metal detectors is discouraging people from gathering in groups in the mall at Surfers Paradise. Whilst that sounds like we do not want people to gather, I can say that after a certain hour at night—around 10.30 or 11—the mall can turn from a place that is welcoming to families to a place with a different type of atmosphere. The discouragement of these people gathering in groups because there are more police present is something that locals also welcome, including the tourists who frequent the mall.

At the public hearing, the Queensland Police Service expressed their support for the extension and expansion of the trial to include all safe night precincts in Queensland and any public transport station or public transport vehicle. The use of wands in these areas gives officers the means to take proactive action against knife crime. The QPS said that this bill allows police officers to detect knives and weapons in the community before they can be used to devastating effect. We have heard from other members—including the member for Kawana and the member for Ninderry—about the Balin case on the Sunshine Coast. It is so terrible for all of us to hear, but for parents it is hard to imagine something like this happening in our family.

This leads me to Jack's Law and the fateful day on 13 December 2019 when a group of young men caught public transport down to Surfers Paradise from Logan which subsequently led to the death of Jack Beasley. I want to read out some of Belinda Beasley's victim impact statement.

On Friday 13 December 2019 we received the most devastating news that a family can get that our beautiful 17-year-old son Jack had been killed at the hands of another.

You have taken away Jack's life and ruined so many others from the choices that you made that night and for what?

...

Jack was a son, a brother, a grandson, a great grandson, a nephew, a cousin and friend to so many.

...

Seeing Jack's lifeless body, touching him and feeling how cold he was, feeling the stitches all over his body this is something that is imprinted in our minds and will haunt us for the rest of our lives.

...

You ran away like cowards and left Jack and Ariki to die on the footpath with not a care in the world high-fiving each other.

...

I hope you are reminded constantly of the complete devastation you have caused our family, Jack's friends and of the innocent life you took or had a part in taking.

As I said, I want to thank the member for Bonney, Sam O'Connor, who has been working tirelessly with the foundation to promote education and driving change around youth violence. We have said that we are not opposing the bill, but we seek for the amendment to be included that it not terminate after two years.


I table an article from the *Sunday Mail* titled 'No place for knives'.

Tabled paper: Media article from the *Courier-Mail* online, undated, titled 'No place for knives' [414].

I will briefly move onto the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) which is about operational improvements for the QPS and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. While many of the amendments in this bill are administrative in nature, as shadow minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships, I want to comment on the submission made by

the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (Qld) Ltd, ATSILS, regarding the Fire and Emergency Services Act. ATSILS has identified concern in relation to the proposed new section 86B that appears to favour publication of a local fire ban on the department's website rather than alternate broadcast methods. ATSILS is concerned about how this will work in regional and remote communities where internet may be intermittent or non-existent. Given community radio stations are an important source of information for Indigenous and culturally and linguistically diverse Australians, it is the view of ATSILS local fire bans be published via community radio stations in remote and regional communities so that communications are reached by individuals in those communities.

As I said, the opposition does not oppose the bill, but we need to action the recommendations and ensure adequate staffing in key areas.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (5.02 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill 2022. First and foremost, I would like to say to Brett and Belinda Beasley that your strength, persistence and determination with the cause to make sure that Jack's life is honoured by protecting others is commendable. Anybody who is a parent knows just how dangerous a knife could be to their young child and as someone who spent his life prior to coming into this place as a publican, I have stood on many doors in Surfers Paradise, in the Valley in Brisbane, in Toowoomba and Ipswich where I have worked security. One of the things that you are always very conscious of when working security is that a moment of madness from a person who has a weapon is an incredibly dangerous situation, no matter how well prepared or how well trained you are, or other mitigations you might put in place. CCTV cameras will not protect you, additional staff will not protect you; in fact, nothing can protect you. The only thing at close quarters that can protect somebody from being murdered with a weapon is to make sure that the perpetrator does not have the weapon. I want to be clear: in my last business—and this is 20 years ago now—we wanded all of the time because it is absolutely unacceptable for people to be carrying these things in a public space, particularly when others are out just looking to have a good time.

If we look at some of the things that have been picked up in this trial: 68 bladed articles, an axe—I mean, what is someone doing with an axe in the middle of a safe night district?—hand tools, five knuckledusters, screwdrivers, handgun replica, many knives of various descriptions. There were 242 in all, and every single one of those had the capacity to take a life in the wrong hands, in the wrong moment of madness, with the wrong person. For the police to have the power to be able to wand is incredibly reassuring.

I am very pleased that this legislation will extend to the other safe night precincts, including that of my home town, Toowoomba, where I used to work. Removing these weapons is the only way to stop someone from that moment of madness where they pull the weapon out. Recently in Toowoomba—and I will not go into any of the details—there was an alleged stabbing in the middle of our safe night district. If the police had the capacity to wand, it would mean that these weapons would be removed. I think it sends a strong message from this place that so many people on all sides of politics, perhaps barring the Greens, think that these weapons should be removed, and that we all support the capacity of the police to be able to ensure that our public spaces are safe.

To Brett and Belinda Beasley, the legacy that is left is a powerful one. There will be thousands of families who will never experience the tragedy that they have over the coming many years because these weapons are not available and this House has sent a message that they should not be taken or carried or used in a public space, and that there will be an ability to be able to find those weapons, to charge people who are carrying them and remove the potential threat.


One area that I am interested in understanding is why this needs to be a trial. I understand that there are sections of the community that are concerned about an abuse of power or that this may be an invasion of people's privacy or whatever. I, for one, who spent more than 20 years working in safe night districts cannot think of any good reason for someone to be carrying these weapons. For the police to be able to check people with a wand, to ensure that no-one is carrying these weapons is something that will keep everybody safe. If I have to give up just a minuscule part of my freedom to ensure that someone else's family does not have to deal with what Brett and Belinda have had to deal with, then I think everybody in Queensland is more than prepared to give up that minuscule part of their freedom.

To stop for a moment and have a suitably trained, well-guided police officer go about their duties in a professional manner and ensure people you are mixing with and the people who are around you are not carrying these kind of weapons is the smallest of impost on someone's personal freedoms for

the greatest possible gain you could imagine—the protection of an innocent person's life. I do not understand why we need a trial. I more than accept that we should have a review. I think any of these kinds of powers should be regularly reviewed with good information, good data, good facts, bringing forward all of the outcomes both good and potentially where someone may have overstepped the mark so that we can put appropriate practices in place.

That does not require a trial; that requires a review. I cannot imagine any circumstances under which at the end of this trial a government in Queensland of any colour would suggest we not continue it. Without wishing to go too far into politics, why not just make this permanent and make sure we have a solid review that looks into any potential infringements in an open and transparent way? Then we can ensure we can go forward and improve any aspects that this bill might fall short on.

I reiterate one last time: there will be families who will not feel such a tragedy because of the time, effort and energy of the Beasley family. That is not only in ensuring this law is in place but also in the foundation having 'detect knives, save lives' as its main catchcry, which could not be more true. The foundation is doing some great work. I appreciate the government's support of the foundation. I appreciate the government bringing this legislation in and I thank the Beasleys for their immense strength in travelling here and presenting this law.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (5.10 pm), in reply: I would like to thank all members who have contributed to the cognate debate on the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill 2022 and the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2022. Jack's Law is, I believe, a watershed moment for community safety. It is nation-leading and it will save lives. Jack's Law will help stop those senseless moments of madness that lead to a knife crime tragedy.

I note again the presence of Jack's parents, Brett and Belinda, in the gallery. Brett and Belinda remind us all about what makes our state great. They remind us that this place, this parliament, exists to represent the will of the people. Jack's Law is not only another foundation stone supporting community safety. Jack's Law reminds us what is possible when the community, police, government and the parliament work together. Brett and Belinda, I know how much you have worked to make Jack's Law a reality.

Jack's Law will provide police with the power to stop and scan people for knives in safe night precincts, public transport stations and public transport vehicles. In simple terms, Jack's Law is about detecting the unlawful possession of knives by people in public spaces. It is actually more than that. It is about keeping our young and vulnerable people safe when they are out in public with their friends. It is about ensuring everyone is able to enjoy our entertainment precincts throughout Queensland. It is about ensuring public transport is as safe as we can make it.

I will now address some specific issues raised during the debate. The opposition's amendments in respect of the bill are not supported by the government. This government is, and always will be, transparent and accountable to the people of Queensland and the two-year trial period provisions will ensure the legislation can be reviewed within that period and, where applicable, can be agile enough in order to be fine-tuned to any learnings from any review.

Some members have raised resourcing for the police in respect of the expanded trial. I can assure the House that the Queensland Police Service is ready to roll out the resources and the training necessary to implement the bill's provision should it be passed. Acting Deputy Commissioner Mark Wheeler, who is the responsible officer for ensuring the rollout of the wandering trial, has assured me of this. Already there are sufficient handheld scanning wands to appropriately resource police officers for the rollout. Those officers will be further supported by additional appropriate training and the provision of operational policy and procedures to carry out the expanded wandering in accordance with the bill.

Supplementing the resourcing of our police is a targeted public awareness campaign informing the public of the trial and the minimal impact it will have on them. Some members raised the ability of the Queensland Police Service to respond to incidents outside safe night precincts should the bill be passed. I can assure the community that the Queensland Police Service will continue to maintain its current policing capabilities both inside and outside of all 15 safe night precincts should the bill be passed. I can tell honourable members now that the Queensland Police Service has an effective, permanent, business-as-usual arrangement model to professionally police all 15 safe night precincts. The Queensland Police Service is achieving this now and will continue to do so by working collaboratively with the community and with other government agencies such as the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation to police licensed premises both inside and outside of all safe night precincts.

The Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2022 covers a wide span of issues and facets within the Queensland Police Service and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. Some of these amendments are innovative and novel such as the immediate dismissal provisions for imprisoned police officers. Other amendments improve on existing provisions or remove provisions that have become outdated or redundant. While these amendments are diverse in nature, they have a commonality: they all make incremental improvements to the foundation legislation of the Queensland Police Service and the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. Taken collectively, the amendments in this bill represent a significant efficiency gain.

I have noted the members' comments about the Weapons Act amendments within the bill being logical and the impact they may have on the time taken in approving weapons licensing applications. Weapons Licensing has the responsibility for managing the regulation of weapons and weapons licences in Queensland. This is a difficult undertaking given the amount of work that this unit is responsible for. As of 12 March 2023 Weapons Licensing was responsible for over one million registered weapons and the number of weapons licences issued in Queensland was almost 220,000. These large numbers illustrate the challenges faced in responding to each and every application that is made.

The Queensland Police Service has been meeting this challenge and has been driving down the processing times of these applications by reducing the time frames for some applications by up to nine weeks since August. Reductions in processing times have also been recorded in relation to permits to acquire, which have been reduced by approximately 20 days since August. Significant gains have been made also in respect of processing firearm transfers and notices of disposal. From 30 August last year to 12 March this year 10 firearm transfers had dropped by 71 per cent and notices of disposal had dropped by 80 per cent.

I want to take this opportunity to commend the hardworking officers and support staff of the Weapons Licensing branch. It is clear that Weapons Licensing has been working hard to meet community expectations by quickly processing applications that are directed to it, and there is a clear downwards trend in any delays in respect of processing times. This government will also play its part. The Palaszczuk government has allocated funding to specifically upgrade the weapons licensing management systems used to regulate firearms and weapons licences. We have also taken the added step of making amendments in this bill. This bill will help Weapons Licensing drive down processing times even further by recognising the capability of all staff working at the Weapons Licensing branch. This bill allows appropriately qualified staff to be delegated the licensing functions of an authorised officer, which will further enhance efficiencies by increasing the number of authorised officers available to consider applications.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank Brett and Belinda Beasley, who have worked tirelessly both in a private capacity and as part of the Jack Beasley Foundation, which focuses on education and driving change regarding youth violence involving knives. I would like to thank them for also allowing us to name this important piece of legislation after their son Jack. We all sincerely thank you.

I would like to take this opportunity to also thank the Queensland Police Service and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services personnel who have worked in the development of these bills, in particular, from the Queensland Police Service, Acting Deputy Commissioner Mark Wheeler; Superintendent Rhys Wildman; Inspector Jim Munckton from the Gold Coast and also Senior Sergeants Brad Rix and Paul Hunter, who are the officers in charge of the Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach police stations on the Gold Coast—very important people when it came to the initial trial—Senior Sergeant Craig Smith from the Queensland Police Service Railway Squad; and the Legislation Branch officers Senior Sergeants Ian Carroll, John 'Hendo' Henderson—I like to get his nickname in there—Principal Strategy Officer Jessica Mudryk; and Director Tony Brown; and from Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, Acting Superintendent Mark Halverson, Acting Executive Director Jane Houston, Chief Superintendent Tony Johnstone and Acting Director Carly Osborne.

Our community places our police and emergency services personnel into a special category. We hold them in respect and acknowledge the essential work they do to keep our community safe. We turn to them when we are facing our darkest moments, when we are facing a natural disaster or are a victim of crime. We know that we can turn to our police and emergency services for help. Because we turn to them when we are at our weakest, we need our police and emergency services to be at their strongest. Our police and emergency services workers do not need to be burdened with unnecessarily complicated legislative frameworks. They do not need a difficult job to be exacerbated through outdated

provisions or complex legislative processes. The Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) supports both the Queensland Police Service and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services by improving the effectiveness of their legislative frameworks so that these agencies can focus on their primary task of keeping the community safe.

My final comments are reserved for Jack's Law. We must never forget the tragic consequences of knife violence and the sadness of young lives ended too early. This bill, in conjunction with the good work undertaken by the Jack Beasley Foundation, is a positive response to these awful circumstances and those suffered by other Queenslanders. This bill's positivity flows from the very real public safety benefits that arise through providing our hardworking men and women in the Police Service with another law enforcement tool to work alongside the community to continue to keep us all safe. Jack's Law is Jack Beasley's law, but soon it will also be Queensland law. That is Jack's legacy—a law bearing his name, a law for the safety of all of us. I commend the bills to the House.

Question put—That the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Question put—That the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill

Clauses 1 to 3, as read, agreed to.

Clause 4—



Mr LAST (5.22 pm): I move the following amendments—

- 1 Clause 4 (Replacement of ch 2, pt 3A (Use of hand held scanners without warrant in public places in prescribed areas))**

Page 13, line 18 to page 14, line 1—

omit.

- 2 Clause 4 (Replacement of ch 2, pt 3A (Use of hand held scanners without warrant in public places in prescribed areas))**

Page 14, after line 1—

insert—

39L Review of part

- (1) The Minister must review the effectiveness of this part as soon as practicable after the day that is 2 years after the commencement.
- (2) As soon as practicable after finishing the review, the Minister must table a report about its outcome in the Legislative Assembly.

The LNP will always support laws that help to make our community safer. I say at the outset that the amendments proposed by the opposition here tonight in no way change the operation or the intent of the original bill. The amendments proposed by the opposition here tonight are practical, and they are aimed at cementing in perpetuity Jack's Law in the state of Queensland.

The wanding trial commenced in April 2021—two years ago—and the results of the trial, as we have heard during the course of this debate, have been nothing short of astonishing. There were 242 weapons seized between 30 April 2021 and 29 January 2023 in the Surfers Paradise and the Broadbeach safe night precincts, including knives, axes, replica handguns, batons, knuckledusters, screwdrivers, tasers and machetes. It is absolutely horrendous, and I do not think there is a member in this place who would disagree that those weapons have no place in our public places or on our streets.

This trial has been running for two years. This government has had two years in which to make any necessary changes or amendments to the bill we have just debated, yet it seeks to extend this trial for yet another two years. We have heard from those members opposite that the reason they want to do that is in case there are any further tweaks required. Those of us on this side of the House say: let

us make Jack's Law permanent. Let us give Brett and Belinda Beasley the satisfaction and the certainty that they deserve to know that this law will be in place in five, 10, 20 years time—that it will outlast all of us. There is an onus on each and every one of us in this chamber here tonight to draw a line in the sand and say that this is what we should do. If we are fair dinkum, if we are serious about making this a permanent law, then members should support this amendment put forward by the LNP opposition.

We have built into the amendments a mechanism for a review to be conducted two years after the commencement of the act. Instead of the trial finishing in two years time, this time could be marked by a full and comprehensive review, with the minister to table the results in this parliament. These amendments are practical, they make common sense and I urge all members to support them.

Mr O'CONNOR: I start my contribution in support of this amendment by thanking all members for their support of Jack's Law. That is the main thing that we are here to do today. Jack's Law will pass with an overwhelming majority in this parliament. I think every single member bar two has indicated their support of it, which is an astounding result and something we do not see very often. There is one flaw with the bill we have before us: under the government's bill Jack's Law will end in April 2025. I am supporting this amendment because Jack's Law should not end; Jack's legacy should be ongoing.

I understand that the reasoning for the end date is to make sure that we can get this right and to make sure that these extraordinary powers for police are properly considered and measured. The two approaches before us are to either have an automatic end date or have what we are proposing here: a legislated requirement for a review. I think that is a much neater way to achieve what the government is trying to achieve, by placing that requirement for a review in legislation. The words used by the minister were 'transparency and accountability'. Our requirement, as well, will be for the police minister to not only table the outcomes but also outline any tweaks that are required to the laws. We fully expect there will be tweaks. No-one is thinking that it will not need changes to make it work. What we have in this legislation is a risk that Jack's Law will end in April 2025. The Liberal National Party does not believe that is good enough. We want to do everything we can to make sure that Jack's Law is the lasting legacy that it should be. I fully support the amendment from the shadow minister and thank him for bringing it forward.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I, too, rise in support of the shadow police minister's very sensible and well-thought-out amendment to Jack's Law. I am so pleased that Jack's Law will pass this chamber tonight; however, I implore those opposite to support the opposition in this very commonsense amendment. I dare say what will happen in October 2024 is that you will get an LNP government and then Jack's Law will become law in perpetuity, because it will be one of our first actions. Just imagine for a moment what could happen if we had a hung parliament, with those who spoke against Jack's Law holding the balance of power. You cannot tell me that the Labor Party will not get into bed with the Greens, because they will. If we have a hung parliament, they will get rid of these commonsense laws and we will no longer have Jack's Law. That is why we are asking for a commonsense amendment.

The shadow police minister's amendment simply calls for a review, which should happen. None of us in this chamber should be afraid of what the outcome of that review will be because, as the member for Bonney ably said, there will be tweaks required. Of course there will be, but let us put this legislation in place for perpetuity because all of us here who are going to vote—all of the government, all of the opposition and the majority of the crossbench except for the Greens—for this bill want this bill to go on forever, just as we want Jack's legacy to last forever. I implore members opposite to vote for the amendment. All the amendment does is say that we will review it in two years, which supposedly the government says it is going to do anyway, so why not legislate it? Do not be afraid of it. When members opposite go to vote, please just think about those 242 weapons over two years in those two precincts. Imagine the lives that have been saved because of this trial. We have had the trial for two years. We know the outcome. The outcome is why we have Jack's Law before this House, so let us vote to put it in place for perpetuity. Let us put Jack's legacy in place for perpetuity because that is what Brett and Belinda Beasley deserve.

Ms SIMPSON: I also support the amendment proposed by my colleague the member for Burdekin on behalf of the LNP. Let us make Jack's Law permanent. Let us have no sunset clause on this. This House agrees with the principle of Jack's Law, but why have a sunset clause where we have to come back in here in a few years time and have the debate as to whether to reintroduce it again? There is enough evidence that the knife scourge in our community is not going to go away.

The tragedies that have been outlined in this House tonight such as the tragedy of Jack Beasley and others' lives lost are unfortunately not the only tragedies. There are three safe night precincts on the Sunshine Coast but two in my electorate, Mooloolaba and Maroochydore. The safe night precincts were set up during the time of the LNP government because it recognised that there are more issues that happen around these entertainment precincts and there needed to be more resources and structure in the best way possible to address that. It went beyond the previous liquor accords and some of the other arrangements that had operated with the police, the Ambulance Service, the hospitality sector and those who were out on the streets providing care to try and divert people.

This issue of knife crime has risen at a great rate of knots in the last number of years and it is not going to go away in the next two years. The fight has to go on to do all that we can to ensure that no more lives are lost by knife crime but particularly in these areas. Let me read briefly some things I found from a simple search about incidents, in this case, on the Sunshine Coast, but I am sure the same applies in many other areas throughout Queensland. Examples are '... allegedly stabs man', which unfortunately happened in my area; 'teen charged after brutal stabbing'; and 'man armed with knife sparks siege'. Other examples say that the 'Queensland police have launched a knife crime prevention campaign'—which is great—but then that 'Queensland police plead with parents to help end the epidemic of knife crime'.

An epidemic is not going to go away in the next couple of years. The fight has to go on. There should be no sunset clause. Then there is 'what is behind the terrifying new trend finding its way on to the Sunshine Coast', but, as I said, this is happening throughout Queensland. A search then goes on to talk about how statistically there are more knife crimes occurring than there are gun crimes. This is not going to go away lightly. It requires ongoing efforts. It requires the tools of law to empower the police to do their job. There are reasonable checks and balances around this, but the review that is proposed in the amendment from the opposition also provides the opportunity to ensure that things are continually improved. Let us have no sunset clause. Let us have Jack's Law made permanent.

Mr WATTS: I rise to support the member for Burdekin's amendment. It has been well said by the member for Bonney. Sometimes in this place we need to rise well and truly above the political and we need to look at what is in the best interests of Queensland. I implore the minister to look at this. It is a good piece of legislation brought in by the government. It is solid in many ways. Its objective is very clear: to send a strong message to the Queensland community that we do not accept people carrying weapons in our community, particularly not in our safe night precincts.

Can members imagine a situation where this is not renewed by either side of the House that will have the potential opportunity to be governing? Therefore, why spend the time here and not do this? This needs a solid review. Legislation that impinges on people's freedoms, as I stated earlier, should be able to be reviewed and I know that this minister or a future minister would review this legislation and would do a solid job of making sure that people's freedoms are being respected and that our hardworking thin blue line is respecting this law and respecting people's freedoms and using it only to ensure that people are safe.

If there are situations where that is overstepped, then that is a training issue, whether it be for the academy or for the wider service. It is important that we send a very strong and clear message to the community of Queensland that carrying these bladed weapons and other weapons that can take lives in a moment of madness is completely unacceptable. I want the Jack Beasley Foundation and other people to be able to go into schools and say, 'This is how this House—how the Queensland government—sees this in the long term. This is unacceptable.' I implore the minister to seriously consider a bipartisan attempt to ensure that our community receives that strong message so that we are safe into the future, that we have an appropriate review and that we have the appropriate checks and balances, but the message is clear to every young person in this state: you cannot carry these weapons in public.

Dr ROWAN: This is a very important amendment moved by the LNP's shadow minister for police and corrective services. I support it and all members of the LNP support it because we need to ensure that there is no risk or jeopardy with respect to these laws continuing permanently. That is the last thing that we would want to have when we are passing this bill tonight—that is, that there is any risk or jeopardy in relation to its permanency into the future. If we are to adopt the amendment by the LNP, it does send a very clear and consistent message to the community, particularly to young people, that carrying weapons or carrying knives is completely unacceptable.

We also have enough evidence to date from the last two years of what we have been seeing in our communities. Particularly as a doctor, I have to say that I was quite shocked to see the extent of that and what that means. As you would know, Mr Deputy Speaker Kelly, our frontline health professionals deal with many of these instances in relation to trauma and offences that have been committed against people. We have to be involved in not only providing care and assistance to people in trying to save lives but also dealing with the aftermath of such instances.

The government has come 98 per cent of the way when it comes to where the laws are and it just needs to go that one step further and ensure that there is not any jeopardy or risk. If it were to take on board the LNP's amendment and implement that as part of the legislation tonight, that would be important with respect to getting the laws right and getting them right right from the start. More importantly, it is sending that message to the community about community safety and ensuring that it is clearly understood that, when the Jack Beasley Foundation is undertaking educative work in schools, which it has done to date—again, I commend it for doing all of that important work—it would be able to inform young people that these laws are permanent and there is no risk of them being abolished.

As we have heard from other speakers, there is always the opportunity still to tweak and to change things. However, the Liberal National Party's amendment is very important. I certainly support the shadow minister and I associate myself with the other comments of those LNP members who have spoken in support of this amendment.

Mr RYAN: In supporting the bill as drafted, the government considers that the trial is very important. It is very important to get these laws perfect before they are made permanent. It is very important for the reputation of these laws that they be perfect before they are permanent. The reason is these are extraordinary police powers. They do not exist in many jurisdictions around the world. During the initial trial on the Gold Coast the police were very well aware that they had to exercise these powers responsibly because they were going to be accountable and ultimately the extension of any trial or permanency would depend on them using the laws responsibly.

It is important to note that the extended trial moves these powers to places in Queensland that they have never been before, to police officers who have never used these laws before and to transport precincts and transport infrastructure where these laws have never been used before. This is not simply a question around making laws permanent in the Gold Coast trial area, it is about a further trial in other locations with police who are not familiar yet with these laws and to other strategies and additional accountability and transparency mechanisms. It is important for Jack's legacy that these laws be permanent, but they need to be perfect first, which is why the government does not support the amendment and encourages all members to support the bill as drafted.

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

AYES, 33:

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

PHON, 1—Andrew.

NOES, 51:

ALP, 49—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Madden, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

Pairs: Butcher, Weir; Furner, Crandon.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendments (Mr Last) negatived.

Clause 4, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 5 and 6, as read, agreed to.

Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2)

Clauses 1 to 68, as read, agreed to.

Schedule, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading (Cognate Debate)

Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (5.47 pm): I move—

That the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.



Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (5.48 pm): I move—

That the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title (Cognate Debate)

Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (5.48 pm): I move—

That the long title of the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill be agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.



Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (5.48 pm): I move—

That the long title of the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) be agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.

**MONITORING OF PLACES OF DETENTION (OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE
CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE) BILL**

Resumed from 1 December 2022 (see p. 3845).

Second Reading

Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (5.49 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

On 1 December 2022, I introduced the Monitoring of Places of Detention (Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture) Bill 2022 into the Legislative Assembly. The bill was subsequently referred to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee. I thank the committee members for their thorough consideration of the bill. I would also like to thank those stakeholders, organisations and individuals who made submissions to the committee and participated in the public hearing. On 24 February 2023 the committee tabled report No. 42 and made one recommendation: that the bill be passed. I thank the committee for its support for the bill.

The bill before the House provides a legislative framework to facilitate visits by the United Nations Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture to places of detention in Queensland. The Commonwealth government ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture, or OPCAT, and under this protocol the subcommittee has the ability to visit places of detention in Australia. OPCAT is an international agreement that aims to prevent torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment by establishing a system of regular visits to places where a person is deprived of their liberty. The bill is another commitment by this government to uphold human rights in Queensland. It

recognises that the observance of human rights is the most effective and safe way to manage custodial environments. State parties that ratify OPCAT undertake to allow the subcommittee to periodically visit places where people are deprived of their liberty for the purpose of examining the treatment and conditions of people detained.

The subcommittee visited Australia in October 2022. The Palaszczuk government supported this visit and government agencies cooperated with the Commonwealth government and the subcommittee to facilitate the visit where possible by consent under existing legislation, policies and procedures. Due to legislative barriers in the Mental Health Act 2016 and the Forensic Disability Act 2011, the UN subcommittee could not be provided with physical access to the adult mental health services or forensic disability services. Access to those services are limited to certain categories of visitors. That is to preserve the safety and privacy of people with severe mental illness or significant cognitive impairments. The subcommittee was advised of these barriers prior to its arrival in Australia and was provided with workarounds for facilitating a visit to those facilities, including the ability to interview staff offsite and request information about the facilities. The subcommittee was advised that access to prisons, police watch houses and youth detention facilities in Queensland would be facilitated.

During their visit the subcommittee attended the Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre and were provided with full access to the facility. The subcommittee suspended its visit on 23 October and I note that the subcommittee has recently announced that it has decided to terminate its visit to Australia. While that is unfortunate, I would like to reiterate that the Queensland government remains committed to the principles of OPCAT and will continue to work with the Commonwealth government to determine how best to implement OPCAT across the country.

I will now address specific issues that were raised as part of the committee inquiry. Clause 4 defines places of detention that are within scope. These places are: community correction centres, prisons, work camps, youth detention centres, inpatient units of authorised mental health services, the Forensic Disability Service, court cells, police watch houses, police holding cells or other places at a police station where a person is detained and any vehicle used or operated for the primary purpose of transporting a detainee. The bill also allows any other place where a person is a detainee, other than a private residence, to be prescribed by regulation as a place of detention.

During the committee's inquiry, some stakeholders submitted that the scope of the bill should be broader. The purpose of specifically defining places of detention in the scope of the bill is to provide certainty to agencies and the subcommittee as to the processes to be followed for a visit to those facilities. The ability to prescribe by regulation other places as places of detention provides for flexibility in the future. I note that the committee was satisfied that due consideration had been given to clause 4 of the bill regarding the definition of 'place of detention'.

The bill also outlines specific circumstances where the subcommittee's access to a place of detention may be temporarily restricted or prohibited. Clause 9 of the bill outlines that a responsible minister for a place of detention may object to a visit on specific grounds and must notify the subcommittee of an objection as soon as possible. The grounds in this clause mirror those in article 14(2) of OPCAT. Clause 10 of the bill provides that a detaining authority for a place of detention may temporarily prohibit or restrict access to all or part of the place of detention on specific grounds and for the shortest time reasonable in all the circumstances.

Some stakeholders were critical of clause 10 of the bill as there is no equivalent in OPCAT, but the purpose of clause 10 is to allow a detaining authority to assess circumstances at a place of detention at the time of a visit to ensure the safety and wellbeing of persons at the place of detention. Safeguards are in place to ensure any restriction or prohibition is for the shortest time reasonable in the circumstances. If the detaining authority exercises this power, the reasons, date, time and duration of the restriction must be recorded and provided to the responsible minister. In addition, clause 22 of the bill provides that a detaining authority is subject to the direction of a responsible minister. The committee stated that it was satisfied that the bill as drafted considers the safety, security and wellbeing of all persons at the place of detention in various emergency and/or unforeseen circumstances.

To allow the subcommittee to fulfil its mandate, the bill allows the subcommittee to request and access information and to conduct interviews with people it believes may provide relevant information. To protect the privacy of detainees and support autonomy, a detainee must provide consent to allow the subcommittee to take notes of, copy or retain the person's identifying information. Similarly, a person must consent to being interviewed by the subcommittee. Clauses 15(2)(b) and 16(2)(b) of the bill as drafted outline that if a detainee does not have the capacity to consent, their legal guardian may

consent on their behalf. These provisions allow an authorised person to engage with the subcommittee on a detainee's behalf where the detainee does not have the capacity to consent to ensure the detainee's rights and interests are protected.

Following stakeholder feedback, I foreshadow that I intend to move amendments during consideration in detail to remove subclauses 15(2)(b) and 16(2)(b) from the bill. It is considered that the reference to a legal guardian providing consent is not necessary to support the operation of these clauses as intended. To be clear, a person's consent will still be required to allow the subcommittee to retain identifying information about them or to interview a person. As the committee noted, the general requirement for consent to interviews is important and that consent can be withdrawn at any time.

During the committee's inquiry, stakeholders also flagged that clause 16(1) of the bill as drafted may restrict the subcommittee's mandate by requiring the subcommittee to visit a place of detention in order to interview a detainee. The policy intent is to allow the subcommittee to interview any person at a place of detention it visits as well as any other person it believes may provide information relevant to its purpose. This is intended to include detainees at places of detention that the subcommittee does not visit. I also foreshadow that I will be moving an amendment in consideration in detail to remove the reference to a subcommittee interviewing a detainee during a visit to clarify the intent of clause 16 of the bill.

The bill protects persons who provide information to or assist the subcommittee from reprisals. Clause 19 of the bill outlines the grounds for taking a reprisal against a person and states that a person must not cause, or attempt or conspire to cause, detriment to another person because that person has provided or may provide information or assistance to the subcommittee. Clause 19 includes examples of detriment to a person and those examples are not exhaustive. During consideration in detail I intend to move an amendment to clause 19 to include other examples of detriment relevant to people in detention including women.

Although not relevant to the scope of the bill, several stakeholders commented on the nomination of a national preventive mechanism in Queensland for a domestic body. To effectively perform the functions of an NPM as required under OPCAT, adequate resourcing is required. The nomination of an NPM for Queensland is subject to discussions with the Commonwealth government regarding responsibility for ongoing and sufficient funding for an NPM. We will continue to work with the Commonwealth on this matter.

In conclusion, the development of the bill was made possible through the cooperation and expertise of key agencies and stakeholders. In particular, I would like to express my appreciation to all stakeholders who made submissions on the bill for their ongoing commitment to human rights in Australia. This bill represents the Palaszczuk government's support for the principles of OPCAT and furthers this government's commitment to upholding the humane treatment of people in detention. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Ms Fentiman, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Hinkler, Mr B



Mr BENNETT (Burnett—LNP) (6.00 pm): I rise to inform the House about an upcoming event in Tuscany, Italy to commemorate the life and achievements of one of the world's greatest pioneer aviators, Squadron Leader Bert Hinkler—the boy from the Bundaberg region. The event begins on 22 April 2023 and includes our national day of remembrance, Anzac Day, on 25 April. The event marks the discovery of Bert Hinkler's body on 27 April 1933 after he had been missing for 111 days.

Mon Repos Beach in my electorate is where Bert first flew his home-made glider back in 1911, 112 years ago. On 7 January 2012, an imposing 1.4-tonne basalt boulder was gifted by the Queensland government to travel 16,000 kilometres to Mount Pratolino near Arezzo and Florence. This boulder became the centrepiece of a new Hinkler Memorial Monument, unveiled on 2 August 2015, on the precise spot where Bert unfortunately lost his life on 7 January 1933 after an unsuccessful emergency landing. It could be said that this boulder witnessed Bert's first glider flights in 1911 and now stands on the site of his death as a place of pilgrimage. Its setting is solemn, moving and serene.


Bert was buried in Florence with full military honours on 1 May 1933. The monument's unveiling became a significant part of the 2014-18 Centenary of Anzac commemorations. Bert fought with RAF Squadron 28 in northern Italy in World War I to regain lost Italian soil following the famous Battle of

Caporetto. The organiser behind the memorial is Mr Kevin Lindeberg. This proud Queenslander remains dedicated to advancing what Bert stood for and achieved. Mr Lindeberg will be involved in the upcoming event on 22 April via Skype, along with local Italian dignitaries. Our Australian Ambassador in Rome, Her Excellency Margaret Twomey, has directed her attache, an RAAF flight lieutenant, to attend in uniform to represent her and our nation.

This unique Hinkler Memorial Monument on the slopes of a Tuscan mountain continues to grow in importance in keeping our great nations relevant and together in peace, friendship and exchange. I join with many in calling on the Queensland and Australian governments to fund a Hinkler Memorial Monument utility trust for the upkeep of the Hinkler Memorial Monument to preserve the integrity of this important reminder of our pioneering adventurer and aviator—the boy from Bundaberg.

The reason for the call for the funding of the trust is that at this location there are quite extreme weather conditions and we see debris, trees, a lot of snow and a lot of activity from tourists as well. There is no funding to maintain the memorial. In time, we hope that some sort of funding could be made available so that this important memorial is maintained in perpetuity. All the best, Bert Hinkler.

Bannerman, Mr D

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (6.03 pm): On Sunday, 26 March I had the pleasure to join with my community at the Highlands Recreation Reserve for the inaugural Bannerman Cup. It was a fitting tribute to the life and legacy of Samford local David Bannerman. David was an active leader and contributor throughout our community, known to many for the impact he had on shaping and conserving our community over many years. A self-confessed old hippy, David prided himself on his record of standing up to overdevelopment through Samford and in many ways can be credited for the lifestyle and conservation Samford enjoys today. He described the jewel in his crown as the restoration and conservation of the historic Farmers Hall in Samford.


David loved words. He was the founder and editor of the *South Pine Chronicle* and former editor of the *Village Pump*, the local community papers. He was the founder of the trash and treasure at the Samford Waste Station as a passionate advocate for the environment. He also loved politics, which extended to his running for local government in our area and also assuming the role as the supreme moderator of the progress association's 'meet the candidates' forum in Samford prior to each election. David was also mad keen on cricket. At the cricket grounds, David brought together folks from the mountains, the valley and right out to Dayboro to play out the summer weekends. He could always be found barefoot umpiring the games, capturing sensational images and then reporting on the action, capturing a record of the day's play in words.

One of the projects I was most worried I would never be able to deliver, the one that kept me up at night, was getting a dedicated footbridge by the Percy Cash Bridge in Samford. My first candidates forum highlighted the issue to me, and one of its key promoters was David. Working with local councillor Darren Grimwade, we got the project secured and delivered for the community. I recall fondly getting the opportunity to walk across the bridge with David after our official opening as he was on his way home, a moment of complete and rewarding achievement.

David was a distinctly unique man. He lived his life on his own terms and that included his departure. David was diagnosed with cancer and given two months to live, and used our voluntary assisted dying framework to avoid what he described as a very gruesome death. In our last conversation David thanked me and our government for ensuring Queenslanders such as him have a right to choose. He is survived by his devoted wife, Helen, and their three sons, Gavin, Keith and Malcolm.

David made an impact not only on our community but also on so many of us within the community. He peacefully passed on 27 February 2023. On Sunday the cricket oval was officially named the David Bannerman Oval—a fitting legacy to a man who brought people together with joy and preserved the precious things in our community. Vale, David Bannerman.

Toowoomba, Events

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (6.06 pm): There has been much happening in the Toowoomba region recently and there is so much more that is going on. I want to highlight a couple of things for the benefit of the House. The Western Clydesdales, after a 17-year gap from the Hostplus Cup, have rejoined the Queensland Cup. It has been a very long time. Previously the Toowoomba Clydesdales, we are now the Western Clydesdales. We have not got off to the best start—we have run up against the PNG Hunters and the Tweed Seagulls—but we are off to the Sunshine Coast this week.

I look forward to us posting our first win. This would not have been possible but for chairman Tony Coonan, who is first cousin to the member for Condamine, my dear friend and colleague in the House, coach Jason and captain Darryn. The team has done our region proud already and I know that they have great things ahead of them this season.

I also acknowledge the centenary of the QCWA that was held at Marinya, a home outside Cambooya, last weekend. One hundred years ago the QCWA founder, Ruth Fairfax, launched the CWA from that homestead. It was wonderful to have there present local legends Angus Lane, who did a wonderful job emceeing, sharing his wisdom and insights with those present, and Tim Fairfax, former chancellor of QUT and one of Australia's great philanthropists. It was wonderful to have Tim there as a grandson of Ruth Fairfax, the found of the QCWA. It was a wonderful day. I also managed to meet Clive Berghofer's 92-year-old sister Lovey, still a proud member of the CWA in Queensland.

It started this afternoon, but the Toowoomba Show is back for its 158th presentation to the community of Toowoomba.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: Nearly as good as the Mudgeeraba show; I take that interjection. It has only been World War II and COVID that have stopped the show over its 160-year history. It is where the show movement began in Queensland—Queensland's very first show. CEO Damon and the committee have been through some really difficult times over the past 10 years with bad weather, but the weather looks pretty good this year. An amazing drone light spectacular is coming to the show this year. The exhibitions will be great. Entries are up across all the categories. I wish Damon and the show committee a wonderful show. I cannot wait to get out there tomorrow.

I also pay tribute to the cast of *Boy from Oz*. The local production was on last weekend. My family is a bit obsessed with *Hamilton* at the moment, so it was great to hear another musical, the *Boy from Oz*, and to see our local talent. People like Justin, Shannon and Michael are well-known figures on Toowoomba stages. It was wonderful to see them present again on the stage. It is another wonderful reminder of the local talent we have: dancing, acting, singing—all the triple treats across our region. I congratulate the Empire Theatre, Kerry and chairman Andrew on another wonderful production.

World Autism Understanding Day



Mrs McMAHON (Macalister—ALP) (6.09 pm): I rise to make my annual contribution in relation to World Autism Understanding Day on this Sunday, 2 April. On this day landmarks will be lit up blue to help raise awareness.

I reflect that I have made this speech every year since my son was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder in 2018. During these speeches I have outlined my family's journey raising a child with autism. I note that what was originally World Autism Day Awareness Day—and is still considered as such by the UN—in Australia we have adopted World Autism Understanding Day. The theme promoted by Autism Spectrum Australia this year is: 'If you find out I'm autistic, this is what I want you know ...'.

In line with that, instead of outlining how our family is progressing, the constant interactions with teachers and the school and therapists, and continuing our vast disappointment that is the NDIS, I thought I would give words to my boy this year. So I asked him what his day was like and what he wanted people to know about him. Getting him to talk about himself was no easy feat—trains would have been easier. He does not like school. He likes the learning, occasionally, and when the task is in his wheelhouse, with a bit of prompting, he can be the most productive student in the class. He is a monarchist and loves drawing pictures of the English flag and loves corgis.


His memory is not that great. If you ask him out of the blue who his friends are at school he has no recollection of what their names are. However, when he recalls a memory of them playing, his details are amazing. He does not feel safe at school. He is different. He is targeted. Kids in his age cohort like poking a bear while he tries to regulate his behaviour. It is not always possible in conflict situations. He spends most of his time by himself, walking in circles or running away from other kids. He is trying. He is trying to reach out and make friends, but he does not always read the situation, the person or get the response right. He is often rebuffed, sometimes violently.

He likes things that other kids do not. He loves trains—steam trains in particular. He realised his life dream when he got to visit the National Railway Museum in York last year—even if the Flying Scotsman was not there. He does not like being picked on because he likes Thomas the Tank Engine and that he is called names.

As in previous years, I would normally table a self-portrait of Ronan, now aged nine. Unfortunately, I do not have it with me today. He loves his curly hair. Thankfully for everyone, in this picture he is actually wearing clothes, unlike most days at home.

More importantly, I look forward to one day acknowledging not just World Autism Understanding Day here in Australia but World Autism Acceptance Day, just like they do in the UK. I look forward to updating the House next year on my boy.

Housing, The Missing Middle

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (6.12 pm): ‘The standard you walk past is the standard you accept’ is a well used truism and has become a hallmark of this arrogant, chaotic, third-term Labor government. As we have heard many times in this chamber, particularly this week, it has become glaringly obvious to Queenslanders that the Palaszczuk government has turned a blind eye as the scale of the state’s housing crisis has continued to escalate.

Last week, we heard shocking statistics which paint a very dire picture of the reality of the housing crisis, revealing there are around 150,000 households across Queensland with unmet housing needs, including 100,000 of whom would be typically eligible for social housing. This same report published by the Queensland Council of Social Services also highlighted the dire situation being experienced here in Queensland where homelessness has risen by an alarming 22 per cent since 2017, compared to only eight per cent across the country.

This week we have heard every excuse from the government about why. Despite this crisis occurring on their watch and despite three housing round tables in as many months, they have still not delivered one extra house.

Tonight, I would like to highlight another aspect of this crisis which has been rarely spoken about. Last year, I had the fortunate opportunity to work with a parliamentary intern, Christopher Young, a Griffith University graduate, whose research project focused on some of the hidden victims of the housing crisis, which he appropriately named ‘The Missing Middle’. In his report, which he researched over a period of many months, he details the findings of his investigation into the worsening crisis of the working homeless—those people who find themselves unable to secure accommodation despite maintaining employment.


I would like to share with the House some of the key findings in Mr Young’s report, which the government would do well to consider. While acknowledging the factors that have contributed to the crisis, including COVID, rental affordability, housing availability and increasing cost-of-living pressures, the report highlights that funding for policies concerned specifically with the working homeless are almost non-existent. As a result, those in this category have little direct support and therefore are at extreme risk of falling through the cracks.

One of the report’s recommendations is the introduction of targeted policy and funding regimes, which are necessary to set the preconditions for actual growth in supply. I quote directly from his report—

Only through increasing supply will the issue of the working homeless and homelessness in general be addressed in a substantial way.

The findings of Mr Young’s report are not revolutionary and in fact are consistent with the chorus of industry experts who have been calling for the same thing. While I acknowledge the government has finally embarked on some of these recommendations, there is clearly still a long way. I thank Mr Young for his extensive research and detailed report which shines a light and offers solutions to this growing crisis.

Aspley Electorate

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (6.15 pm): Works will begin this week on the final 25 terrace home lots at Carseldine Village. Delivery of the homes in stage 4B, as well as stage 5 development lots, are being supported by an almost \$8 million investment from the government, with Queensland owned civil construction company Shadforth set to continue works. Release of these final terrace homes and land packages is anticipated by May. When stage 4B is complete Carseldine Village will contain 182 residential freehold terrace homes.

The village is an exemplar of sustainable development—the first residential development in Queensland to commit to delivering 100 per cent net zero energy emission homes with energy saving features. Each home has PV solar, battery storage, wi-fi air-conditioning systems controlled by smart

phones and heat pump hot-water systems, saving home owners substantially on electricity bills. Additionally, garages will include a power outlet ready to accommodate future electric vehicles. With Carseldine Village we are making sustainable living affordable.


Sensitive environmental habitat has been preserved and even enhanced, all whilst also managing to build fantastic sporting facilities and parkland open to the community on the site—more than 18 hectares of green and open space. The Cabbage Tree Creek bushland has been enhanced with the planting of over 12,000 new plants, trees and scrubs and the installation of over 200 nesting boxes.

These are freehold homes—no body corporate, right next door to Carseldine station where people can be in the CBD in less than 30 minutes and, of course, adjacent to the Beams Road overpass that we are getting on with next door. These are 182 sustainable, affordable homes in a great community which would not exist if we had listened to the LNP. The LNP opposed it at every level. They wound up locals with misinformation, they ran campaigns from their offices and they opposed it at every step. The federal LNP local member and local councillor are happy to come along to the Carseldine Village ribbon cuttings and happy to get their photos taken at the openings. It is great to see that they support it now, but it would have been useful about six years ago.

Before its opening, I was happy to take Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and the member for Lilley, Anika Wells—in her first visit after being appointed the aged care minister—to Rockpool, the new aged-care facility. It is a fantastic facility. Despite campaigning on it for over half a decade, we can see the benefit now. It is great that locals are moving in and enjoying it.

It was great to visit recently the fantastic new prep classrooms at Aspley State School. They will be ready for term 2. The new car park has been completed down near Maundrell Terrace. On these hot March days it is fantastic to see these new air-conditioned classrooms ready for use. I cannot wait to see them when they are open.

Renewable Energy

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (6.18 pm): According to last year's report from Construction Skills Queensland, Queensland will need up to 196 gigawatts of installed capacity in renewable capacity to meet the state's target. To put that into perspective, currently Queensland has installed capacity of 16.2 gigawatts in total energy generation—less than a quarter of that, 3.8 gigawatts, comes from renewables. That is two per cent of the amount needed to reach net zero. It is hard to see how any of this will be humanly possible, particularly when we think what it looks like to achieve the measly 3.8 gigawatts we have now. Enormous amounts of public moneys will be needed to make it happen—moneys that will have to be ripped out of other areas and redirected towards carpeting the regions in industrial grade wind and solar factories.

According to CSQ and CSIRO, this energy transition will cost Queenslanders as much as \$14 billion a year between now and 2050. As much as 96 per cent of this investment will be spread across three renewable zones. Central Queensland and Mackay will be ground zero. Investment in these two regions alone totals roughly \$27 billion, almost 40 per cent of the state's total spend. Planned projects for these regions stretch from giant wind and solar plants to hydrogen, renewables, manufacturing and fake food factories. Fully a quarter of Queensland's planned wind projects will be built in the Mackay region—that is 25 per cent of the state's wind developments—all located in one of the most unique and precious ecosystems in the country, not to mention some of the country's most productive farmland. In my electorate of Mirani, Andrew Forrest's Squadron Energy is in the process of building a \$3 billion wind farm at Clarke Creek 120 kilometres north of Rocky. On completion, it will reportedly be the single largest grid-connected renewable project in Australia.

Through Powerlink Queensland, the government will be spending \$365 million towards Central Queensland's grid reinforcement. This means constructing gigantic new transmission towers and thousands of kilometres of transmission lines across northern and central parts of the state. Do regional Queenslanders or traditional owners even begin to comprehend the impact all of this will have on land use in that area or the staggering amount of construction work it will take. According to QSC, a 13 per cent increase in construction workers will be needed. Where will these thousands of skilled workers come from? Bear in mind that 94 per cent of these jobs will be in regional Queensland, where there are already critical shortages of skilled workers across the board, not to mention a dire shortage of accommodation, affordable housing and hospital and education services—and just about every other service you can think of. We need to know what the government is going to do to overcome all of this, because at the moment we cannot even survive with what we have.

Stretton Electorate, Small Business Awards



Mr MARTIN (Stretton—ALP) (6.21 pm): I rise to celebrate and commend the many fantastic businesses in my electorate. Our fantastic local small businesses have been the talk of the town recently, it being Stretton Small Business Month 2023. It is a time when locals can vote for their favourite small businesses. Competition was fierce, with many fantastic nominations. Congratulations to all of the nominees and winners. Many of the small business owners in my community are from diverse backgrounds, and they have come to my area looking for a place to settle and work to support their families. They are succeeding, and I want to recognise them in this place.

In the health and fitness category the winner is Anytime Fitness, Sunnybank Hills. It is just behind my office. It is a very popular gym with friendly staff who are doing their bit to keep locals fit and healthy. The trade and services winner is Battery Central, Acacia Ridge, a family business owned by Alan who credits his hardworking staff Kathy and Logan, who know their customers by name. It certainly shows—they have almost 400 five-star Google reviews. The beauty and hairdressing winner is Adrenaline Hair Studio in Runcorn. Like a number of winners this year, it is a successful home-based business. The owner, Sonya, has built up a solid base of loyal customers over many years and she enjoys working from home. For best restaurant it is none other than Lemon Chillies Indian Restaurant on Compton Road. It is a big favourite amongst locals, and it is of course home to the famous Kerala crab roast. I encourage all MPs to get out there and have a try. Congratulations to master chef Jijo Paul and his team for their ongoing commitment to deliciousness.

The best cafe is Jacobs Ladder, a family business run by a local Korean family. Some of the comments made by voters include 'they always remember my order' and 'they make us feel welcome' and 'they serve the best matcha in the area'. This category had stiff competition so well done to the team from Jacobs Ladder. The next winner in the retail and sales category is Rhia Jewellers, a family business run for 10 years by Madhuri and Abdul, who are also well known and appreciated for their customer service and community work. They are well-known Rotarians in the area.

In the education and support category the winner is another home-based business: Andrew from ABC Music School. Andrew teaches music to local students. He is also a local rock and roll legend himself, playing in a local mando-pop band—that is a Mandarin pop band—at the Old School Bar in Eight Mile Plains. He will soon be playing every week at the Alien Night Market in Underwood. Lastly, the winner of the best bubble tea goes to Peter and Angel, who run Gotcha Fresh Tea in Pinelands just next to my office. It is a big win for a competitive category. Congratulations to all of the fantastic local small businesses in my area.

Community Mental Health Services



Mr MOLHOEK (Southport—LNP) (6.24 pm): I rise this evening to tell the House about how we can better support people suffering with mental illness through community mental health services. This brief speech has been prepared by my parliamentary intern from 2022, Jessica Cunningham, whose assignment was to review access to mental health services and investigate alternative approaches of community and supportive accommodation models. Jess is a remarkable young woman and a passionate, committed intern. The report she prepared is outstanding. Her ability to grasp and understand the complexities of the mental health system and alternative approaches is remarkable. I commend her report to all members for reading, and I table a copy of her report for the public record.

Tabled paper: Report by Jessica Cunningham for Mr Rob Molhoek MP, undated, titled 'Inquiry into community mental health services: Responding to the issue of social isolation and loneliness faced by the severely mentally ill in Queensland' [\[415\]](#).


Queensland's current approach to mental health service delivery via hospitalisation is outdated, expensive and exclusionist. Emergency departments have often become the only option for people seeking mental health care. As mental health care is divided between state and federal governments, one million Australians are being excluded and neglected by the mental health system. These people are the missing middle—people whose mental health is too complex and severe for primary care but who are not unwell enough for hospital care. The Queensland Alliance for Mental Health has identified an urgent need to establish alternatives to mental health care.

Research has found that lonely people are more likely to suffer serious mental illness. Social isolation and loneliness must then be considered in the solution to this issue. Research has also shown that a lack of housing and employment are significant contributors to mental ill health. There are alternative models for community mental health services. Supported accommodation models perform better than standardised care. Supported employment models of health care provide avenues for those struggling to support themselves. Community social participation and support models are both flexible

for patients and reduce social isolation; however, several issues affect the performance of community-based services. Funding, training and the siloing of operations and sectors has resulted in poor cooperation and partnerships between some organisations to the detriment of their patients.

Jess has suggested—and I am speaking on behalf of Jess—that the Queensland government refocus mental health expenditure and invest in community mental health service models with priority given to supported accommodation, supported employment and community social participation and support models to better support the missing middle with their mental ill health. It was my great privilege—and perhaps the reason Jess decided to make this her research topic—to serve on the select committee for mental health last year. We did see many examples of excellent support in the community, and that is some of the work that Jess refers to in her report.

Mount Ommaney Electorate, Clubs

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (6.27 pm): It is a pleasure to round out the week. It is coming into winter sport season, although you would not necessarily know it from the weather, and that means our amazing community volunteers are gearing up for another big season. Can I give the House an around the grounds of the good work my fantastic locals clubs are already doing this year. The mighty Jindalee Jags—I thank the sports minister, who is in the House tonight, for giving them a substantial grant last year to help with their flood recovery—are having a fundraiser in a few weeks to further those efforts and get some great new facilities, including a ladies' change room, with a ladies' day in a few weeks, which I will hopefully be attending and selling raffle tickets. That will be fantastic. We have a great committee at that club, and they have done such a great job in their flood recovery efforts.

The Centenary Stormers are continuing their work this year with Pushing Barriers, which members may be aware is a fantastic volunteer-based organisation that allows young migrant and refugee kids to participate in sport by providing them—in addition to the cost of their sports—with drivers to get them to and from games if they have parents who cannot drive. We know that is a significant impediment to a lot of young people who are migrants to our community, so thank you to Pushing Barriers for working with them so closely. There are dozens of kids now playing with the Centenary Stormers and more are signing up every year. It is fantastic to see.

We have the oldest club in Queensland in Oxley United, which was established over 100 years ago, where my son, Heath, has historically played. There is no word yet as to whether he will be putting on the black and red jersey this year, but we are hoping for a late resurgence. St Cats will also have another fantastic season. They have been doing some great work with a lot of our community groups. After the floods, they provided their facilities for a lot of community groups that were essentially homeless. They said to those clubs that did not have their own facilities to use, 'Come to St Cats. Use our facilities.' They have given a lot of our community groups and dance groups a place to go, which we appreciate. The Jindalee Bowls Club were the recipient of another fantastic grant from the sports minister. They are elbow deep in renovations and we hope they will be open later this year. They received over half a million dollars of state and federal funding to do that work, and it is coming along beautifully.

I am going to run out of time. In the time I have left, I take a moment to thank the fantastic volunteers who do all of this great work keeping our community clubs going. I also thank the amazing small businesses that sponsor these clubs. I have so many in my electorate, including Vision Optometry, Xplicit Kleans, Happifeet Podiatry and hundreds of other local businesses. Mother's Day is coming up. Back a small business that backs our local clubs.

The House adjourned at 6.30 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Camm, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Head, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Kelly, King A, King S, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, MacMahon, Madden, Mander, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Whiting