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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 20 April 2023

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THURSDAY, 20 APRIL 2023


The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

Mr Acting Speaker (Mr Joe Kelly, Greenslopes) read prayers and took the chair.

 **Mr ACTING 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.


ACTING SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

School Group Tours

 **Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School in the electorate of Toowoomba North and Mount Samson State School in the electorate of Pine Rivers. It is a busy week in Pine Rivers this week.

Ms Boyd: Three from three!

Member for Stretton

 **Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Honourable members, the birthday candles will be on the cake tonight in Stretton. I am sure you will join me in wishing the member for Stretton a happy birthday. What better place could you find to celebrate it!

TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

REPORT BY THE CLERK

The following report was tabled by the Clerk—

[515](#) 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—

Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—

Omit—

'Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022'

Insert—

'Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023'

MEMBER'S PAPER


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

Member for Mirani (Mr Andrew)—

[516](#) Report by Professor Emeritus Clive Moore, dated 28 August 2022, titled 'South Sea Islander Morality, 1860s-1900s, and Mackay's Islander Hospitals: Why Reparations are required'

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Containers for Change


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.32 am): Since the introduction of the container recycling scheme in 2018, more than 6.4 billion containers have been returned for a refund. For each container returned, 10 cents goes into the pockets of Queenslanders. That means more than \$630 million has been returned to individuals, charities and community groups. That is a massive recycling effort by Queenslanders—and it is going to get even bigger.

Wide consultation showed Queenslanders overwhelmingly want the scheme to expand. Almost 100 per cent of 6,600 who responded to our survey said they want it widened. So, from 1 November, glass wine and spirit bottles will be eligible for a 10-cent refund as well—just in time for Christmas!

This is nation leading. Queensland will become the first state to include wine and spirit bottles in their containers for cash program. Our government is now working closely with Container Exchange to make sure depots are ready. These containers will still be able to be placed in kerbside recycling bins.

Containers for Change does not just help Queenslanders cash in; it diverts good materials from landfill to be recycled. Importantly, it supports over 800 full-time jobs, including many good jobs in the regions.

Public Service, Excellence Awards

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.33 am): Each day our valued public servants do an amazing job. Whether it is caring for the sick in our hospitals, our police, teachers, road builders—you name it—members of our public sector are there improving the lives of Queenslanders. While all this work is valued, some of it deserves special commendation. That is why we have the Premier's Awards for Excellence.

This year more than 80 teams and projects were listed as finalists for excellence awards. They ranged from teachers at Hervey Bay who have improved literacy for their students with their own designed new literacy program to the Cape York Kidney Care team based at Weipa helping people improve their health. Queensland State Archives was recognised for its work chronicling our first wars, digitising more than 4,000 historical records and making them more discoverable. This is also crucial in our Path to Treaty.


Queensland Health's Ambassador Program places covert security officers in clinical areas to protect our healthcare workers from acts of violence and aggression. This less confrontational approach encourages positive relations between staff, patients and visitors. It has resulted in an 80 per cent reduction in such interventions. Maritime Safety Queensland was also recognised for its efforts removing flood debris from our waterways—some from as far away as Fraser Island, K'gari.

There can only be so many winners. The Queensland Reconstruction Authority has deservedly been singled out for its response in implementing our \$741 million Resilient Homes Fund to buy back or rebuild homes affected by last year's floods. Around 300 buyback offers have so far been accepted. Queensland Health was also recognised for its response to the pandemic including the vaccination program that continues to protect us to this day.

However, I think the greatest applause was for the Department of Energy and Public Works for their work on our Energy and Jobs Plan. This is one of the greatest energy revolutions in the world, transitioning Queensland from the coal-fired power of yesterday to the clean, green and affordable energy of tomorrow.

I congratulate all nominees and finalists as well as the winners. We thank our public servants and our government values the work they do across our great state.


Anzac Day

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.36 am): As honourable members know, next Tuesday is Anzac Day—a sacred day in our nation's calendar—when we pause to honour the more than 1.5 million men and women who have served and those who lost their lives defending our country in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations. Queensland is home to more than 163,000 current or former ADF personnel—the largest population of veterans in Australia. As a government, we are committed to ensuring they are supported during and after they serve.

I am pleased to announce that 23 recipients are sharing more than \$1 million through the second round of the Queensland Remembers Grants Program. It helps deliver infrastructure upgrades and commemorative projects for ex-service organisations. Recipients include RSL subbranches from Townsville, Bundaberg, Dalby, Cloncurry, Gladstone and Currumbin, along with the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council, Somerset Regional Council, the Queensland branch of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia and Friends of Balmoral Cemetery.

Today, I can also announce that applications are open for two other veterans grant programs—the \$1.5 million Anzac Day Trust Fund and a brand new Veterans' Health and Wellbeing Research Grants Program. I also acknowledge that many members in this chamber will be attending many services across our state next Tuesday.

Cairns, Regional Sitzings of Parliament

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.37 am): The next time this House meets it will be a long way from Alice Street—1,700 kilometres away in Cairns, from 9 to 11 May—when we take the people's parliament to the people of the Far North, listening to Queenslanders, giving the people of the Far North the chance to see their parliament in action—and don't we have excellent members up there! I am so proud of the work that they do.


Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am not being provocative, Mr Acting Speaker.

Mr Dick: It's a statement of fact.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is a statement of fact! I want to thank the officers of the Parliamentary Service, led by the Clerk; the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, led by my director-general, Rachel Hunter; and other departments for making the necessary arrangements. A lot of work goes into organising this. I look forward to seeing everyone there for the sixth regional parliament—the second in Cairns.

Regional Queensland, State Development Areas


 **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) (9.38 am): Regional Queensland is the engine room when it comes to industry in this state, and it is the Palaszczuk government that is clearing the path for more businesses to call the Sunshine State home. Gladstone is fast becoming a super hub for renewable energy and green hydrogen. Townsville and the north-west have enormous potential for critical mineral production, processing and manufacturing. These are just some examples of regions that are growing thanks to their state development areas.

These SDAs are home for traditional and new industries, new opportunities and new jobs. They create a space where industries can grow, develop and work together to create new value chains. Today I am pleased to announce that investigations have begun into the possible declaration of a state development area for Mackay—news that I know the member for Mackay will be happy to hear because she is a champion for good jobs and better services in her region.

A government member: Another great member!

Dr MILES: Hear, hear! A Queensland government project team led by the Coordinator-General has been formed and consultation will soon begin with local stakeholders. It is proposed that a Mackay SDA could be home to the region's growing local biofutures industries—industries that are looking at new ways to make the food, fuel, feed and fibre products the world needs. Currently Queensland has 12 state development areas in locations including Gladstone and Townsville as well as Cairns, Bundaberg and Abbot Point. Pending the outcome of investigations and stakeholder and public consultation, it is possible Mackay could soon be home to Queensland's newest SDA.

Resources Industries, Vanadium

 **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) (9.40 am): That is not the only good news I have for industry in regional Queensland today.

Ms Palaszcuk: Tell us about it.

Dr MILES: I will, Premier. The Palaszcuk Labor government strongly supports growing the energy sector in Queensland, and that includes the vanadium mining, processing and manufacturing industry. Queensland's North West Minerals Province is one of the world's richest mineral-producing areas and will support Queensland's production of critical minerals for the global renewable energy sector. This government is already investing heavily in the province, including \$75 million to build an Australian-first vanadium and critical minerals demonstration facility in the Townsville State Development Area.

Today I am happy to share that the proposed \$242 million Richmond-Julia Creek vanadium mine is one step closer for north-west Queensland with finalisation of the terms of reference for an environmental impact statement. The Richmond Vanadium Technology Project is another shot in the arm for confidence in the North West Minerals Province. The Richmond-Julia Creek vanadium project is proposed for a site located 45 kilometres north-west of Richmond. If approved, the project is expected to create up to 100 construction jobs and up to 200 operational jobs over 25 years.

RVT will now prepare a draft environmental impact statement responding to the terms of reference, which requires a rigorous assessment of social, economic and environmental impacts. The community can have its say on how project impacts should be managed when the draft EIS is released for comment when the Coordinator-General calls for public submissions. The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan is supporting the development of critical minerals production in Queensland, and we know that means more jobs and a long-lasting future for Queenslanders.

Finally, I understand it is Jack McKay's last parliament day as part of the Queensland Press Gallery. Jack has covered our work for much of our time in government.

A government member: He's been pretty decent.

Dr MILES: He has been pretty decent. I know he will go on to do great things. We wish him well in the future.

Resources Industries, Trade Mission



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.42 am): Queenslanders are known around the world for innovation, ingenuity and invention, particularly in the resources sector. While our high-quality minerals are recognised around the world, we are also proud to export the expertise and insight of homegrown Queensland mining equipment, technology and services companies.

This weekend I will lead a delegation of 30 Queensland METS companies on a trade mission to Chile: companies like Real Time Instruments from Mackay, whose commodity analysis technology scans the composition of minerals, helping mining operators increase revenue and yield while reducing their carbon footprint; companies like GreaseBoss from the electorate of Kawana, whose industrial lubrication systems allow heavy equipment to operate more safely and efficiently; and companies like Phibion from the electorate of Lytton, whose MudMaster vehicles can improve speed and efficiency when it comes to the rehabilitation of tailings dams.

Phibion's export success in Chile and Brazil will now see the company expand its Brisbane headquarters, supporting up to 380 new highly skilled jobs as it looks to increase its fleet of MudMasters by 500 per cent. Through the support of our government's Invested in Queensland program, we have ensured that Phibion's expertise and skills base remain in Queensland rather than moving offshore.

Phibion, GreaseBoss, Real Time Instruments and other Queensland METS companies take part in Expomin, the second largest mining conference in the world, attended by 70,000 participants. Expomin is an unrivalled opportunity for these Queensland companies to diversify and grow their customer base.

As part of this trade mission I will also travel to Brazil. Brazil is the third greatest source of international students coming to Queensland, and by engaging with prospective students in Sao Paulo we want to see that market grow even further. I will also visit the capital of the Brazilian state of Minas Gerais to further develop relationships between Queensland and Minas Gerais, two of the strongest mining jurisdictions in the Southern Hemisphere. By further diversifying and developing Queensland's trade relationships we can build the strength and resilience of Queensland businesses, cementing their future prosperity.

State Schools, Mobile Phones



Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.45 am): Mobile phones are everywhere and there has always been a debate about their place in our schools. The issue was reviewed extensively as part of the Premier's nation-leading Anti-Cyberbullying Taskforce. Recommendation 13 stated that schools are best placed to make local policies about mobile phones in consultation with their school communities. We accepted and implemented all of the recommendations of the task force, with the Premier providing the government's response in February 2019 and tabling progress reports in April and November 2019, with the final report in October 2020.

Under this approach of school autonomy, every Queensland state school has been required to have a regularly reviewed policy in their student code of conduct on the use of mobile phones in their schools. Many schools have taken the decision to ban mobile phones, and they have been fully supported to do so. We are always happy to have a fresh look at things, and there is legitimate community debate about whether this approach continues to be the best way to go, particularly given advancements in technology and the issue of distraction. We also need to think about other devices like smartwatches. Some of this work is already underway. In June last year my department commissioned the University of Queensland to conduct an independent evaluation into the effectiveness of responses to address cyberbullying implemented since the task force, with a draft report due next month. I have also asked my department to survey our state schools so we can get a clear picture on exactly what is happening in our schools regarding the banning of phones.

We will always take a measured and balanced approach, and as always the best interests of our students will be at the heart of what we do. Which is why today I can advise the House I will be appointing former Queensland Family and Child Commissioner Cheryl Vardon to carry out an independent review into our policy. Ms Vardon will lead consultation with key stakeholders, review the latest research and survey, and provide a preferred policy position on the use of mobile phones and devices in schools.

When I met with Minister Jason Clare last week, we agreed it would be beneficial—and his preference—to have a nationally consistent approach, as it is clear that banning means different things in different states. The matter is now on the agenda for the next meeting of education ministers. I have also spoken to the new Labor education minister for New South Wales Prue Car—it has been a while since I have been able to say that—who is also keen for a consistent approach. Ms Vardon will provide a report by the end of June, and this will inform government policy going forward and what I take to the next education ministers' meeting. The Palaszczuk government proudly led the way on cyberbullying, and we will always act in the best interests of our students and communities.

I also take a brief moment to wish Jack McKay all the best. He is a great journalist and an even better guy.

Townsville University Hospital, Audiology Testing



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.48 am): The chief executive of the Townsville Hospital and Health Service yesterday announced that a proactive investigation into paediatric audiology services delivered by Townsville University Hospital is currently underway. The health service was alerted to a pattern of 'unexpected findings' in the assessment of babies referred for diagnostic audiological testing after their screening at birth. As a result, the health service has been working systematically with Children's Health Queensland through the Healthy Hearing Program to conduct a full audit of 341 test results conducted on babies who were born after 1 January 2020. Although the audit is continuing, due to the results so far, the Townsville Hospital and Health Service has made the decision not to wait for the review to be finalised but instead to contact affected families in parallel with the audit. So far, 91 cases have been reviewed with eight infants requiring urgent follow-ups.

Townsville HHS has also taken proactive steps to look at cochlear implant programming in children at Townsville University Hospital, following recent cases in South Australia where cochlear implants have been mapped incorrectly. Since 2014, 59 children have received cochlear implants in Townsville. So far, 31 cases have been reviewed, with concerns around six. This review is complex and must be done on a case-by-case basis and is expected to be complete by June. Families of affected children began being contacted yesterday, and that process is ongoing. I want to assure families whose children have been fitted with cochlear implants that the health service is prioritising this investigation.

The health service has also taken steps to ensure that the ongoing delivery of paediatric audiology services for North Queensland children has the highest levels of scrutiny and governance. I can confirm two staff members have been stood down at this time while an investigation is conducted. It is important we do not pre-empt the investigation's findings.

The health service and Children's Health Queensland are well aware of the impact this could have on the development of these young Queenslanders, and their priority is now focused on giving these young patients and their families all the support they need. Families whose child has been fitted with a cochlear implant and have concerns for their child's care can contact (07)44337902. All other families who did not require a follow-up assessment following a routine hearing screen are not impacted. Those that are will be contacted by the health service or Queensland Health. However, families who still have concerns can contact 13HEALTH.

Health Practitioner Regulation, Reforms



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.51 am): Today I can confirm that I will be introducing the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Surgeons) Amendment Bill 2023. This bill takes decisive action to ensure that the safety of Australian patients is prioritised over the financial interests of doctors providing cosmetic procedures. The proposed laws follow a significant body of work from health ministers from all jurisdictions and the brave testimony from patients who had been harmed by people holding themselves out as being far more skilled than they actually were. The laws will ensure that only someone who has undertaken appropriate training can refer to themselves as a surgeon. This will protect consumers. I want to pay tribute to all those who have shared their story. You should know that you have truly made a difference.

Containers for Change



Hon. MAJ SCANLON (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (9.52 am): Mr Acting Speaker, 6.4 billion containers, over \$600 million in refunds, more than 360 refund points and 815 jobs—Queenslanders have made it clear that they back our Containers for Change program, or most Queenslanders. They have made it clear once again that they want to recycle even more. We asked Queenslanders, 'Do you want to see Containers for Change expand?' Overwhelmingly, they said yes. Over 98 per cent of the 6,500 Queenslanders consulted supported a move to make Containers for Change bigger and better. So today we announce an Australian first—that from 1 November all glass wine and spirit bottles will be eligible for a 10-cent refund.

When we launched the Containers for Change scheme five years ago, only 18 per cent of beverage containers were being recovered and recycled in Queensland. That number has grown threefold. Stacked end to end, the containers we have recovered from this program would run the length of Queensland about 300 times. It has helped groups like OzHarvest raise much needed funds that in turn have helped create 21,000 meals for Queenslanders in need. Including more products in the scheme means more money that local charities can raise and the ability for regional and remote communities to recycle where they may not have a yellow-top bin. From the perspective of Queensland's fast-growing recycling industry, it means beverage containers can be sorted and remanufactured into a cleaner waste stream.

Containers for Change staff are now hard at work making sure that, come the festive season, people will be able to drop off their bottles at more than 360 depots across the state, so Queenslanders can pop the champagne bottles in due course. Queenslanders have shown us they love Containers for Change and they want to earn money for recycling their wine and spirit bottles. We are delivering.

Road Infrastructure; Digital Drivers Licences



Hon. MC BAILEY (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.54 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering a record level of road infrastructure investment and making it easier for Queenslanders to get home safer and sooner. We are doing this through mega upgrades to major arterials and by delivering better services. It was a pleasure to join the member for Mount Ommaney, the federal member for Oxley and Speaker of the House of Representatives at the Centenary Bridge in Jindalee this morning. Together we put the first shovels in the ground to start work on the \$298 million Centenary Bridge duplication.

This project will deliver six lanes across the Brisbane River from Jindalee to Kenmore and create improved entrances and exits to the Centenary Motorway. We know it is a bottleneck for the south-western suburbs and that is why we are getting on to fix it. I thank the member for Mount Ommaney for her advocacy. This follows our \$80 million upgrade to the Sumners Road Interchange on the Centenary Highway, which we finished six months early and which was cut by the Newman-Crisafulli government.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: That one landed, didn't it? We are also looking to the future, with a \$10 million planning study on options for the Centenary Motorway between Toowong and Darra.

The road milestones do not stop there. This morning southbound traffic has been switched on the M1 between Palm Beach and Tugun to allow for the reconstruction works of 2½ kilometres of existing roadway and the replacement of M1 bridges over Currumbin Creek Road and Sarawak Avenue—all as our works ramp up on the \$1 billion southern Gold Coast M1 upgrade. We will not ignore it, like the previous government did.

On the way to the Sunshine Coast, we are nearing completion of the Deception Bay interchange upgrade which was so strongly advocated for by the member for Kurwongbah and other members there. We also have the Bells Creek Arterial Road, which is a great achievement from the member for Caloundra, and isn't he doing a great job? Work will be finished this year on the massive Edmonton to Gordonvale Bruce Highway upgrade south of Cairns and the Townsville northern access upgrade on the Bruce Highway.

It is not just roads that we are improving. We are also delivering better services through the rollout of digital licences. Today I can announce the next phase of the rollout will arrive in Townsville later this month, starting with business groups and government agencies before it moves across the rest of the city from next month.

Mr Minnikin: Tick-tock.

Mr BAILEY: They may interject but they did nothing about it.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Comments will come through the chair, Minister.

Mr BAILEY: Queensland's digital licensing app will be the first in Australia to meet international standards and will be recognised when Queenslanders travel abroad. It will also have the most rigorous security measures—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! I know we are all excited about the big pay rise we are getting on 1 November thanks to all of those wine bottles, but I would ask the House to maintain good order.

Mr BAILEY: Queensland's digital licences also will have the most rigorous security measures of any digital licensing app in the nation. That is very important after we saw the Optus breaches and other data breaches. We already have other states and even other countries approaching Queensland for advice because they want to adopt the system that we have created. We are on track for digital licences to be available to all Queenslanders by the end of this year.

Whether it is upgrading roads, upgrading rail or offering better services, it is the Palaszczuk Labor government that delivers on the infrastructure we need for a booming population—not cuts, slashing or pruning.

Housing Affordability



Hon. LM ENOCH (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (9.58 am): Housing affordability is a significant issue right across Australia, and Queensland is not immune from the challenges being faced. In response, the Palaszczuk government through my department continues to address those challenges head-on as part of our commitment to improving housing affordability and supply here in Queensland. We are pressing full steam ahead with the largest concentrated investment in social and affordable housing in Queensland's history, backed by almost \$4 billion in funding. In less than two years, we have added 827 new social homes to our state's stock, with another 647 currently under construction and more on the way. That is more than 38 new homes added to our social housing stock every month since our second action plan.

We are delivering new social housing the length and breadth of the state with a string of recent handovers including, as an example: 42 new bedroom units in Windsor; 38 new social housing units in Lutwyche; in Slacks Creek we have handed over Edwards Place, an 18-unit complex; two three-bedroom units in the Townsville suburb of Currajong; in Cairns we have handed over eight refurbished cottages; and in Southport we have handed over seven new social housing units. We have also secured vacant retirement villages in Clayfield, Redlands and Toowoomba to help house over 100 vulnerable Queenslanders sooner.

We have also taken action to limit rent increases in residential tenancies from 1 July 2023 to just once a year to help ease pressures for the more than one-third of Queenslanders who rent. Public consultation is now open on stage 2 rental law reforms, giving everyone the chance to have their say on how to make renting fairer in Queensland. This seeks to build on our stage 1 rental reforms which is already making a difference to the lives of many Queenslanders.

I have seen firsthand how our social and affordable housing construction program is transforming communities. Earlier this month, along with the member for Thuringowa, I visited a new social housing project in Townsville, delivered in partnership with community housing provider Yumba-Meta, with 16 new households. In South-East Queensland, I saw 18 households opened in new social housing complexes at Slacks Creek, built in partnership between the Queensland Government and the YMCA. Through our youth foyers in Logan and the Gold Coast, and another being built in Townsville, we are also working with stakeholders to provide stable, supported housing with wraparound services to help young people achieve independence. It is this continued investment from this government that will ensure Queenslanders, including young people, have homes not just today but for many decades to come.

Police Service, International Award



Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.01 am): The Queensland Police Service has a reputation internationally as a world-class policing service, and now there is further proof. The Queensland Police Service just yesterday picked up another international award. The Palaszczuk government has always supported the Queensland Police Service 100 per cent. The Palaszczuk government has made the investments to make sure police have the best equipment possible. Our record is strong and proven and includes a record \$3 billion police budget which provides funding for a cutting-edge integrated load-bearing vest. These vests were completely designed in-house by the Queensland Police Service. The vests not only allow police to safely carry their firearm, taser, baton, handcuffs, radio and body worn camera while performing their duties but also provide added protection against offenders who may be armed with knives or firearms.

That vest and its design, which was also subject to exhaustive analysis and trials by the Queensland Police Service, has just won an international award. The international awards were held by the Network Association of Uniform Manufacturers and Distributors, a non-profit trade association established in 1932 and dedicated to advancing the interests of uniform, image apparel and public safety equipment companies, along with the associated protective equipment and innovation that assists in the protection of military, law enforcement officers and first responders. The independent judges, based in the United States, evaluate the programs based on originality of design, projection of branding, functionality for the job and use of technology and innovation. The Queensland Police Service integrated load-bearing vests, also known as The Enforcer EVO, has won the international award for best design within the Tactical PPE category.


I want to specifically acknowledge the dedication and investment into this project by Acting Senior Sergeant Lisle Manthey, who has been the driving force behind the integrated load-bearing vest and its design, along with the project team. I would like to acknowledge now Acting Superintendent Tim Mowle, who was the original lead officer on this award-winning project.

Well done to the Queensland Police Service. It proves yet again the dedication and commitment of the Queensland Police Service to its members and the community. The safety of its members and the safety of the community are always paramount.

In respect of the rollout of this award-winning vest, as of yesterday, more than 5,000 officers have been measured for their vests, more than 4,000 vests have been ordered from the supplier, and nearly 2,000 vests have been delivered to police stations across the state. Additionally, an initial delivery of more than 100 vests is due to arrive in Cairns this week for officers in the Far North. I am hoping to

arrange a demonstration of the integrated load-bearing vest for members at regional parliament next month. The Palaszczuk government will always invest in the best and, in this case, internationally award-winning technology to support our world-class policing service that works so hard to keep Queenslanders safe.

Manufacturing

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (10.04 am): Queensland is the place to be for manufacturing. For our manufacturing hubs in Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Gladstone and on the Gold Coast, the Palaszczuk government's hugely successful Manufacturing Hubs Grant Program is now open for its third round. We are offering Queensland manufacturers a share in \$10 million over the next two years to modernise their manufacturing practices and increase international competitiveness. Why are we doing this? Because when we support our manufacturing industry to grow, we create more jobs and secure jobs, and that is what this Labor Palaszczuk government is all about.


When announcing the grants, I visited past recipients including Keppel Brand Products, an innovative local, family-run food manufacturer that has now been able to grow their business and add 10 new jobs, thanks to this grant. I thank the member for Keppel for the visit. We had to, whilst we were there, taste some of their new products and I must say it was 10 out of 10. For those who like the odd dagwood dog at the Ekka, Keppel Dogs are one of their products as well.

I also met with Engineering Industries Australia in Townsville, Status Signs in Cairns, and the team from Mecha in the Gladstone region. Each one of these businesses told us that without investment by the Palaszczuk Labor government, they simply would not have been able to buy the new equipment to upskill their staff in the way that they have. These manufacturers have seized the opportunities facilitated by the Palaszczuk Labor government to grow their businesses, to create more good jobs and to boost the local economies in their areas. We created the Manufacturing Hubs Grant Program to support manufacturers. The result has been the creation of more than 300 jobs, all across regional Queensland.

Our manufacturing good news story does not stop there. With the announcement that train manufacturing is returning to Maryborough, it is great to see this investment will bring 800 new jobs to the region over the next 10 years. Under Labor, we are committed to supporting the manufacturing industry in Australia and securing our traditional industries like train building in Maryborough. That means good, secure jobs for years to come, and the workers that I talked to could not have been happier to be living in Maryborough and making trains again in that region.

When I was in Maryborough, I stopped by the member for Maryborough's office. He gave me a 3D printed train, a replica of a train that was manufactured in Maryborough many years ago. Under Labor, we are securing our traditional industries like train building in Queensland. Under the Labor government, we are investing in the next generation of advanced manufacturing technologies to take our industries to the next level. From building trains to 3D printing them, there is nothing our manufacturers cannot do here in Queensland, and the Palaszczuk Labor government is backing them all the way.

Resources Industries, Safety

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (10.08 am): Safety in our resources industry—safety in any workplace, in fact—is the most important thing. It must always be at the forefront of every person's mind, and today safety is the focus of teams from right throughout the state who are competing in the Queensland Mines Rescue Service Memorial Cup at the Oaky North underground mine. Our first responders do an incredible job any time they are called up to give that help. Events like today's give them the chance to hone their skills.

There will be five teams competing in today's events which will test their skills in a range of scenarios including search and rescue exercises, managing gas issues and extrications. The firefighting and first aid abilities along with the theory element of mines rescue knowledge will form part of the competition as well.


These competitions give team members an opportunity to put their skills under pressure at a much higher level than when they are training and everyone is able to learn from each other to improve their level of skill and knowledge. This year there will be three competitions run in Queensland by the Mines Rescue Service including the Australian competition in August this year.

I want to wish everyone good luck today in the competition but, more importantly, I want to thank them for the amazing work they do as part of the Queensland Mines Rescue Service. They do a difficult job and, sadly, they often need to do it during some of the most tragic times. They are the ones who go into the mines when everyone else is evacuating from the mines.

I would like to take this opportunity to give a shout-out to everyone who has been recognised since the last competition with five-year and 10-year service badges. In particular I would like to give a shout-out to Rodney Graves, who today will receive his 20-year service badge for his work with the Queensland Mines Rescue Service. I am sure all members will agree that is an amazing effort.

The health and safety of all workers is paramount for the Palaszczuk Labor government. Safety is my No. 1 priority as the Minister for Resources, and as a government we will continue to back the safety of our resources workers.


Tourism, Outback Queensland

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (10.10 am): Outback Queensland is open for business—all one million square kilometres of it—and tourism operators are ready to welcome visitors with open arms. In late April the weather forecast for much of Queensland is sunny and dry with warm days and cool nights. That makes Queensland a perfect destination for visitors, especially those keen to visit our Great Outback. Just as many visitors did over the Easter holiday period, we are expecting an influx of tourists as the outback tourism season kicks up a gear. Outback tourism supports around 4,000 jobs each year, and the most recent visitor stats from Tourism Research Australia show \$681 million in direct visitor spend over the 12 months to September last year in the region.

As members would be aware, the north-west and the gulf were hit hard by severe weather earlier this year. Yesterday, I met with Burke shire mayor Ernie Camp and last sitting I met via video link with mayors and tourism operators across the gulf region to discuss the impacts of the monsoon and flooding event. In response to their requests, Tourism Events Queensland is launching a targeted marketing campaign to support the region's experiences as they are ready to welcome back visitors. As the Carpentaria mayor Jack Bawden said to me, the fish are literally jumping out of the water up there.

One thing is for sure: the people of the state's north-west and the outback are a resilient bunch. Whether it is a road trip up the Australian Dinosaur Trail, a guided walk through Carnarvon Gorge or a fishing trip to the gulf, now is a great time to start planning a new visitor experience in our own backyard in outback Queensland.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.12 am), by leave, without notice: I move—


That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 9 May 2023 at the Cairns Convention Centre, Cairns.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Failure to Register an Interest, Referral to Ethics Committee

 **Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have received correspondence from the Ethics Committee advising a matter of privilege referred by the Registrar of Members' Interests to the committee on 29 March 2023 in accordance with subsection 14(3) of schedule 2 of the standing orders. The referral concerns an allegation that the member for Southern Downs, Mr James Lister MP, failed to register a gift in accordance with subsection 7(5)(i) of schedule 2 of the standing orders within the required time frame of one month, that gift being legal advice provided to the member in December 2022. I remind all members that standing orders 211B(2) and 271 now apply to this matter and it should not be referenced in the House.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Question time will conclude at 11.14 am.

Housing, Griffith University



Mr CRISAFULLI (10.14 am): My question is to the Premier. Today marks exactly six months since the Premier's Housing Summit. A key housing strategy was crisis accommodation at Griffith University. Why did the government start construction and spend over \$2 million if the fire risks at the site had not even been checked?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Obviously the Leader of the Opposition was listening to the Deputy Premier's ministerial statement yesterday in which he outlined that the decision has been made to not continue with that due to the close proximity to bushland.

Mr Crisafulli: Did it grow late, did it? Overnight?

Ms PALASZCZUK: So rude.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members. The Premier is being responsive to the question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The Deputy Premier has also identified over 60 properties right throughout Queensland.

Mr Crandon: Sixty-four.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is good; the member was listening. Excellent, member for Coomera. Well done.

Mr Dick: A number that's familiar to them.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We know that it is a number that is familiar to those on the opposition because that is the number of times they wanted the borders opened—64 times. What a coincidence!

Clearly, there are 64 properties that will be homes to families. There will be people and families in those homes well in advance of—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am happy to wait. These are just frivolous interjections and rudeness when I am directly answering the question.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier. I will manage the chamber. Order, members.

Ms PALASZCZUK: On this side of the House we have taken decisive action when it comes to addressing housing. Nearly—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members. Pause the clock, please. There has been far too much interjection. I will start to warn people.

Ms PALASZCZUK: There has been nearly \$4 billion of investment in housing, the largest investment that this state has ever seen. I find it absolutely—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Kawana's constituents might be happy for him to move out; I take that interjection.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Kawana—

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right; they hid him away for six months.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Kawana, I was repeatedly trying to bring the House to order and you kept interjecting. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We are working with a whole range of stakeholders in relation to our housing—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! Member for Nanango, you can join the warning list.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We will continue to meet with them because it is great to consult with a whole range of stakeholders across—

(Time expired)

Housing, Catholic Church Properties

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Premier. Given today marks exactly six months since the Premier's Housing Summit where it was reannounced that 90 Catholic Church properties would be used to house Queenslanders, can the Premier tell Queenslanders how many people are living at those Catholic Church properties today?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Obviously the member for Broadwater has absolutely no comprehension when it comes to these issues that affect families. He is absolutely ignorant. As we know, we have spoken with a whole range of church providers.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members. The Premier is being directly responsive to the question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We have asked a whole range of church providers to put forward any land they have so we can work with them to build properties on that land. That information has been collected by the department of state development along with the department of housing to prioritise sites where buildings can be built.

During this time we have opened the QBuild centre, which is manufacturing prefabricated homes that will be done—

Mr Mander: How many of those are there?

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Everton was perhaps one of the worst housing ministers the state had ever seen. Nothing happened.

Ms Enoch: Hundreds and hundreds of houses were lost.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right; there was no plan. On this side of the House, nearly \$4 billion—

A government member: They cut 400 houses.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you; I will take that interjection.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They are being very rude today. I am directly answering these questions and there are constant interjections. There has been nearly \$4 billion. We saw no contribution from the federal government when it came to remote housing in this state. We had to fight tooth and nail—

Mr POWELL: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b). The question was simply: how many people are living in those Catholic Church properties?

Government members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! I will hear the point of order in silence. What is your point of order?

Mr POWELL: Relevance under standing order 118(b). It was a very simple question: how many people are living in those Catholic Church properties today?

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: The Premier has been responsive to the question.

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! Member for Bonney, I have just given a ruling in relation to that issue. You can go on a warning.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Let's talk about some of the actions resulting from the summit. We have doubled the Housing Investment Fund to \$2 billion, supporting 5,600 social and affordable homes. We have invested \$26 million in immediate housing support, which has supported more than 4,200 families, including more than 9,000 children, and provided over 46,000 nights of accommodation around the state for vulnerable Queenslanders. We have released \$11.7 million to help people on the verge of homelessness sustain their current tenancies, supporting 700 Queenslanders. We have distributed \$5.1 million to expand tenancy support for vulnerable people. We have released \$30 million towards ending homelessness for young Queenslanders. We have—

(Time expired)

Energy and Jobs Plan

Mrs GILBERT: My question is of the Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Will the Premier please update the House on the Palaszczuk government's Energy and Jobs Plan, and is the Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Mackay for the question. We know that the region of Mackay is doing incredibly well when it comes to unemployment in this state—2.5 per cent, the second lowest unemployment rate in regional Queensland. We are very proud of that because, at the end of the day, the people of Queensland want jobs. This is what the government is delivering and we are focused on low unemployment. We said that through our strong health response we would have a strong economy, and that is exactly what is happening. I look forward to the Treasurer handing down the budget in June. It will reflect Queensland's strong economy.

I was pleased today to hear the Deputy Premier announce the state development zone for Mackay. Once again, we are placing Mackay firmly on the map of regional Queensland. We know that there are great days ahead as a result of our investment in biofuels and, of course, pumped hydro. Pumped hydro is central to our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. Not only will it create 100,000 jobs; we will build the largest pumped hydro project in the world. This is great news for the region.

It has been a very long time since we have heard from those opposite about whether or not they support our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. In fact, we hear crickets when it comes to policies—crickets.

Dr Miles: They have to go through our bins to get ideas.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right.

Dr Miles: 'I hope there's an idea in here!'

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. The Leader of the Opposition has had over six months—he has had seven months—to consider that policy, and still we hear nothing. When it comes to issues like the Voice to Parliament, we are yet to hear what those opposite have to say. Will those opposite be allowed to vote freely and decide themselves whether or not they will campaign 'yes' or 'no'? Will that be the case for those opposite? What is their plan when it comes to any other concrete policy in this state?

When you are talking about leading the state, it is a contest of ideas. We are constantly releasing new ideas, on a whole range of issues, and there is a lot more to come. I look forward to an election campaign when Queenslanders will see the member for Broadwater every single day. There will be no hiding.

A government member: The member for Kawana.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Oh, yes! The member for Kawana may have been hidden in past campaigns, but not this one. He will be there side-by-side—

Dr Miles: He'll be on our billboards!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, absolutely. They will have to not only announce a policy but also explain the policy and say how it will be funded.

(Time expired)

Housing, War Widow Properties

Mr BLEIJIE: My question is to the Premier. Given that it has been six months since the Premier's Housing Summit, where it was announced that war widow properties would be used to house women in vulnerable positions, can the Premier advise how many Queenslanders are now living in these war widow properties?

Ms PALASZCZUK: We are not going to talk about individuals, but let me say very clearly: those opposite did not fund housing in this state. They cut funding. I will not be lectured to by those opposite—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock. The Premier has barely started her response to your question. She is being directly responsive to the question and you are interjecting. I ask members on my left to maintain some order in the House so that we can hear the response.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Those opposite wanted to privatise 90 per cent of the housing stock; they wanted people to share houses. That is the LNP's policy when it comes to housing. If it is not their policy, they should announce their new policy.

Dr Miles: They were at the summit. It was their idea.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. At the summit you could either support our proposals or not support our proposals. We know that when it comes to housing in this state there is no contribution from those opposite. They wanted people to share their rooms and their houses with others and they wanted to privatise social housing. That is the record of the LNP and it is a shameful record.

Mr POWELL: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 188(b). Again, it was a simple question about war widow properties and how many Queenslanders are being housed in them.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Premier, I have given some latitude but I would like you to return to the substance of the question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will ask the housing minister to provide that information. Let me continue to talk about the other funding and the other initiatives that we have actioned as part of the Housing Summit.

Mr POWELL: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am seeking confirmation that the Premier is asking the housing minister to provide that information under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! Members, when the Manager of Opposition Business is raising a point of order, I would like time to consider that without the ruckus of interjections. The Premier has indicated that she is not taking that question on notice.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Let me say this: our government has provided direct housing support to over—

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Toowoomba North, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Our government has provided direct housing support to over 119,384 households this financial year alone. There we go, Leader of the Opposition: 119,000 people have been assisted through our funding. So don't come in here with your little—

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Comments will come through the chair, please, Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We will continue to work with Queenslanders and we will continue to work with the round table, because we work best when we work together.

Local Government, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Councils

Ms McMILLAN: 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 please advise the House how the Palaszczuk government is supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander councils, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any other approaches?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Mansfield for her question. The Palaszczuk government proudly supports our Indigenous communities and our remote Indigenous communities. That is why we have committed \$120 million to the Indigenous councils critical infrastructure fund supporting them to upgrade and maintain their water, their wastewater and their waste systems. That investment is going into every one of our 16 remote Indigenous councils because we know that by supporting those systems we can deliver better health outcomes, better environmental outcomes and water security for Queenslanders living in some of the most remote parts of our state.

We are proud to stand alongside our Indigenous communities. We are proud to work with them to tell the truth about our state's history, proud to work with them on a treaty for Queensland, proud to support them in their efforts to be recognised in the Constitution and to have a voice because we take their advice about the best pathway to true reconciliation, the best way to close the gap. By saying that we support the Voice, we say that we are not afraid to listen. All the Voice requires is for us to listen—to listen, to hopefully learn, to learn how to do better. The LNP and the Greens in opposing the Voice are saying that they refuse to listen, that they are afraid to listen. At least Peter Dutton admits that he is afraid to listen. The Leader of the Opposition is too gutless to even say that he supports—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Deputy Premier, that language was unparliamentary. I would ask you to withdraw it.

Dr MILES: I withdraw. The Leader of the Opposition refuses to even say if he is willing to listen to Indigenous leaders. No wonder Jacinta Price had to come here to this parliament yesterday to tell those opposite what their position on the Voice should be. They do not listen to Queenslanders; they only listen to Peter Dutton and Jacinta Price. They have never been willing to stand up to the LNP in Canberra. They look to the LNP in Canberra to tell them what their position is. They will not listen to First Nations people. They do not listen to Queenslanders. They only listen to Peter Dutton. We can picture it, can't we: 'Peter, Peter, Peter, what should we do?' and the reply, 'Don't worry, mate. We'll send Jacinta up to tell you about the campaign. I've just put her in charge of the no campaign. She'll come up and tell you what to do.' It is shameful. We will walk with Indigenous Queenslanders proudly.

(Time expired)

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Before I call the next speaker, I do want to remind all members that the Path to Treaty Bill is before the House, so members need to be extremely careful if you are referencing or referring to any matters to do with the Path to Treaty.

Housing, Griffith University

Mr JANETZKI: My question is to the Deputy Premier. It is six months to the day since the Premier's Housing Summit. On what date was the government informed the Griffith crisis accommodation was not a viable option and on what date was the contract signed on the first of the 64 properties announced yesterday?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for his question. I did outline in some detail to the House yesterday the decision-making process that the government has been undertaking, not just with the Griffith student accommodation but with the more than 2,000 proposals that have been put to us for under-utilised properties that could be used to house Queenslanders. As members would appreciate, with every single one of those we are going through a very careful and deliberate process in determining if they can be, in a value-for-money way, safely—

Mr Janetzki: When was the Deputy Premier advised that it wasn't a viable option?

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members!

Dr MILES: In consideration of a very detailed fire safety report, we determined that the Griffith student accommodation was not going to provide a value-for-money option to house Queenslanders—

Mr Janetzki: When?

Dr MILES:—and that we could achieve a better outcome—

Mr Janetzki: When?

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Deputy Premier, please resume your seat. The Deputy Premier is responding to your question directly. He is outlining a process which he is going through that I assume will encapsulate the answer to your question, but I also assume that you would want to know the full details of the process that is being gone through, so I would ask that interjections please cease and allow the Deputy Premier to answer.

Dr MILES: We have, on all of those proposals, gone through an appropriate process to assess what work would be required to make them safe. As members would appreciate, fire safety standards have moved on very substantially since that building was constructed and—

Mr Crisafulli: But when?

Mr Janetzki: Not in six months.

Mr Crisafulli: Not in six months.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Crisafulli: When?

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! Leader of the Opposition.

Dr MILES:—the standards required for a building to house vulnerable Queenslanders are higher than those standards for other building uses.

Mr Crisafulli: But not in the last six months.

Dr MILES: I can advise the House that the fire engineering brief for the Mount Gravatt temporary accommodation project was provided to the Queensland government in April 2023. This is May. We got the report on what would be required. We sought costings on how to implement that.

An honourable member: It's April.

Dr MILES: It is still April.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members! Order!

Ms Grace: We only just got it, yes.

Dr MILES: Good point; I take that interjection. We received the report this month. We then received the costings on how to implement the report. We considered that and thought, 'There might be more value-for-money ways to use that funding'—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, member for Everton.

Dr MILES:—and decided that we should instead look at the market and see what we could achieve on the market. We identified 64 properties. We signed contracts on them and most of them will settle by the end of June.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members!

Dr MILES: I am very happy to stand here and outline the process that we have undergone because it is rigorous, it is suitable and it is delivering a better outcome.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! Before I call the next member, I asked you repeatedly to cease your interjections, member for Everton. You are warned under the standing orders.

Moranbah Hospital

Mr WALKER: My question is of the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. Will the Treasurer update the House on the progress of the new Moranbah hospital?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Mundingburra for his question, and I have great news for the member for Mundingburra and for the families and workers in the Bowen Basin. I am pleased to inform the House that yesterday Hutchinson Builders was awarded the contract to build the new Moranbah hospital. This new \$48 million hospital will increase the number of emergency department treatment spaces. It will provide enhanced outpatient services. It will offer a new CT scanner, a dedicated helipad, more allied health, community health and community mental health spaces.

Last year I was in Moranbah with the member for Mackay to announce the opening of tenders for the new hospital for Moranbah—a hospital that will be paid for by Queensland's new progressive coal royalties. The new Moranbah hospital will of course also cater for all of the workers in the Bowen Basin who come from other Queensland communities, including from the member for Mundingburra's electorate.

The member for Mundingburra and the member for Mackay are also advocating for the people of the Burdekin electorate, which is just as well because the member for Burdekin has said next to nothing about this important project since its announcement, other than when it was announced. The member for Burdekin, using lines no doubt drafted by the leader's office, said that the prospect of the new Moranbah hospital was 'false hope'. To use the words of the member for Burdekin when he said, 'Moranbah deserves better', it sure deserves better than the representation it is getting from the member for Burdekin.

They deserve a member of this parliament—a Labor member—who will listen, act and deliver. Under the leader of the LNP there would be no Moranbah hospital because the leader of the LNP would cut progressive coal royalties to satisfy his mates in the mining lobby. There would be no major upgrades to hospitals in Mackay, Townsville and Cairns and there would be no CopperString 2032. All of those projects are being funded in whole or in part by Queensland's new progressive coal royalties. We know the Leader of the Opposition is in the pockets of his mates in the mining lobby. He does their bidding. He does not do the bidding of the workers in the Bowen Basin, the people of Moranbah or the people of regional Queensland. They will suffer. He wants to cut progressive coal royalties.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr DICK: That is why he is yelling out. He rudely interjects because he knows the truth.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Your comments will come through the chair, Treasurer.

Mr DICK: He has an infrastructure cut hit list. We know that. We have the hit list.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Comments through the chair.

Mr DICK: We know he wants to cut jobs in infrastructure and pay to construction workers. He will cut progressive coal royalties and everything that will deliver to regional Queensland.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Before I call the next speaker, I remind the Treasurer and all speakers that comments will come through the chair.

Housing

Mr MANDER: My question is to the Premier. Six months to the day since the Premier's Housing Summit, the Griffith University crisis accommodation has been abandoned, no Queenslanders are living in Catholic Church or war widow properties, no Queenslanders are in QBuild prefabricated homes nor in any Housing Investment Fund property. Are those failures proof this government is in chaos and cares more about announcements than actually delivering housing for Queenslanders?

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe that that question certainly contained imputations and inferences and I ask that it either be re-worded or it should be ruled out of order.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I will take some advice, and I will take it without interjection. Leader of the House, I think the part of that question that you are concerned about would not be considered an imputation in our understanding and interpretation of the standing orders, which are quite narrow. I will ask the Premier to respond to that question, but I will allow a significant degree of latitude in how the question is answered.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Over the last two years over 800 houses have been built by our government. As I said previously, we have assisted via direct support over 119,000 households. Just last night we passed legislation to cap rental increases to once a year, helping with the pressures that families are actually facing. I will not be lectured to by an opposition that attended the Housing Summit and contributed nothing because there is a policy vacuum. Here is some bedtime reading for the opposition: the *Queensland Housing Summit: outcomes report*. I table that.

Tabled paper: Queensland Government: Report titled 'Queensland Housing Summit: Outcomes report, November 2022' [\[517\]](#).

Have a read of that. As we know, the majority of people either own their homes or are in the private rental market. That is one of the reasons that people are facing housing stress. It is not a Queensland issue, it is a national issue. In an Australia first we are building prefabricated homes. What the councils have said to me is if we can provide homes for our frontline service personnel it will free up housing capacity in those regional areas. We have opened the centre.

Mr Crisafulli: All about the announcement.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Just you wait, because in further news there are other companies out there that are also looking at building prefabricated homes and we are fast-tracking these arrangements.

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock. The level of interjection is extremely high. I will continue to pause the clock and waste your question time, if you like, or, alternatively, we can listen to the response the Premier is giving which is within the latitude that I have set.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The Deputy Premier has identified 64 properties across Queensland—once again giving a roof over the head of many families—that will be secure accommodation. We are also purchasing unused retirement villages which is providing emergency housing for people. We are acting incredibly quickly in this space, but what we are seeing from those opposite is a vacuum of policy initiatives.

An honourable member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will take that interjection. We do not agree with the Greens' policies, but at least they have them. They are actually prepared to do the work.

Labour Hire Licensing

Mr SMITH: My question is of the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Can the minister please advise how the Palaszczuk government's nation-leading labour hire licensing legislation has cracked down on exploitation of workers and levelled the playing field for businesses and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for Bundaberg for the question. In his electorate and the surrounding agricultural areas there was some shocking exploitation of workers occurring and we had to address this. Those businesses that were doing the right thing were being undercut by those who were exploiting workers and we took action. I am very proud to say our labour hire licensing laws are now five years old. We introduced them in 2017 and it has been an excellent way of levelling the playing field. It has been so successful. It was Australia's first labour hire licensing legislation—opposed by those opposite, I might add, but more on that later—and it is now the blueprint for other states to follow in protecting workers.

We started with around 3,000 labour hire licensing operators and we are up to 3,865. All of the crazy predictions from those opposite that we were going to destroy the industry, that the agricultural sector was going to dry up, have obviously not come true. We are taking compliance very seriously: there have been 19 successful prosecutions resulting in over \$1 million in fines; 101 licences cancelled; 327 licences suspended; 316 licence applications withdrawn once we got into how they were operating; and 77 licence applications refused. The best part of this—that I love even more—is the work that we did as a state with the Australian Taxation Office, with Border Force and with the Fair Work Ombudsman. They came to Queensland because they knew we had the right policies.

From those opposite we see a policy vacuum. Thank you for jolting my memory. I will go to some of the arguments those opposite put up during the debate. I will start with the member for Mermaid Beach who wanted to hang up his shingle as a psychic as he predicted our scheme would fail to stamp out dodgy operators. Five years later I say to the member for Mermaid Beach, 'Give up your crystal balls. As a keen punter, just go to Best Bets.' Best Bets is your way to go. It is a more sure bet. Then we had the member for Kawana say that this was like cracking a walnut with a sledgehammer. I love this one—this is one of the best: he predicted it will get farmers off tractors. Member for Kawana, we want you to stand up with us at the next election. When we go to the farmers we will tell them they are off their tractors because we brought in labour hire licensing laws. The best thing is that we know the policies work. We will always protect Queensland workers.

Townsville University Hospital, Audiology Testing

Ms BATES: My question is to the Minister for Health. When was the minister first made aware of the shocking cases with cochlear implants fitted to children at Townsville Hospital, why were families not informed sooner and will the minister commit today to releasing the full report?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for her question. The chief executive of the Townsville Hospital and Health Service made public statements about this yesterday. I was verbally briefed on Monday morning. I was provided a detailed written brief on Tuesday afternoon or evening. Yesterday morning the chief executive stated to me that he intended to stand up and make public statements but that, before any public comments should be made, he wanted to brief the board, which is appropriate, and then start contacting the families whose children were impacted by this—prior to the public statement. It certainly is a proper course for the chief executive, who moved in a matter of days. As I said—the member would know if she had been listening this morning—this audit is ongoing. There are 341 children to be audited. They have done 91. The decision was made—

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, member for Mudgeeraba! Pause the clock. Member for Mudgeeraba, the minister is being directly responsive to your question. I would appreciate it if you would cease your interjections.

Mrs D'ATH: The decision was made partway through that audit, because of the findings so far, to act swiftly. That is what the hospital and health service has done. Within 24 hours it has stood down two staff members and it has started contacting families.

I find it audacious of those on the other side to say, 'Let's put the local people in charge; the boards should be in charge. Oh, hold on, no they shouldn't—the minister should be in charge. Oh, the clinicians should make decisions but not when it comes to maternity services. The minister should make the decision whether they go on bypass or not.'

As I was looking at this issue over the last couple of days I was interested to find similar circumstances in relation to audits that occurred from late 2011 to 2014. Those audits found significant deficiencies that are very similar to what we have before us. I also went searching for a press release from the minister of the day. In fact, one member opposite yesterday said in a speech that Lawrence Springborg was the best health minister ever. Well, that health minister never told the public—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Minister, I am sorry to interrupt. Resume your seat, please. Members, the question that was asked contained multiple parts. I am giving the minister latitude in how and when she gets to answering those parts. If you have a very specific question, you should ask that.

Mrs D'ATH: I would consult with the hospital and health service, because it is the board that makes those decisions around release. The current audit is about individual patients. They are not going to release the audit. In 2014 the minister did not release the audit, but he should have told the public about the audit—and he did not.

Climate Change

Mr TANTARI: My question is of the Minister for the Environment and Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs. Can the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is delivering action on climate change, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms SCANLON: I thank the member for Hervey Bay for the question. Of course, our government is committed to taking real and meaningful action on climate change by reducing emissions. I am pleased to update the House today with a new report, which is the most recent 2021 emissions data. That has now been published. It shows that Queensland has now reduced our emissions by more than 29 per cent below 2005 levels. This brings us almost exactly in line with meeting our 2030 target almost nine years early. For comparison, New South Wales has only reduced its emissions by approximately 18 per cent over the same period. When we look at the raw numbers, that means we have reduced annual emissions by 30 megatonnes since the last full year of the Newman government—all while growing our economy.

When we look at the data we see that the greatest gains are in the land sector. What has helped with delivering on those targets is our strong tree-clearing laws, laws that those opposite opposed. I wonder what those opposite would do if they were elected to government. We know that the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Bonney have been having off-the-record conversations with conservation groups, but we know what the Nationals really think on these issues. We know that, based on the people in his party, those opposite can have no credible plan on climate change. Only last week the true policy director of the Queensland Liberal National Party, Senator Gerard Rennick, said—

... there is no planet B—don't let renewables destroy it.

I table a copy of that post for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Extract, dated 14 April 2023, from the Twitter account of Senator Gerard Rennick regarding climate change [518].

While Senator Gerard Rennick is not busy being a 'memelord', he is down on the Gold Coast recruiting up a storm—new recruits that the LNP's own members have described as 'cookers'. I table a copy of that report.

Tabled paper: Media article, dated 3 February 2023, titled "LNP is being hijacked by young inner-city Liberals": Young guns shoot for power in Queensland' [519].

Brisbane Times reports have described the chaos that is taking over the Liberal National Party—that far right-wing conservative figureheads in Queensland are actively calling on their devout followers to join 'Save the Liberal Party'. At this event, those same speakers railed against the so-called transgender issue, abortion and climate change. It made me wonder what many of the opposition members think of these comments, particularly the members for Chatsworth, Clayfield and Bonney given their so-called progressive nature. The Leader of the Opposition might like to distance himself from members like this, but we know that time and time again he sits on the fence on important issues such as climate change and the Voice. He says that he is a conviction politician, but time and time again the Leader of the Opposition gives in to the 'cookers' in the Liberal National Party. Queenslanders deserve a leader who will stand up on important issues.

Child Safety

Ms CAMM: My question is to the Premier. In the three years since Chloe and Darcey Conley tragically died, the Premier, current and former child safety ministers and Attorney-General Fentiman have made statements to the media promising action. Why haven't any of these senior ministers reached out to Peter Jackson to explain how the department of child safety failed to prevent the deaths of his children and just say sorry?

Ms GRACE: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Under 'Rules for questions', standing order 115 states—

- (a) Questions shall be brief and relate to one issue.
- (b) Questions shall not contain:
 - (i) lengthy or subjective preambles;

I seek your ruling that that question contained a lengthy and subjective preamble.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I will take some advice.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! I will take the advice without quarrelling across the chamber. Thank you, members, for allowing me to take advice from the Clerk without interjections. Minister, I did not find the preamble to be lengthy. There are other sections of the standing orders that you referred to, particularly in relation to arguments, that the question came close to offending. I will ask the Premier to answer the question. I will provide some latitude in the answer, because it relates to a broad policy issue that was also covered in the question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: First of all, can I say that what happened is an absolute tragedy. Secondly, can I say that I understand there is a legal matter afoot and it would be completely inappropriate for the Attorney-General to meet with the gentleman at this time and whilst this action is underway.

Emergency Services and Community Safety

Mr SAUNDERS: 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 emergency services and community safety?

Mr RYAN: I thank the member for the question. People will start talking because the member has asked me two questions in two sitting weeks. That is more than the shadow minister. There is more scrutiny from the member for Maryborough than from the shadow minister. That just shows the member's commitment to ensuring that emergency services are well resourced, not only in his community but right across the state.

A commitment that all members on this side obviously share is a commitment to the front line and a commitment to emergency services volunteers. It is a commitment that is manifest in real action—additional funding, additional resources and additional staff. I wanted to particularly highlight our commitment to the State Emergency Service which, in the last year or so, has had a significant boost in resourcing—a \$20 million budget boost; essentially doubling the budget of the State Emergency Service. That has been delivered by this government because we value what they do and we want to support the front line. Along with that, there is a boost to personnel resourcing for the State Emergency Service—an almost 50 per cent increase in personnel for the State Emergency Service, delivering more resources in regional Queensland. The party for regional Queensland—the Labor Party—is delivering for regional Queensland by boosting personnel resources right across the state.

There are additional resources in the Gladstone electorate. We have paid SES staff restoring the great travesty imposed on the Gladstone community by those opposite when they ripped SES resources out of Gladstone. We have reopened the Gladstone SES area office. Those resources are now supporting volunteers in the Gladstone area, ensuring that they receive the training and support that they need to keep the community of Gladstone and beyond safe.

Something good to highlight that has flown from the additional funding and additional personnel is the additional training that volunteers are receiving. Since we have boosted the resourcing and the personnel for the State Emergency Service—only about 12 months ago—there has been a tenfold increase in the number of training instances. That is an extra 1,000 per cent training opportunities for SES volunteers. That is good for them because it keeps them safe, but it is also good for Queenslanders because it ensures that the SES volunteers who are responding to emergencies are able to help Queenslanders to the best of their ability.

We see the additional resources supporting the front line. Those additional resources include chainsaws, pole saws and rotary saws to prune trees. Unlike those opposite who want to prune the SES and other emergency services, our state emergency services will be pruning trees to keep the community safe. We commend them for the outstanding work they do. Once again, it shows our government's commitment to the front line.

North-West Queensland, Infrastructure

Mr KATTER: My question is to the Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Burke Shire Council Mayor Ernie Camp and Deputy Mayor Tonya Murray are at Parliament House today appealing for a \$75 million package to raise bridges and crossings in their flood-ravaged communities, which have recently been cut off for almost four months. Mindful of investment in the Brisbane Olympic Games, like the \$2.7 billion rebuild of the Gabba, will the Premier also prioritise vital projects to outback councils like Burke and Doomadgee?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Traeger for the question. What has happened in the region due to the floods has been devastating. I know that we kept in contact with the mayor during that period. The Deputy Premier and the member have been up there visiting the region.

I will be meeting later today with the Mayor of Burke Shire Council. I note that there are requests, as the member states, for additional road funding. I will take into account those issues, but I will update the House on what we have delivered and are continuing to deliver in the Burke Shire Council area, including the Camooweal Road paving and progressive sealing, the Doomadgee West Road drainage improvements and resheeting of the unsealed road, the Floraville Road and Truganini Road upgrade of culverts, the Lawn Hill Road realignment of traffic lanes and the Lawn Hill National Park gravel sheeting, sealing and drainage works.

I am more than happy to discuss those issues today. If the member would like to attend that meeting I am more than happy for him to come along. We know of the devastating impacts and it will take a while for the community to recover. We stand shoulder to shoulder with the mayor and his community and with the member in his advocacy for the community. I look forward to that meeting this afternoon.

Manufacturing

Mr MARTIN: My question is of the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water. Would the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is supporting Queensland manufacturers, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr BUTCHER: I thank the honourable member for his question and wish him a very happy birthday today. I know he will celebrate in style. I know that he is as passionate about manufacturing in this state as I am. As I have already said today, the Palaszczuk government is committed to supporting Queensland manufacturers and creating those skilled jobs. We are investing in the programs and services to do just that.

Our Made in Queensland program now totals more than \$100 million, creating jobs from the Gold Coast right up to Cairns. Our ongoing funding of over \$17 million for our manufacturing hubs is supporting manufacturers right across Queensland. We created the Manufacturing Hub Grants Program in Queensland—an investment of \$28.5 million in manufacturing businesses, supporting not only the businesses but also the workers in those businesses. These programs help local manufacturers increase international competitiveness, productivity and the innovation they need to get their businesses to the next level. Our investment in these programs and that funding has supported more than 6,000 manufacturing jobs in Queensland. We are investing in the next generation with advanced manufacturing technologies to help take those industries to the next level.

Where was the LNP's support for the manufacturing sector when Campbell Newman was in government and they cut more than \$30 million from the manufacturing sector, costing Queenslanders thousands of jobs in the manufacturing industry? That is right; the last time the LNP were in government their decisions cost thousands of jobs in the manufacturing sector in Queensland. Did they learn their lesson at all? No, they did not.

Where was the LNP's support for manufacturing when at the last election they promised to cut another \$26 million from the industry that we support, costing countless more manufacturing jobs in Queensland? Cut, sack and sell is in their DNA. There is a reason this does ring true. It is all we see from the LNP. Now, not only has it gone from the Queensland LNP, but the federal LNP are turning their backs on Queensland's manufacturers, voting against the National Reconstruction Fund—a

\$15 billion fund to support manufacturers in Queensland, particularly in regional Queensland. Where was the LNP standing up for these manufacturers in Queensland when the LNP federally voted against the \$15 billion fund to support our manufacturers here Queensland? The LNP federally should be ashamed and so should the LNP in Queensland.

(Time expired)

Roadside Drug Testing

Mr BERKMAN: My question this morning is to the Minister for Transport. In August last year the minister said the government was reviewing the state's roadside drug testing program, including the impacts on medicinal cannabis patients who have THC in their system but are not driving while impaired. Can the minister advise when this review will be completed and the outcomes announced?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the member for the question. I think everybody in this chamber knows how committed I am to road safety. My record on this has been very strong. We have cracked down on speeding. We have cracked down on distraction. We have cracked down on no seatbelts. We have cracked down on drink-driving where we saw an increase during the pandemic. Our recent road safety campaigns have been targeting that specifically. I am glad to report to the chamber that so far we are down 21 fatalities on last year, but we have still lost 68 Queenslanders this year.

Road safety remains an important issue. We have seen some advocacy from those members in the community who are managing chronic pain in terms of medicinal cannabis. With the current regime we can measure impairment for alcohol. It is very clear. That is where the .01s and .05s—and .177 I recall—come from.

Measuring impairment is not possible at the moment technologically in terms of drug driving. There is research going on in this regard internationally. We are looking at work being done in other states and in other countries. There is research going on in corporations. Those people with chronic pain who need to take medicinal cannabis where this is not an issue of impairment are advocating that we look at whether impairment can be measured. That is what that review is about. We expect that to come in by early next year. I will certainly keep the House informed.

I will never as the Minister for Transport and Main Roads compromise on road safety—ever. I will never compromise. We will look at where the technology is and what is possible in terms of people with chronic pain who are managing that in a particular way—and also pharmaceuticals. There is also an issue out there in terms of how people might drive safely or not. If we can measure impairment then we should be looking at how that is being applied and keeping up to date with the latest in technology and innovation. That is our commitment. I make it very clear: I will never compromise on road safety. We should be aware of emerging technology so that people who are in that situation might be supported better as long as there is no risk to other people on our roads.

Ports

Mr HEALY: My question is of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Can the minister update the House on the government's investment in state owned ports, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the member for Cairns—a great advocate for our publicly owned ports in Cairns. We have a \$300 million commitment to the Cairns Marine Precinct. We have a \$127 million dredging project. We are investing more than \$20 million to significantly boost the workforce in the maritime space. I can announce today that more than 40 grants have been awarded to support our maritime industry. I thank the member for Cairns for his advocacy.

The investment by the Palaszczuk Labor government covers 11 new positions within the industry, while also supporting another 32 training opportunities for workers to upskill. I think we all know the impact on the supply chain from the pandemic and how vulnerable we can be. Our maritime skills base is really important. We are bolstering the supply lines and the skill base in the maritime industry to protect ourselves from any supply chain vulnerabilities.

Why are we keeping our ports in public hands? We are doing so because they are profitable and because we reinvest the profits back into public benefit. We will always keep our ports in public hands, as opposed to the opposition under Campbell Newman and the former member for Mundingburra when they tried to sell off our assets under Strong Choices. They spent \$100 million trying to sell off our assets under Strong Choices—sell off the Port of Gladstone, sell off the Port of Townsville. That is a matter of fact.

What did the people of Townsville think of that? They sent him packing. He chose to then desert his home town for a safe seat on the Gold Coast and he is lining up to do the same sorts of things. Only last sitting week the member for Chatsworth revealed at a press conference that the former member for Mundingburra, the Leader of the Opposition, has a secret plan. He already—and he said the word ‘already’ on multiple occasions—has plans for billions in savings. Whether you call it ‘savings’, whether you call it ‘pruning’ or whether you call it ‘cuts’, we know it is cuts.

It is the same agenda that is coming up from the Newman carbon copy over there, the Leader of the Opposition. He is the master of overreach. He is the master of blaggarding and spin. That is his agenda and he will not deny the billion dollars in cuts coming, revealed by the member for Chatsworth.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Minister, you have used unparliamentary language. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr BAILEY: I withdraw. The Leader of the Opposition, the former member for Mundingburra, is the master of overreach, and his agenda has not changed. This is the guy who called Campbell Newman ‘special’. He called him ‘someone special’. We know the Leader of the Opposition does not cut it because he always cuts it! That is who he is and that is who he will always be.


Mr ACTING SPEAKER: The time for question time has expired.

Honourable members: Oh!

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Obviously we are all enjoying it so much today—and congratulations to the member for Southern Downs! Well done. You are still with us.

HEALTH PRACTITIONER REGULATION NATIONAL LAW (SURGEONS) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. YM D’ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (11.15 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Health and Environment Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Surgeons) Amendment Bill 2023 [\[520\]](#).

Tabled paper: Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Surgeons) Amendment Bill 2023, explanatory notes [\[521\]](#).

Tabled paper: Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Surgeons) Amendment Bill 2023, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[522\]](#).

The main purpose of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Surgeons) Amendment Bill 2023 is to protect the title ‘surgeon’ within the medical profession. This will ensure that doctors who call themselves a ‘surgeon’ have the level of advanced surgical training that is reasonably expected by health consumers. Protecting the title ‘surgeon’ has been agreed by all health ministers across Australia. It is a commonsense reform to improve public safety and confidence in the medical profession.

The bill is a direct response to the recognised confusion around use of the title ‘surgeon’, particularly in the cosmetic surgery sector. Feedback on a consultation regulation impact statement confirmed widespread confusion around use of the title ‘surgeon’ in the cosmetic surgery sector. The public reasonably assumes that doctors calling themselves a ‘surgeon’, or a ‘cosmetic surgeon’ or an ‘aesthetic surgeon’ have at least a minimum level of advanced specialist surgical training. However, this is not always the case. Currently, any registered medical practitioner may refer to themselves as a ‘surgeon’, even if they are not registered in a surgical specialty and have not completed any significant postgraduate surgical training.

Protecting the title ‘surgeon’ is just one of several urgent actions Australian health ministers are taking to strengthen the regulation of cosmetic surgery in Australia. Other actions include reviewing licensing standards for private facilities where cosmetic procedures are performed; delivering a public education campaign to help prospective patients understand the risks of cosmetic surgery and how to choose an appropriate health practitioner; and establishing an endorsement to credential providers of cosmetic procedures that have appropriate education and training.

Protecting the title ‘surgeon’ complements these other actions and ensures that patient safety is paramount. Title protection also sends a clear message that any attempt to mislead patients as to a practitioner’s qualifications or experience will not be tolerated.

The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law sets out the legal framework for regulating the health professions across Australia. The national law uses a 'protection of title' model which restricts who can use certain professional titles. Recent reviews into the regulation of cosmetic surgery in Australia demonstrate a need to strengthen title protections under the national law. There is a need to ensure that medical practitioners using the title 'surgeon' possess the degree of advanced surgical training and qualifications that health consumers already assume and should reasonably be able to expect.

The bill will make it an offence for a medical practitioner who is not a member of an approved surgical class to knowingly or recklessly use the title 'surgeon', or to otherwise hold themselves out as being a surgeon. The bill will also prevent employers and other people from falsely claiming a medical practitioner is a 'surgeon'. The new offences are indictable and carry a maximum penalty of \$60,000 or three years imprisonment for an individual or \$120,000 for a body corporate. These are the same as the penalties for the existing national law offences relating to misuse of professional and specialist titles.

The proposed amendments will protect use of the title 'surgeon' both in isolation and in combination with other words. This means that titles such as 'cosmetic surgeon' and 'aesthetic surgeon' will be subject to the same restrictions as the generic title 'surgeon' and can only be used by medical practitioners within the approved surgical classes. Restrictions on use of the title will not apply to the use of specialist titles such as 'specialist plastic surgeon' or 'specialist orthopaedic surgeon'. Existing provisions of the national law already protect and reserve the use of specialist titles for practitioners who hold registration in the relevant specialties.

The use of the title 'surgeon' will also not be restricted for practitioners outside of the medical profession such as dentists and podiatrists. The national law in general already prohibits use of the title 'surgeon' by non-medical practitioners because it could be reasonably expected to lead someone to believe that the person is registered in the medical profession when they are not. However, there are some limited circumstances in which it is lawful for a non-medical practitioner to use the title 'surgeon'. For example, registered podiatrists who hold specialist registration in podiatric surgery are entitled to refer to themselves as 'podiatric surgeons'. Similarly, the title 'oral surgeon' is approved for use by members of the dental profession who hold specialist registration in that field, and for historical reasons some dentists may still use the informal title 'dental surgeon' in their practice. The bill will not prevent these accepted uses of the title.

The bill sets out the initial classes of doctors who will be permitted to use the title 'surgeon'. The bill will also allow health ministers to prescribe additional classes by regulation if needed. Initially, the only doctors who will be able to use the title 'surgeon' are those who hold registration in one of three recognised medical specialties: surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology, and ophthalmology. To be registered in these specialties a medical practitioner must have successfully undertaken significant specialist surgical training accredited by the Australian Medical College or equivalent training in the case of international medical graduates. Practitioners in these specialties often practise sophisticated surgery as part of their normal scope of practice.

In prescribing any additional classes of medical professions that can use the title 'surgeon', Australian health ministers must have regard to any advice of the Medical Board and the level of surgical training required to be undertaken by a member of the proposed class. The Medical Board is the primary regulator of medical training, accreditation and registration standards in Australia. As such, it is the appropriate body to advise ministers about the surgical training of proposed classes of doctors.

Separately, the bill makes minor amendments to clarify tribunal decision-making under the national law. The amendments will resolve a split in the interpretation of tribunal decision-making powers by clarifying an ambiguous provision. This clarification is consistent with the interpretation that has been given by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal, which supports the amendment.

The bill also amends the definition of 'prohibition order' in the national law. The amendment will mean that tribunal imposed restrictions on a practitioner's practice are treated the same as tribunal imposed prohibitions. A tribunal order imposing restrictions on a health practitioner's practice will be reflected on public registers and enforceable in the same way as prohibitions on practice. This will improve transparency for health consumers and ensure that violations of such orders are subject to proper penalties.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to prioritising the public health and safety of all Queenslanders. Surgeons hold particular esteem in the public's mind, but when it comes to cosmetic procedures it is clear that some clinicians have been betraying the trust of their patients. By holding

themselves out as surgeons without having the true qualifications of a surgeon, these clinicians could potentially mislead patients and induce them into a procedure they might not have otherwise consented to.

Some of the stories are shocking: a clinician instructing their staff to understate the recovery time on major cosmetic procedures so that patients do not get scared; a clinician whose patients reported being in extreme pain postprocedure, developing fevers and infections, and having their wounds splitting open postprocedure; allegations being made that malpractice by clinicians led to haemorrhage; excessive tissue trauma infection; scarring and local anaesthetic toxicity leading to cardiac arrest; pneumothorax; and loss of life.

It has been a matter of concern to health ministers across the country that any medical professional performing cosmetic surgery could refer to themselves as a surgeon. We held concerns that the use of the term 'surgeon' could provide false confidence to members of the public as to the experience and competency of professionals performing medical procedures. Given the shocking harm that has been observed as a consequence of these procedures, the measures contained in this bill provide an important additional safeguard to consumers so they can make an appropriately informed decision about whether they truly believe the procedure they are seeking is being performed by a properly skilled professional. This bill will allow the public to be confident that any medical practitioner using the title 'surgeon' has the appropriate level of surgical training to safely perform surgical procedures.

This is a commonsense reform that will improve the quality of information available to help people choose appropriate healthcare providers for themselves and their families. It also respects the hard work, dedication and years of training that are required of surgeons working across Australia. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (11.24 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to Health and Environment Committee

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


POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2022

POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2023

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from 19 April (see p. 1096), on motion of Mr Ryan—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (11.25 am), continuing: I rise to continue my contribution on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 and the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 that are being debated in cognate. I began my contribution last night before we were cut off by the automatic adjournment. This bill seeks to introduce new legislation around child sex offending. This will have the support of the KAP. To be fair, this whole bill will have the support of the KAP even though we will be critical of some points.

The bill seeks to double the reporting period for reportable child sex offenders. For first-time offenders, reporting will go up from five to 10 years. As far as I am concerned, child sex offenders should be monitored for a lot longer than that, but it is good to see they are making sure these people are being watched while they are out in our community being allowed to reintegrate and mingle. I have some pretty strong views on child sex offenders that I will not air in the House today, but the reality is I think we should be doing more to make sure our children are protected from the vilest creatures in our state. If this legislation passes, it will ensure that penalties for repeat offenders go from 10 years of monitoring to 20 years. I believe they should be monitored for life. I do not see those people changing the way they view and sexualise children. Personally, I would like to see that increased at some stage. The reality is that if this bill is passed reporting periods will double, and we will support that.

With regard to hooning legislation if this bill is passed, the bill proposes to widen the net to target spectators and distributors of online material that seek to promote hooning. That is interesting, because there are a number of Facebook pages out there that may be caught in the net when it comes to promotion. There are good people in motorsport, and maybe what is classified as hooning or breaking the law is in the eye of the beholder. The reality is that there is a car culture out there that is not going away. After Henry Ford built his first T-bucket they built a second one and raced it against the other one. People will always be interested in motorsport, and the government should not always view those people as hoons.

The driver program will hopefully open this year in Townsville out at Kelso. We do have some problems at the moment which I tried to air in some interjections last night when the member for Thuringowa was speaking. The area still does not have access for people to get in and out. The Townsville City Council needs a hand when it comes to funding. They had hoped the Lansdown project would be up and running a lot sooner than it has been. The fact is that if you want to go to one of their Come and Try days—that is an opportunity to get people who are interested in drifting back off the road and into motorsport—we need access to these places and support.

The bill also seeks to tighten up a loophole people have used over the years to defend themselves against hooning by taking away the ‘unnecessary noise and smoke’ part of the current legislation. Right now I think the state government is going after car enthusiasts who may want to accelerate quickly. They are being picked up by the QPS because they thought they were accelerating quickly. If they are not breaking speed laws there should not be any provision in the legislation to charge someone who wants to jump in a car and drive off quickly.

We have a lot of people in this House who support EVs. The fastest-accelerating vehicle on the planet right now is the Tesla. No-one seems to care if a car is silent and it takes off, but someone who spends a bit of time and money doing up an old vehicle or preserving a bit of motoring history is seen as a hoon in this state. I want to make sure that motorsport enthusiasts are not caught up in this legislation. The reality is that there are some really good people in the Townsville car scene and the North Queensland car scene—in fact, the car scene across the whole of Queensland—and I do not want to see those people who organise those Facebook pages and groups to get people off the street get caught up in this legislation.

This cognate legislation also includes some drug provisions, and these have come with some criticism. The drug diversion program is being expanded. Schedule 2 drugs were picked up in the previous drug diversion program. People who were caught with a bit of cannabis in their vehicle or people who were camping or on the street and were pulled up for a bit of cannabis in their pocket were diverted to drug diversion courses. There are a lot of people out there who may support cannabis becoming legalised and they thought this would be an interesting step in that direction.


However, we are seeing some of the hard drugs, the schedule 1 drugs, being treated just like schedule 2 drugs in this legislation, and that has come with a few prickles on it. There are some questions here: is this a way of telling people that schedule 1 drugs are just as safe as schedule 2 drugs; what happens to the schedule 2 drugs into the future; and is this a pathway to legalisation of cannabis in the state? That question will probably be answered over the next couple of years in the House. I support making sure people get the right help and are diverted away from drugs. However, like I said, the criticism I have is that schedule 1 and 2 drugs will basically be treated exactly the same for first offenders.

The legislation increases the penalties for people who are caught trafficking. Once again, we may think that, if there are more people who feel it is okay to be caught with a small amount of drugs, that might drive demand for people who want to sell large amounts of drugs. That is something that

does not seem to marry up. The legislation is going to increase the maximum penalty for those drug traffickers from 25 years to life imprisonment. The KAP always talk about minimum sentencing. I do not know too many people who are serving 25 years for trafficking, let alone how many will serve life for doing such a thing.

The legislation increases the penalties for evading police to five years imprisonment. That is pumping that up a fair bit, but it has been said that it is necessary for those who are trying to evade police for some of the most heinous crimes. The bill also allows executive officers in the QPS to be appointed through their rank as well as their position.

The KAP will not be voting against this legislation. We will be supporting the legislation through the House, but I want to put it on the record that we have some concerns about some of the provisions, especially how the new legislation will turn into regulations and then how it would be policed, especially the anti-hooning measures. As I said, there are a lot of good people out there who are trying to bring people together through social media groups and trying to promote healthy things in motorsport. The reality is though that there will always be a couple of people who do the wrong thing. The legislation will disperse those groups that are trying to educate people and provide guidance on how to be a good, responsible car enthusiast, but I think this could go against what the government is trying to achieve with this policy.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (11.33 am): I rise to speak in support of the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 and the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023—in particular, the amendments to expand the police drug diversion program in the 2023 bill. The Palaszczuk government is committed to reducing problematic alcohol and other drug use and harms that affect individuals, families and the broader community. The reform to the police drug diversion program delivers on recommendation 13 of the Mental Health Select Committee report which called for the strengthening of illicit drug diversion initiatives to improve the mental health outcomes of Queenslanders.

Expanding diversion options is also a key priority under *Achieving balance: the Queensland alcohol and other drugs plan 2022-2027* which was released last year. An expanded police drug diversion program will divert people away from the criminal justice system for low-level personal drug use to a proportionate health response delivered by specialist alcohol and other drug services. This reform does not mean that the Palaszczuk government is soft on drug related crime—far from it. The expanded program is for people whose only offence is personal possession of minor illicit substances. It does not apply to people who have committed other offences.

The bill also amends the Drugs Misuse Act 1986 to increase the maximum penalty for the offence of trafficking dangerous drugs from 25 years to life imprisonment. Expanding the police drug diversion program means police can focus their efforts on serious offending, and those who profit from these activities will receive harsher penalties. The expansion of the police drug diversion program is a measured response based on national and international evidence which recognises that programs which divert people engaged in personal drug use away from the criminal justice system and into health and social responses work. That is why health experts and community stakeholders have backed this evidenced-based approach.

I did hear one of the speeches from a member of the opposition yesterday who said that they understand the AMAQ were supportive but they wanted to hear if from Queensland Health. Can I make it clear: Queensland Health and the Queensland Mental Health Commission back this in. They know the evidence is clear. They absolutely support drug diversion initiatives.

Drug diversion is not new to Queensland. During public hearings, the Queensland Police Service stated that they have been diverting people in possession of small amounts of cannabis to health responses for 20 years. Under the current police drug diversion program, Queensland Health delivers health responses through hospital and health services, funded non-government organisations and telephone service Tele-D. A drug diversion health response involves an assessment with an individual and, depending on their needs, may include a brief intervention, information and education, counselling and/or referral to specialist mental health, alcohol and other drug treatment services.

In 2021-22, there were more than 4,500 referrals to Queensland Health funded service providers for the police drug diversion program, with 69 per cent of referrals being for men aged 24 or younger. These statistics align with national research about cannabis police diversion programs, which found most drug diversion clients were young with an average age of 20, were male and were employed or studying. A small proportion, about 10 per cent, were substance dependent.

Queensland Health advise that participants involved in current drug diversion programs have reported reduced use of illicit drugs, reduced psychological distress and improved mental health. Participants also report having less conflict with their partner or spouse and have said they were less likely to drive after smoking cannabis or drinking alcohol. Ultimately, the real success of the current police drug diversion program is that young people can address their drug use early, before incurring a criminal record which may impact their lives for years to come. As AMA Queensland stated in their submission—

People suffering from addiction and drug abuse need a health response to stop using illicit substances, not criminal prosecution. Those at risk of addiction also need prevention and early intervention measures such as mental health support and education about drug harm.


This is what the expanded police drug diversion program and our government's additional investment in alcohol and other drugs services delivers. Under the expanded police drug diversion program, a health response will be offered two times following a police warning for personal low-level illicit drug possession. The program will remain focused on connecting people with tailored care, delivered by specialist alcohol and other drug services and providers. It means people will have a safe place to talk about their drug use with a trained professional and receive early treatment and holistic care without fear of criminalisation or penalty. It means pathways to access a range of alcohol and other drug treatment where needed, such as counselling, residential and non-residential treatment, withdrawal management and opioid dependence treatment, will be available. It means pathways to more intensive treatment to help address the underlying causes of their substance use will be offered. Without these reforms, many people who come into contact with the criminal justice system for low-level drug offences may not receive the timely support they need.

Queensland Health will continue to work with police, other government agencies and stakeholders to support the effective introduction and evaluation of the expanded police drug diversion program.

These reforms are part of the Palaszczuk government's whole-of-government commitment to improving the lives of Queenslanders living with mental issues and substance use disorders. It is why at the 2020 election we committed to establishing new residential alcohol and drug rehabilitation units at Cairns, Bundaberg and Ipswich, and in 2021 we opened a new residential alcohol and drug rehabilitation unit in Rockhampton.

As part of the 2022-23 budget, we announced an additional \$1.64 billion over five years to improve and expand our mental health, alcohol and other drugs services across Queensland. We are investing \$220 million in a range of alcohol and other drug treatment and harm reduction measures. This includes boosting hospital and health service community-based alcohol and other services with a focus on opioid dependence treatment and other demand pressures. We are supporting new and enhanced youth alcohol and other treatment and harm reduction services and models to support access to treatment for women and parents. We are increasing alcohol and other drug responses in emergency departments and hospitals through intervention teams and boosting the capacity of our 24/7 drug and alcohol telephone and online service, ADIS. The additional investment along with our existing services will ensure that people who are diverted from the criminal justice system through the expanded police drug diversion program will receive the support they need.

In closing, I would like to commend the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services for progressing such worthy reform. To put it simply, expanding the police drug diversion program benefits the whole community.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (11.40 am): I rise to make a brief contribution to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. I say at the outset that there are a lot of areas of the bill with which we agree, and we do not need to pad it up with more encouragement or praise for any positives done. However, the point I want to make at the outset is we are still very frustrated with that which is not done and that we are spending this time in debate on issues that, we would argue, are peripheral to the real issues that require reform around the grip of youth crime in Queensland. I start by saying that.

On the hooning laws, whilst it might capture what you might describe as youth, the kids who fall outside those laws are still causing a lot of those accidents and deaths. There are kids as young as 10 now who have been in accidents and driving around and displaying unsafe behaviour on the roads and there has been nothing done in that area to curb that behaviour of the kids. It still exists. However, there are some aspects of the hooning laws that do help; we will acknowledge that. At the same time, it is

blindingly and blaringly obvious to everyone out there—you can kid yourselves in here if you want—that there is so much more work to be done in curbing hooning, and this is in no way going to stop or be anywhere near commensurate with the level of risk and safety concerns that we have in the community, particularly in North Queensland.

The cybercrime aspect of the bill needs no commentary. Anything positive being done to address those dark areas and breaches of the law that are happening these days is welcomed.

In regards to the expansion of the drug diversion program, to elaborate on the points made by the member for Hinchinbrook, it becomes interesting. This is very new to us. It has been difficult to have a really strong view of this one way or the other, but morphing together the schedule 1 and 2 drugs is concerning. There has been a push—a progressive and you might say liberal-type approach by government, liberalising the laws around marijuana. I was talking to a couple recently who said, ‘Look, we thought we were pretty progressive and liberal in our views, but we went to New York and it just did not feel right having that waft of gunja up the main street on Fifth Avenue.’ We can joke about it here, and I guess it is pretty funny, but there is a drift and you just want to be careful that we are not moving into that space where it becomes normalised and then over the next year or two we are in here debating how we treat different types of drugs in schedules 1 and 2. We raise that as a caution. We understand the benefits, but it does raise the question of how the police feel about this. I did not see much commentary on that, and they are the ones at the forefront—

Mr McDonald: Police on the street do not like it.

Mr KATTER: I take that interjection from the member for Lockyer that the police on the street do not like it. I am sure there are plenty who disagree with this, putting it through the health system, so we do have concerns around that. Otherwise, the rest of the initiatives of the bill are quite positive.



Ms BOYD (Pine Rivers—ALP) (11.44 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government has a strong history of creating safer communities. From the outset, I place on record my appreciation of the hardworking members of the QPS who serve our community, particularly those stationed out of the Petrie, Dayboro and Ferny Grove police stations.

Strengthened child protection laws will come about by increasing the reporting periods for offenders held on the Australian National Child Offender Register. We know that lengthening the reporting periods and monitoring of offenders who have committed sexual or serious offences against children will directly reduce the likelihood that they will reoffend. These reforms will directly provide an additional layer of protection to children, meaning safer communities. I welcome the minister's announcement regarding additional resourcing, along with the reforms in the legislation.

My community is not immune to the problem of hooning on our roads, be it on the winding mountain roads of Mount Nebo, Mount Glorious or Mount Mee, or in the quiet vacated industrial zones of Lawnton or Brendale, or on the remote, isolated, rural or semi-rural roads through the west of my community. While our government has already made legislative changes to make it easier for QPS to enforce our anti-hooning legislation, these reforms improve the capacity of the QPS to target hooning events and mitigate the harm from them.

What is included in the new provisions as illegal? New offences will prohibit people: joining a group of others and using a motor vehicle for a speed trial, racing, burnout or other hooning offence; organising, promoting or encouraging others to participate in, or view, a group activity involving a motor vehicle being used to commit a hooning offence; and filming, photographing or publishing a film or photograph of a motor vehicle being used for a hooning offence for the purpose of organising, promoting or encouraging a group activity involving a motor vehicle being used to commit a hooning offence. We know that these are really well organised meets that these people are putting together and these reforms go to addressing that. The measures also prohibit a person from possessing a thing that is being, is to be, or has been used to commit a racing, burnout or other hooning offence—things like numberplates, spare wheels and hydraulic jacks.

When it comes to the practice of burnouts—and I love the smell of burning rubber as much as the next person, but there is a time—

Mr Perrett interjected.

Ms BOYD: I take the interjection from the member for Gympie. There is a time and there is a place for this. It is to be done in safe, controlled environments. There are plenty of opportunities for people in our community to participate in that, but these provisions here are really about community safety to stop this underground practice from happening in our community streets.

When it comes to the practice of burnouts, there are two new offences. They capture behaviour where someone intentionally engages in a sustained loss of traction in circumstances where the noise and smoke are not generated—and this usually occurs in the context of a substance being placed on the road to reduce friction—and circumstances where the conduct occurs in an area such as a public park or is not a road or road-related area. I think that that is a really important reform in terms of capturing where these events are taking place.

In terms of the member for Traeger's contribution around these reforms being peripheral to Queensland and the issues that Queensland is facing at the moment, I entirely disagree. When it comes to the stronger provisions regarding the addition of aggravation for evading police, that is a measure that we have committed to in terms of our youth justice reforms. It is very central to ensuring that these people realise that they are not part of *Grand Theft Auto*; that they should not think they can actually get behind the wheel of a vehicle and take it for a joyride around our communities, putting at risk not only themselves and other motorists but also pedestrians and others in our community.


In terms of the contribution made by the member for Hinchinbrook, I want to clarify that when we talk about these reforms and what they contain, we are not talking about motorsport, we are not talking about motoring enthusiasts. We are actually talking about illegal underground activity that is being coordinated at a high level by people. It is antisocial behaviour that is dangerous to our community. In terms of the member for Hinchinbrook, I place on the record of the parliament my admiration of his car collection. I saw one the other day; it was merely a frame of a car. It looked quite cool. I would love to be able to get around my electorate in a motor vehicle like that. I do not think it is a vote winner, but good on him for pulling that off.

When it comes to individuals who come into contact with the law due to a small amount of illicit drugs for their personal use, the data tells us that the best way to deal with them is through a health-based approach, not one of law enforcement. Treating this as a health issue allows for individuals to address the underlying causes of substance use and encourages help-seeking behaviours. The police drug diversion program has diverted 158,000 people away from the criminal justice system to health interventions since the program began in 2001. Of those people who completed drug diversion, 72 per cent did not reoffend during the four-year evaluation period. We know that these are solid outcomes because when we compare them with interstate jurisdictions in this country, they reflect similar outcomes. Other benefits include saving police time and resources and freeing up those police resources so they can be focused on areas where they can have a bigger and better impact for community safety.

I am not sure if it was a concerted effort, but I got some serious Nixon vibes from the shadow police minister during his contribution. The LNP cannot say that they are serious about diversion and rehabilitation when they are just happy to let the status quo continue in this state. We know that this is not working. Expert opinion on the best way to divert and rehabilitate is not through a punitive approach. It is about time that the LNP get with the program.

Queensland does not want a Richard Nixon impersonator as their police minister. They do not want pink jumpsuits in their prisons or librarians locked away under failed anti-bikie policies. The LNP are not tough on crime. Their record demonstrates that they are just bad at managing it. Granted the 1970s war on drugs policies are probably modern by LNP standards, but by LNP standards, the shadow minister may well be age eligible for the wing of the Young LNP. It is clear that the LNP cannot progress past their 1970s view. A contemporary state facing emerging and serious challenges cannot have this kind of approach.

We rely on expert opinion, evidence-based decision-making and informed policy—not informed by ideology but informed by fact. It is for these reasons that I support these bills.

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (11.53 am): In the middle of a youth crime crisis this Palaszczuk government is moving to weaken our drug laws. If honourable members ever wanted an example of how this government has all its priorities wrong, this is it. The cognate debate today addresses proposed amendments regarding a broad range of significant issues that affect Queenslanders. I want to make it clear that the LNP supports the introduction of a circumstance of aggravation for the offence of evading police. We support strengthening the ability of police to monitor reportable offenders to investigate organised crime and cybercrime and to address the danger and disruption caused by hooning.

However, amongst these QPS administrative arrangements and laws relating to criminal activity the Labor government is proposing to weaken our drug laws by allowing all dangerous drugs and schedule 4 and schedule 8 drugs to be included in an expanded drug diversion program. It is essentially

the first step towards decriminalising dangerous illicit drugs including schedule 8 and schedule 4 drugs like fentanyl. This is the wrong approach. It is bad policy. The government has blamed the crime epidemic on ice addicted youths and now with this legislation this government is signalling to those youth that ice is acceptable, that it is a health problem not a criminal problem. It is a health problem, but we also have to signal that it is criminal.

Seriously, where are we in this state when we let people off who are caught with a gram of ice, a gram of heroin or a gram of cocaine or fentanyl not the first time, not the second time, but the third time? Where are we when we do not have a criminal prosecution for the possession of those kinds of dangerous drugs? The law is the ultimate signal to our community of what is and is not acceptable. By allowing serious drug possession on three occasions before prosecution this government is signalling to our community that drug use is okay.

Ms Grace: It's not serious drug possession.

Mrs GERBER: I hear the minister saying that it is not serious drug possession. We are talking about heroin; we are talking about ice, methamphetamine; and we are talking about fentanyl, which is one of the strongest opioids on the market and it kills.

I know there is a proportion of the community out there that uses drugs recreationally and they never come into contact with police. However, it is the fear of prosecution, it is the fear of gaining a criminal history that keeps the drug use of those people in check. I fear that by removing this, by lowering the bar, by allowing three strikes before involving the criminal justice system we will start seeing an increase in drug use in our communities. The drug cartels will make the most of these weak drug laws. They will be telling those youth who are already involved in the criminal justice system to get less than a gram because they will not be prosecuted.

How can the government say that in this bill they are taking the strongest possible action for people involved in the drug trade while at the same time they are weakening our drug laws? This is not a consistent approach. It is completely chaotic, but that is what we have come to expect from this government—absolute chaos. We saw the extraordinary backflip from the Premier on breach of bail after the Premier said it would not work, and now we know why: it was a deal with the left. The left marched into the Premier's office and said, 'We'll support you on breach of bail but we want our weakened drug laws.' They took their ransom sheet in there and this is what Queenslanders get: absolute chaos.

There was no external consultation on this bill. There was completely inadequate time for the committee to consider it. The safety of Queenslanders is being put at risk because of the dysfunction and absolute chaos—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Pause the clock.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Pine Rivers. I ask all members to stop their interjecting. The volume is getting too loud and I am struggling to hear the member for Currumbin.

Mrs GERBER: I will speak a bit louder, Mr Deputy Speaker.

The safety of Queenslanders is being put at risk because of the dysfunction and chaos of this Palaszczuk Labor government. This government cares more about how things look than how things are. They are putting politics over people. I suspect they are doing this also to cover up the fact that they are failing on their promise to put more police on the beat. I suspect that this part of the police powers and responsibilities bill is included as their solution to the fact that they are failing on their commitment to put more police on the beat. The solution to our stretched police force is not for the government to turn a blind eye to crime and weaken our drug laws. It is extremely concerning that the watering down of our drug laws is being justified as a means to provide police efficiency.


The minister has indicated that around 17,000 drug offenders would be eligible for police drug diversion under this bill, diverting them from the criminal justice system into the health system. While I agree with the need to promote police efficiency and I agree that we need a health response to the drug problem, it is critical that any such initiatives do not conflict with the need to maintain a sensible and measured response to illegal behaviour. I do not know how Labor members can look their constituents in the eye and say that they are protecting them whilst introducing this legislation. They are failing on their promise to add 1,450 police by 2025. In fact, in some stations police numbers have gone backwards. Crime has never been more of a concern for the people of Currumbin and my constituents. On the Gold Coast alone there have been over 200 cars stolen in the last month; that is six a day. There

have been 340 break-ins in the last month; that is 10 a day. There have been 1,138 other thefts; that is nearly 34 per day. There have been 233 other property damage offences; that is seven per day. There have been 271 assaults; that is nine assaults per day. Our police officers are doing their absolute best. They are serving our community and they are fronting up every day, but this government refuses to properly resource them.

The police minister has foreshadowed an amendment to this bill to allow retired constables to come back as special constables. I question whether this has been included in the bill to cover up the fact that the government is failing to recruit and get more police on the beat. The LNP supports this amendment, but the state government must admit that it has misled Queenslanders about the true state of police numbers in Queensland. If police numbers were soaring as the police minister claimed, why did this decision to allow retiring police officers to return to the service need to be made? It does not add up and, in my view, it is clear proof that this government knows that it is failing in its commitment to recruit and get more police on the beat. It is failing in their promise to recruit 1,450 more police.

Then there is the idea that our health system—already at crisis point—can cope with the number of people who are proposed to be diverted into it under this new legislation. Evidence-based drug diversion programs do work. I am not disputing the validity of evidence-based drug diversion programs, but they cannot take the place of law and order and they must be properly resourced in order to be effective. This state government is failing to do all of that.

In the brief time that I have left I want to address the hooning laws, because my community has been plagued by hooning. We must work together to ensure hooning, which is dangerous, is addressed in our communities. Recently in Elanora, a hooning car ended up on the doorstep of a resident's house, almost crashing through their home. We need stronger laws to combat hooning, so I welcome these amendments, but I again question whether the Labor government has provided police with the resources to be able to effectively implement and enforce the legislation being considered today. How can the Premier and Minister Ryan plan on ensuring offenders are caught without resourcing our police? The thin blue line has never been thinner and this state government is failing in its duty.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (12.03 pm): I rise to speak in support the bill before the House. I will start with the drug diversion program. There is a saying that if you keep doing the same thing and expect a different outcome, it is not going to happen. This bill is about looking at this issue. The policy of diverting people for cannabis possession has been in place for over 20 years. It is a program that has been very successful. Since 2001 over 158,000 people have been diverted from the criminal justice system to a health intervention through current police drug diversion programs. That, to me, is a good news story.

The most recent QPS internal analysis of drug crime recidivism among drug diversion recipients showed that 72 per cent of those who completed drug diversion programs did not reoffend. My view is that this bill takes that empirical evidence one step further. The bill expands the availability of drug diversion to drugs beyond cannabis. It removes barriers to eligibility. I have never heard more whingeing and whining from those opposite, who are without one idea. If I lived in the electorate of Currumbin I would be very upset, because there is nothing worse than your local member talking your electorate down. Every time the member gets up she says that they are plagued with hooning, plagued with theft and plagued with break-ins. Honestly, I love the area of Currumbin.

An opposition member: It is the truth.

Ms GRACE: I will take that interjection; 'It is true,' they are saying. So you do not want anyone to go to Currumbin because it is so unsafe? It is so ridiculous and so puerile for members opposite to be so out of touch that they would come in here and continually downgrade their own electorates in that way.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Members to my left, particularly the members for Mudgeeraba and Mermaid Beach, will cease their interjections; the minister is not taking them.

Ms GRACE: It is no wonder they are interjecting. They know that what I am saying is absolutely correct. They know that the last thing you do is talk down your electorate on the beautiful Gold Coast at every opportunity.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b). I ask respectfully that the minister comes back to the bill at hand.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take some advice. There has been a degree of latitude afforded to members by a line of occupants of this chair. The minister is responding to earlier commentary and, while I remain the chair, we will proceed on that basis.

Ms GRACE: I will move on, because I could go on forever about how out of touch those opposite are. They have no new ideas and no new ways for the community. The people who are supporting this bill should be ashamed of themselves. They come into this place and behave like Chicken Little, running around saying that the sky will fall in and saying complete untruths. It is a complete distortion of what the bill is actually doing. They should be ashamed of themselves. They will be on the opposition benches for a long time. The debate on this bill displays how out of touch those opposite really are, particularly those who represent the Gold Coast electorates. We know what people on the Gold Coast think about this bill. It is completely at odds with what has been said in this House.

The bill introduces three tiers of diversion, building on the current model whereby the person can be offered only one diversion. There are operational benefits to diversion. Diversion saves resources and time for police. The QPS are on side in relation to this measure, but members opposite are opposing it with frivolous and ridiculous assumptions that are not even reality in the bill. Police resources will be able to be directed to areas where they can have a greater impact on the safety of communities.

Let me emphasise for those opposite: the amendments in this bill do not decriminalise drug possession in Queensland. Drug possession will still be an offence, and police still have the same powers they have always had. There are no changes to that. Regardless of what those opposite say, that is a fact. The only thing that changes—let's be clear—is the way the person in possession of drugs is dealt with. The bill is aimed at dealing with people who possess small quantities of drugs for their personal use. They are put into health programs—there is a greater number of diversion programs—that have a 72 per cent success rate. These have been operating for 20 years.

What those opposite do not get I still do not understand. The whingeing and whining that goes on with no ideas is unbelievable when we look at the number of people who are supportive of this bill. The bill recognises that it is more appropriate to deal with these issues in a diversion program. My electorate of McConnel, of which I am very proud—a fantastic part of Brisbane and I only wish those opposite from the Gold Coast would be just as proud of fantastic parts of the Gold Coast—is very supportive of this measure. Many people see the benefits and I am here representing them and am very proud to say that I am supporting this bill.

I also support changes with regard to hooning allowing police to use impoundment and immobilisation. I like the idea of a new offence which has provisions to deter spectators. Often these people do not do it if they do not have an audience. It is one of those things unfortunately. In addition to targeting persons actively participating in hooning related activities, it is a great step in the right direction to have new offences that prohibit a person from willingly participating in group activities; organising, promoting or encouraging another person to participate in it; and filming, photographing and publishing of film or photographs of a hooning offence. I do not understand hooning. I have never done it in my life, but for some reason it does happen. Anything that we can do to look at this issue—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms GRACE: I take the interjection from the member for Nanango: no, member, I honestly have not participated in hooning. It is one thing that I have not done.

Mr Brown: They saw you at Albion Park!

Ms GRACE: Yes, and I take the interjection from the member for Capalaba. I did participate in harness racing one time and, let me tell you, that was the closest thing to hooning that I had been involved in in my life. It was actually quite frightening, but I was glad that I won.

There is a pool of potential applicants with past policing experience whom we should welcome back as special constables. We have this wonderful system in Queensland where there is a compulsory retirement age of 60. Police officers receive an additional benefited superannuation for their wonderful careers in policing, but they do have to retire at the age of 60. I will not give away my age, but I am a little bit older than 60 and I am still going and I think there is a place for special constables now and I really support the amendments that are in place. These substitute police officers will be a pool of relief officers similar to what currently exists in other jurisdictions in police services, in nursing and in the teacher workforce. There are some wonderful retired teachers who come back as a relief pool. Special constables will only be able to undertake frontline first response general duties and will be employed when and as needed by the QPS.

These amendments are wonderful. It is a great way of welcoming back these special constables so that we can facilitate the employment of former police officers on specific terms, enabling those officers to act as a relief police force. The amendments are great in that they go in the right direction. I thank the Minister for Police and Corrective Services, who worked very closely with the Department of Industrial Relations. We have a fantastic industrial relations process of dealing with these officers. We have handled the superannuation issues. We have handled the manner in which they will be employed and their payment. It has been a credit to work with them to ensure that we have all of the industrial matters in place.

They can only be employed in certain ways. They will be covered by minimum standards and superannuation. They will have an hourly rate. They will receive the applicable casual loading. I am sure that the constables who come on board in this area will be very grateful for the work and we are grateful to them for doing it. My electorate has one of the biggest safe night precincts and I can see these special constables doing work in that area in terms of relieving others who may have worked long hours. I can see them on the beat in the Valley working with Chaplain Watch and with those who do an excellent job in the safe night precinct in my electorate. I look forward to meeting some when I am out and about in my wonderful electorate of McConnel. I will never talk McConnel down. I will never plague it with all of the issues that are raised by others. I commend the bill to the House.



Ms BOLTON (Noosa—Ind) (12.14 pm): I rise to contribute to the cognate debate of the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 and the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 that make several amendments to deliver operational and administrative improvements to the Queensland Police Service and the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. The most significant change, and the one I will focus on, is expanding the use of the drug diversion program for minor drug offences to drugs other than cannabis.

While most submitters were supportive, there were concerns. The Queensland Human Rights Commission raised issues about the eligibility test for drug diversion—that is, that police reasonably believe the drugs are for personal use—as this is inherently subjective and open to unequal application. The department felt that the discretion was necessary to target the program towards only minor drug offences relating to personal use. In addition, the commission felt that youth could be treated more harshly than adults in a similar situation, breaching the Human Rights Act. The fact that the Youth Justice Act provides further options for under-18s to avoid being treated worse than adults did not provide the reassurance sought. In deep opposition was Drug Free Australia, which submitted that these new laws will have the effect of negating or undermining the deterrent effect of the law regarding illicit drug use and supports an approach based on education, rehabilitation and maintenance of criminal sanctions. I have also been advocating for an expanded healthy relationships or respectful relationships program and this gives us the opportunity to really target our relationship with self and should be considered.

Our Legal Affairs and Safety Committee made a number of recommendations including reviewing and updating training for police for the diversion program, with a focus on ensuring the exercise of police discretion is not prejudicial against under-18s. The AMA submitted that any savings realised by criminal justice agencies through the expanded program should be directed to more alcohol and other drug treatments and interventions. Modelling of the revised program anticipated that Queensland Health will be able to fund services through existing resources and an independent evaluation will be provided to government after two years of the program's operation. Our committee also recommended that the government report to the Legislative Assembly on this evaluation and understandably, given the shortfalls in funding in a number of arenas in our health sector, this must include what has been spent and where and the success of how many have been diverted from their addictions.

The other bill that I want to speak on enhances the capacity of the Queensland Police Service to monitor reportable offenders under the Child Protection Act, investigate organised crime and cybercrime and address the dangers to Queensland road users caused by hooning. This is welcomed by many communities, including my own. The amendments relating to reportable offenders will adjust the reporting periods from five and 10 years and life based on the number and classes of offences committed to 10 and 20 years and life. This should bring Queensland periods into line with other states. However, I questioned whether this bill provided opportunity for the consideration of whether publishing a public register of reportable sex offenders would deliver greater community safety.

In 2018 the Commonwealth government announced public consultation on a preliminary model for a national public register of child sex offenders and had discussions with the Queensland government through 2019 and 2020, yet nothing appears to have come of it. Given that this is often

chamber fodder here, this should at least be inquired into. The government has argued that there is insufficient empirical evidence of the effectiveness of a public register, but surely this research should be presented to Queenslanders with public engagement as a priority. In our annual Noosa MP community survey, 65 per cent support a public sex offender register and the public deserves engagement on the pros and cons of such a proposal.


With regard to hooning, despite the strong measures being used by police, including vehicle impoundment and confiscation, hooning is a persistent problem and is exacerbated by removing or swapping numberplates. On Noosa North Shore they even cover their numberplates to avoid the numberplate recognition cameras.

The bill creates new offences, and I will not go through them, including for those who are actively promoting or encouraging another person to participate in hooning. The Justice Reform Initiative submitted that these new laws would draw more people into the justice system. They argued that the government should, rather than criminalising more behaviour, review existing responses that aim to address the reasons for hooning. There is agreement here. It does need to be part of the prevention mix and why programs such as RYDA that I have spoken about before should be mandatory in schools. I agree with the Queensland Police Service that with the high cost of road trauma in Queensland and that hooning remains a persistent problem with the emergence of highly organised hoon groups, the offences in the bill are warranted. However, we also need resources. It is one thing to make amendments to increase fines, but without the resources to monitor and enforce them we will end up in the same situation.

I see the parallels that are raised with youth justice and hooning. We know it is not a solution to lock up under-18s because it does create further criminalisation. However, we need to immediately mitigate the trauma being inflicted across our communities regardless of the age of the offender. At the same time, we must work on early identification—and I know I keep bringing this up—and the prevention of criminal behaviours and that is why I will keep advocating for an expansion of Respectful Relationships into our schools. It needs to be holistic. It needs to be the whole of the schooling life. We also need restorative justice available across the state.

In our recent Legal Affairs and Safety Committee inquiry into the support of victims of crime we heard conferencing must be prioritised to address the backlog. In addition, there needs to be more options in the criminal justice system for rehabilitation, including supporting relocation sentencing that the Katter's Australian Party has put forward, which there was very little support for, to develop life skills, respect and responsibilities to others and self away from where they can do harm. We also need to look at the terminology used in our criminal system, as referring to a 16- or 17-year-old offender as a child is confusing for our communities who identify a child as being 12 or under.

In the most recent Noosa MP survey, over 75 per cent listed youth crime as their No. 1 concern, with over 70 per cent in favour of on-country relocation sentencing rather than imprisonment. As I have relayed here before, given the 2018 Atkinson report on youth justice found the cost of holding a juvenile in detention is \$1,500—or more now—per day, it should not be hard to fund such options. There may even be enough to contribute to that mandatory whole-of-school-life program I spoke of earlier. Finally, I would like to thank both chairs and members of those committees and their secretariats, including, of course, my own Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, and all who contributed to these inquiries.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (12.22 pm): I rise to be part of the cognate debate, which I support, into the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 and the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. I was interested to listen to the comments by the member for Scenic Rim. He was complaining about the Health Department not being called to give evidence to the committee. I would like to point out to this House and to the member that who is called to give evidence to the committee is commonly referred to as a stakeholder and is done by consultation. It gives members the opportunity to nominate people they feel should give evidence. There was ample opportunity for the Department of Health to be called if the opposition felt they were needed. To say that there was no-one called from the Health Department is incorrect. We had the Queensland Mental Health Commissioner Ivan Frkovic give evidence and my understanding is that he is part of the Health Department.

Firstly I will speak to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. The changes proposed in this bill deal with issues of community concern in relation to child sex offending, cybercrime and hooning. With these new laws, Queensland will have the toughest laws in the nation when it comes to the monitoring of child sex offenders. This bill will double the periods for

the monitoring and reporting of child sex offenders. With this amendment, any predator convicted of a child sex offence will be required to report to and be monitored by police for periods of 10 years, up from five years, and for repeat offenders for periods of 20 years, up from 10 years. The most serious recidivist child sex offenders will be monitored for their entire lives.

Cybercrime is costing victims, both individuals and businesses, over \$7 million a month—a cost that has been growing exponentially since 2019. Queenslanders are being targeted through internet scams and extortion, losing not only their hard-earned money but also their confidence and trust in the ability to use modern technology. The bill expands the list of relevant offences for controlled operations under schedule 2 to include the following offences in the Criminal Code: distributing intimate images, fraud, obtaining or dealing with identification information and computer hacking and misuse. The purpose of these amendments is to provide additional methodologies to police to help combat cybercrime. Cybercrime is a rapidly increasing form of fraud and theft causing significant social and economic impact across the community.

The bill also expands the list of relevant offences for controlled operations under schedule 2 to the following offences in the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004: failure to comply with reporting obligations, false or misleading information and failing to comply with prohibition order. The number of reportable offenders requiring monitoring and management by the QPS is increasing by approximately 150 to 200 each year. The amendments in this bill to include these additional offences will allow police who receive information and intelligence about reportable offenders not complying with their reporting conditions to apply for a surveillance device warrant to assist them to investigate these concerns.

In relation to hooning, this bill proposes amendments to continue the pursuit of participants in hooning activities and widens the net to target spectators and distributors of online material that seeks to promote hooning. The encouragement of hooning activities through social media and attendance at clandestine events glorifies this antisocial behaviour and fuels its continuation. The proposed amendments seek to specifically target the encouragement of hooning activities by spectators and the recording and promotion of these behaviours by organised groups on social media.

The frustration for authorities lies not only in detecting and identifying the offenders but also in deterring the audience this antisocial behaviour attracts. This is a space where big tech needs to step up and take down social media content—after all, they are the ones making the big bucks. This bill proposes to insert new provisions in the Summary Offences Act prohibiting the encouragement and complicity in hooning offences, including the possession of items for the purpose of committing a type 1 offence—for example, numberplates, spare wheels and hydraulic jacks. The bill also proposes to increase the maximum penalty to 40 penalty units where the circumstance of aggravation of a type 1 vehicle offence is involved.

The Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 creates a new assault offence and increases maximum penalties for evading police. As we all know, and it is repeated many times, the war on drugs has failed. Having practiced in law, mainly criminal defence work, I have always believed that drug abuse was a health issue rather than a criminal law issue. My belief was confirmed after repeated evidence given to the committee. I personally express my gratitude to all the organisations and individuals who gave evidence, either through written submissions or at the public hearing.

The Queensland Mental Health Commissioner referred to the work of the Mental Health Select Committee, specifically the *Inquiry into the opportunities to improve mental health outcomes for Queenslanders* report. Recommendation 13 of the report recommended reviews into illicit drug diversion initiatives, including the police drug diversion program and the illicit drugs court diversion program, to identify opportunities to strengthen these initiatives. This bill does exactly that: strengthening the processes that divert people who encounter the criminal justice system away from the courts and into the health system.

It was noted by the Queensland Mental Health Commissioner that police play a vital role in shifting the issue from a criminal justice response to a health-based response. I could not agree more. Many years ago, one of my staff introduced me to Johann Hari's work *Chasing the Scream: The First and Last Days of the War on Drugs*. I encourage all those interested in an informed discussion on drug reform to read this great work. For those who are time poor, I recommend they listen to Johann's TED Talk. I am sure it will encourage them to read the book.


The bill will: enhance the police drug diversion program by introducing drug diversion warnings, allowing an eligible person an opportunity to participate in a subsequent drug diversion assessment program and expanding minor drug offences to include the possession of prescribed quantities of any type of dangerous drug and certain pharmaceuticals; allow for the appointment of a person as an executive officer rather than to an executive officer position; introduce a circumstance of aggravation for evading police; and make minor changes to legislation administered by QFES.

The expanded police drug diversion program proposed by the Queensland Police Service and established by the bill will prevent people developing a substance abuse disorder. The statistics clearly show that the police drug diversion program results in the majority of those individuals never again having contact with the police. The Queensland Police Service estimates that more than 17,000 minor drug offenders will be eligible for the new drug diversion program in the first year of its implementation. At the public briefing on this bill, Mr Mark Wheeler, Acting Deputy Commissioner, Regional Operations, Queensland Police Service, stated—

Drug diversion provides an opportunity to connect the users of illicit drugs with information and, most importantly, treatment. That is not only important for the individual and their health; it is also an opportunity to mitigate the impacts of illicit drug use on the community.

Drug diversion is not a new concept in Queensland. Queensland police have been diverting people for cannabis possession for over 20 years. We know that the program is effective. We know that the current policing drug diversion program has diverted more than 158,000 people from the criminal justice system and into a health intervention since the program began in 2001. The most recent analysis of drug crime recidivism among drug diversion recipients shows that 72 per cent of those who completed drug diversion did not reoffend for a drug related offence during the four-year evaluation period.

I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (12.32 pm): I am pleased to rise to contribute to these two bills. There are many issues that I want to discuss in relation to these bills. Firstly, there are some huge, serious issues that have been put before this parliament. Once again, the opposition is going to be truncated in debate. That is also of serious concern to me. There are many issues that I want to discuss—hooning, QFES, child sex offenders, drugs and the new police officers. They all warrant much time and debate in this House. The debate should not be truncated, but the government always does it. It is obvious that those on the other side of this House simply have no clue when it comes to amending legislation.

Let us talk about hooning. I have been writing to the Minister for Transport for many years in relation to the very serious issues relating to hooning in the Nanango electorate. I have just recently written both to the police minister and the transport minister in relation to the blatant, frequent and ongoing hooning which occurs fortnightly at the intersection of Wivenhoe-Somerset Road and Northbrook Parkway. It has been explained by those constituents who live around this area that up to 40 cars assemble for about four hours on a Friday, Saturday and Sunday for these burnout events. These events are well organised. They bring marquees, eskies, chairs and people and then leave their mess on the side of the road. They upload the videos. They burn their tyres. They leave the tyres on the side of the road. It is an absolute disgrace. Oil is discarded into drains and cars catch fire, creating significant bushfire threats to our local properties. Like I say, residents are left to clean up the mess. The Minister for Transport and Main Roads has notified me that he has no funds to install any anti-hooning measures at that location. That is very disappointing.

I turn to the issue of bushfire threats. I would like to speak in relation to the new offence of assault on our volunteers and officers of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. Recently I was contacted by one of my hardworking constituents, Mr Ray Petroni, who wanted to discuss a recent assault on one of our local fireies. That again exposed the gap in protections for our rural fire volunteers when going about their duties. I agreed with him that more should be done. That is exactly why the LNP put forward in 2017—not even at the last election; it was our policy as well in 2020—a policy regarding mandatory sentences for anyone who seriously assaults an emergency services worker such as an ambulance officer or a firefighter. The LNP therefore, of course, supports the amendments in this section of the bill which are intended to protect those hardworking officers and volunteers. We could only hope that the Palaszczuk government had sat up and listened eight years ago. Again, it is very tardy in response.

Do I think the obligations in relation to child sex offenders go far enough? No, I do not. This is a policy concerning people who commit sex offences against children. Like many others in this House who have spoken on this bill, I have defended in a criminal court matters in relation to some of these issues, and it disgusts me. In fact, it is one of the reasons I decided to never again defend in criminal law. I believe that people who use a carriage service or look at, touch or do anything that interferes with

a child should be reporting for the rest of their lives. I support anything that can strengthen protections and give our hardworking police officers more resources in relation to these lowest of low people. Certainly, more needs to be done.

I cannot believe that the Palaszczuk government has introduced into this House provisions to enable diversion in relation to hardcore drugs. I note the contribution of the member for Currumbin—it was a very good contribution—in relation to what must have happened behind the scenes in the Palaszczuk government for the left to get its way on drug diversion for hard drugs. It is simply unbelievable to me, as someone who travelled the length and breadth of this state talking to victims, families, parents, grandparents, wives, husbands, children, ambulance officers, nurses, doctors and police officers who have had to live with a partner or a family member subjected to an addiction to the drug ice.

We held those ice forums because we know that in regional Queensland ice is everywhere. For the government to send the message that it is okay to have one gram of ice on your person and then be offered drug diversion, not once and not twice but three times, is unacceptable to me. It is unacceptable to the community out there that is fighting day in and day out to keep their people safe. I have been told that that equates to 10 hits of ice. The experts say that people can be addicted after one hit of ice. Imagine what 10 hits can do. Imagine what 30 hits can do. For the government to propose to expand the definition of a minor drug offence by including hardcore drugs such as ice, cocaine and heroin simply shows that this government does not listen to the people of Queensland who are affected by drug use.


It is a horrendous, insidious crime that makes the job of our hardworking police officers even harder. No wonder they are stretched to the limit. We have a government that thinks it is okay to tell my children and tell my constituents that these drugs are minor drugs. Fentanyl, ice, cocaine and heroin are not minor drugs. They are not minor drugs and they should not be in people's possession. Someone in my community should not be in possession of a gram of heroin and think it is okay because they are going to get diversion. Does diversion work? Yes, it works for minor drugs, but minor drugs are not heroin, ice and cocaine.

We have Palaszczuk government members saying it should be a health issue. Of course it is a health issue. We have a health system in this state that is in crisis. It goes from crisis to crisis. We have a government in chaos. They cannot get enough police officers, they cannot get enough nurses and they cannot get enough doctors and yet it is okay to let more drugs onto our streets. The reason there is a drug epidemic in this state is that we have a government that is soft on crime. They do not give our hardworking police officers the resources and the laws they need to keep us safe. That is what is happening in this state.

I welcome the fact that we are going to bring back into the force some of our hardworking police officers—that is exactly what we should doing—and make them special constables. The reason we have to call on our retired police officers is that this incompetent Palaszczuk government has failed to plan. They are lurching from crisis to crisis. That is why we have the chaos we have in the health system.

Unfortunately, our hardworking police officers do not have enough hours in the day due to a lack of resources and our laws. That is why they want laws to be tougher. They do not want us to come into this House and say, 'Let's give drugs to our children. It is okay up to a gram.' That is the message we are sending our children. If those opposite are going to say that ice, cocaine, heroin and fentanyl are minor drugs then that is the message they are sending to our children.

It is not okay to be in possession of a gram of any of these drugs. It is not okay to say, 'If you have it, you get diversion'—not once, not twice but three times. There we have it—30 hits of ice and someone is going to get drug diversion. I can tell members that we need more rehab centres. That is what we need. We need to get these drugs off our streets and protect our children.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (12.42 pm): I rise to make a contribution in the cognate debate of the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Bill 2022 and the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Bill 2023. In my contribution I will be focusing, as some others have today, on the drug diversion reform which this year came before the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, of which I am a member.

I want to make a comment after the previous contribution. Nobody is saying that these are minor drugs; it is a minor drug offence. There is a distinction there.

I am excited to see legislation like this and I think many in my electorate and those who have been working in the social services sector will also be excited by this legislation. I start by thanking the minister for doing the work and for bringing this bill before the House and for having the courage to make progress in relation to drug reform. It is not an easy issue to take on. It is an area where the evidence does not always align with populist views. It is certainly an area that is liable to getting politicised, as we have seen. It is a shame because it is legislation and policy like this that is literally lifesaving—I will get to that. I thank the minister, the submitters who helped us understand the potential impacts arising from the bill, my parliamentary colleagues and, finally, the secretariat and Hansard staff involved in this.

The bill changes police drug diversion in a couple of ways. It expands the availability of diversion to drugs beyond cannabis. It removes barriers for eligibility such as the requirement that a person must make an admission of guilt to the offence before being diverted and the exclusion of people who have unspent convictions for violence. The bill also introduces three tiers of diversion—building on the current model where the person can only be offered one diversion.

There are a few points I would like to make in my contribution. The first is that drug diversion works and it works in a couple of ways. It has a proven and positive social impact in connecting people who are using drugs and who, as a result, may have a drug problem to timely and relevant information, support, counselling and rehabilitation.

We heard in the public hearing from submitters on these benefits. People are able to talk about their lives with authorities in a way that does not lead to criminalisation, that they can get help for any underlying issues and that ultimately people who may have problematic drug use can stop that behaviour and reconnect with family, start or resume positive relationships and regain or improve their employment outcomes.

One of the greatest benefits from my perspective as a criminologist is that it keeps people who are not dangerous, who are not a threat to society out of prison. We heard from Rebecca Lang, the Chief Executive Officer of the Queensland Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies, on this issue in our public hearing. She said—

The benefit is that around 12,000 people a year do not collect a conviction ... it is about not letting people get into the justice system ... the reality is that most people who are detected by police for drugs possession are not problematic users. They are just people who are in public spaces and came to the attention of police.

This is consistent with the Queensland Productivity Commission's 2019 inquiry into imprisonment and recidivism which found that 62 per cent of offenders sentenced to a custodial sentence were for nonviolent crimes and that the median prison term was really short—less than four months. Often the whole sentence, or most of it, is served on remand where opportunities for rehabilitation are limited. I think if people knew that the majority of people in prison are there for a few months and for nonviolent offences like drug possession they would be quite shocked.

Prisons are in themselves criminogenic. The direct costs of incarceration are significant. It is estimated at \$500 million per year, with \$222 million of this spent on enforcement of drug possession offences alone. To let that sink in: \$222 million a year is spent on arresting and imprisoning people whose principal offence was to have a small quantity of drugs on them for personal use.

The indirect costs are so much greater—forgone employment, higher rates of unemployment, social exclusion, homelessness and poor mental health following release. Prison disrupts the parent-child relationship, alters the networks of support and places new burdens on government services such as schools and family support services. Studies suggest that the indirect costs of imprisonment may be around \$48,000 per year for each prisoner. We have to do better for our people and for Queensland, and this bill is another step in that direction.

My second point to make is this: despite statements from some that this bill has been rushed or that it is confused and has been developed in a silo, drug diversion programs have been operating in Queensland for over 20 years. Since 2001, over 158,000 people have been diverted from the criminal justice system to a health intervention through the current police drug diversion program. We know that this model works.

This bill sits against a backdrop of multiple and independent reports that demonstrate the benefits of drug diversion for Queensland, including: *Achieving balance: the Queensland Alcohol and Other Drugs Plan 2022-2027*; *Better care together: a plan for Queensland's state-funded mental health, alcohol and other drug services to 2027*; the Queensland Productivity Commission's recidivism and sentencing report; the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council report titled *Sentencing spotlight on*

possession of dangerous drugs; the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's 2020 National Drug Strategy Household Survey; the Queensland parliament's Mental Health Select Committee report titled *Inquiry into the opportunities to improve mental health outcomes for Queenslanders*; and the Queensland Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce report No. 2, *Hear her voice*. To suggest that this has been developed without support and research is simply untrue.

There are also a few misunderstandings about the bill that I would like to address. The first is that diversion is not decriminalisation. Diversion is not legalisation of illicit substances. Diversion is about shifting the government response away from a criminal justice response and towards a health response. This is the challenging but important work towards justice reinvestment—investing in programs and services to keep people out of the justice system rather than continuing to grow our prison population.

The second myth is something that does come up occasionally during this debate. That is that drug diversion programs lead to increased crime. That is simply untrue. This myth is embedded in the idea that those who use drugs are awful people, perpetrating a range of offences, probably dangerous, certainly antisocial and that they should be locked up.

My view may not be a popular view, but the reality is that a lot of people have used or are using drugs. They are mostly being used in small quantities and they are being used sporadically and recreationally and without incident. Robert Taylor from the Alcohol and Drug Foundation told the committee that close to 50 per cent of Australians have used an illicit drug in their lifetime—12 per cent within the last 12 months. The majority of people arrested for drugs are charged with a principal offence of drug possession. That means that most people detected with drugs by police are not committing any other crime: the drugs found in their possession are for personal use only, not for supply.

The eligibility requirements of this particular bill will preclude people being referred for drug diversion if they are committing more serious offences. If someone has been apprehended, for example, on a break and enter and they also have a quantity of drugs on their person, they are not going to be eligible for this diversion program. We are really only looking at those offenders in this expansion who have a principal offence of drug possession.

We heard from Brett Dale, Chief Executive Officer of the AMAQ, who said in the public hearing—

We do know that the current approach is likely to turn social drug users into criminals if there is not health intervention or diversion programs available to them.

...


The studies that were done in Portugal showed that the diversion programs reduced incarceration rates and repeat offences in the areas of criminal activity by something like 40 to 50 per cent ... That was because education about the consequences of using drugs, both criminally and in health, was part of the diversion program. The success has been incredibly good.

I am going to give the final words to Dr Will Tregoning, who is the Chief Executive Officer of Unharm, who spoke to the issue of stigma and its impact on those who are using drugs and particularly those who are drug users who may ordinarily want to get help. He said—

We often work in alliance with drug treatment organisations. Repeatedly people who work in those contexts talk about how they often have clients who delayed seeking help because of a fear of the legal implications of admitting to an illegal behaviour, in this case drug use. The fact that that fear of punishment prevents people from seeking treatment is abundantly not in the public interest and not in the interests of the individual themselves.

This is a really good bill. It has been a shame really to hear some of the comments that have been made in this House about the bill—complete misrepresentations about what the bill is going to achieve. That says to me that either they have not really sought to understand the bill or they are intentionally politicising the issue.

It is a good progressive Labor policy. The reform will help support those with drug problems. In some cases it will go so far as to save lives. It will reduce our prison population and stop the criminalisation of people who are carrying small quantities for personal use. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (12.51 pm): I rise to address both Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 and Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023—but I will start with the 2023 bill, which expands the police drug diversion scheme.

I have lost count how many times I have stood up in this place and said that the war on drugs has failed, so it is a welcome surprise to see those very words in the committee chair's foreword to the report on this bill. By expanding the diversion program to apply to all drugs, not just cannabis, the

government appears to finally be listening to the evidence on this issue. As the committee chair stated, 'To continue doing the same thing and expecting a different result is not the smartest way forward in relation to this social issue.' Disappointingly, despite some positive steps away from the war on drugs, we still see a doubling down on the same failed punitive approaches in some aspects of this bill, but I will start with the good things.

The 2023 bill expands on the police drug diversion program from just cannabis to all drugs, as I said. The government has been surprisingly quiet about this, but it is actually more progressive than other jurisdictions in that it requires police to offer a warning for most initial minor drug possession offences before moving on to diversion for the second and third contacts. These changes are a long time coming. When we imported the so-called war on drugs from the US, it was already a failure. It was never genuinely designed to reduce drug use or its associated harms—and it never did.

People use drugs for a whole range of reasons and not all drug use is problematic. Most people—89 per cent according to QNADA—use drugs recreationally without developing dependency or harming others, yet this bill still applies a blanket approach of prohibition.

Some do struggle with substance misuse and addiction. QNADA notes problematic drug use is predicated on experiences of trauma and influenced by the social, cultural and structural determinants of health such as poverty. According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, people with mental health conditions are 1.7 times more likely to use illicit drugs. Regardless of how or why someone uses drugs, they do not deserve to be treated like a criminal. People already dealing with substance abuse and addiction do not need further punishment.

The government has been at pains to stress that the 2023 bill does not decriminalise or legalise drugs. In this regard it does not do what the Queensland Productivity Commission and so many other experts have previously recommended. The eligibility criteria to access the diversion scheme is so tight that ironically some of the people most likely to need support will be excluded. That includes someone who commits a related indictable offence like burglary. Surely the fact that someone is going to such lengths to obtain drugs indicates that they need support, not further criminalisation. They will already face separate charges for those other offences. Why should they also be punished for their drug use? This aspect does not make sense.

It also makes no sense to exclude people with a previous prison sentence for trafficking, supplying or producing drugs. This, like increasing the maximum trafficking sentence from 25 years to life, completely ignores the reality of drug use. Legal Aid Queensland pointed out that people who traffic drugs are themselves often experiencing drug addiction and feeding any profits back into that addiction rather than seeking to profit from others. You cannot separate out trafficking from use in the way the bill attempts to without disproportionately impacting vulnerable and disadvantaged people.

The threshold quantities that are proposed to be set by regulation are also completely divorced from reality. They are around half the trafficking thresholds set in the Drugs Misuse Act and, according to the Alcohol and Drug Foundation, out of line with the evidence around personal use amounts. They create a grey middle zone where the law acknowledges it is unlikely to be a trafficable quantity, but you cannot access the diversion program for personal use.

To his credit, the member for Burdekin, and more recently the member for Nanango, tried to understand this in their speeches using evidence around personal use amounts for meth. The member for Burdekin asked why someone would need to carry five days supply. To unpack this, if someone is using slightly higher amounts or using with others—which we know is safer than using alone—that could be or day or two supply. Maybe they do not want to be visiting their dealer every three days, especially when there is such great risk that they will be picked up by police and criminalised for their addiction.

Even if a person possesses amounts under the threshold and meets all the other eligibility criteria, all it would take is one cop's discretion to charge them rather than offer diversion. This is because police must reasonably believe that the drugs are for personal use before they apply the diversionary scheme. The Queensland Human Rights Commission raised concerns that this could mean the uneven application of the drug diversion scheme. We know it is more likely to be vulnerable people, poor people, First Nations people and other people of colour who will face harsher treatment under our criminal justice system. This discretionary element should be removed and the onus should be on police to prove commercial trafficking rather than on the possessor to prove personal use.

What is really concerning about this bill is that children could end up worse off than adults. While police will have to offer adults warning or a diversion, police will still be able to charge children on the first instance of possessing drugs. According to the Human Rights Commission, this contravenes the fundamental principle that young people in the criminal justice system should not be treated more harshly than adults. The government's response to the multiple submissions that raised concerns about this is that they do not want to lock children into the same processes as adults where lesser recourse may be more appropriate and available under the Youth Justice Act. I would appreciate if someone can explain this to me. They do not want to treat kids the same as adults, so instead they propose to treat them worse.

The Human Rights Commission, the Queensland Law Society and the Youth Advocacy Centre all recommended that the bill be amended so that a police officer can only exercise their discretion not to offer the initial warning and subsequent diversions if they are proceeding with a lesser recourse under the act. That seems pretty straightforward to me. The Youth Justice Act should also be amended so that a judge can dismiss charges if a child was not offered a drug diversion program when they should have been. Fundamentally, police should not be able to charge a child for possession in circumstances where they could not charge an adult. This government has, however, previously shown how little regard it has for the human rights of children who come into contact with police.

The 2023 bill also creates new aggravating circumstances offences so that someone can be liable for five years in prison for evading police if the offence is committed at night, where the offender uses or threatens violence, is armed or pretends to be armed, is in company, or damages or threatens to damage any property, or has previously been convicted of a range of offences around vehicle misuse. According to Legal Aid Queensland, these laws likely violate double jeopardy principles and the rehabilitation of offenders act. They will disproportionately impact children and will lead to 'increased rates of detention, where conditions have been, at times, described as "cruel, inappropriate, and have served no rehabilitative effect"'. Like the rest of the government's on-the-fly reforms targeted at young people, this will not deter offending. Even the committee report notes that existing significant penalties have failed to stop offending, and Queensland has the third highest recidivism rates in the country.

I will briefly address the provisions in the 2022 bill around reporting for child sex offences. I will start by saying there is no debate to be had around the need to protect children from sexual assault and abuse. I do hold concerns, though, that the current framework and this bill will still not do enough to achieve that.

The bill increases the reporting period for someone who has committed a sex offence against a child from five years to 10 years for the first reportable offence and then 10 years to 20 years for an offence committed while on reporting obligations. The Australian Institute of Criminology reports that recidivism amongst sex offenders is generally lower than for other types of crimes and, where an offender is not likely to reoffend, reporting orders can help ensure against recidivism without resorting to further imprisonment.

Debate, on motion of Mr Berkman, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Kawana Electorate, Youth Crime



Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): I want to raise the issue of youth crime on the Sunshine Coast. The Sunshine Coast, in particular the electors of Kawana, are suffering under the youth crime crisis we have in Queensland at the moment. If you look at the last month alone, in the Sunshine Coast Police District there were: 65 cars stolen, 119 break and enters, 522 other thefts, 106 assaults and 131 incidents of property damage. The youth crime crisis—the crime crisis—is real, and people on the Sunshine Coast are suffering the consequences.

The consequences are as a result of weakened laws. In 2015 when Anastacia Palaszczuk was elected Premier one of the first pieces of legislation they introduced into this parliament weakened youth justice laws in Queensland. They got rid of breach of bail. They brought back detention as a last resort because they put the rights of offenders before the rights of victims. We need that to change. We need a government that is focused on victims and listens to victims. That is what victims are crying out for.


Youth justice laws were weakened in 2015 and 2016, and on Australia Day across my electorate there were break and enters at Wurtulla and Bokarina. The other day there was antisocial behaviour in the park at Bokarina Beach. All during the Easter holidays youth were terrorising my community and there was drinking in the parks. There was a boom box in the park at three o'clock in the morning. The community has had enough. We need more police and resources on the Sunshine Coast.

I am going to table a document today that shows why we have a youth crime crisis on the Sunshine Coast. This is the Premier's travelling brief. This is the brief the Premier gets when she comes to the Sunshine Coast. It contains all of the speaking notes for the Premier when she is asked about issues like youth crime.

The Premier's speaking notes from July 2022 show that in 2015 police FTEs on the Sunshine Coast were 561.08. In 2022, eight years after Anastacia Palaszczuk was elected Premier, it was down to 551.18. This Premier has cut 10 police officers from the Sunshine Coast in the last eight years. They would have us believe that police numbers have been on the increase. As we can see, this document proves that the Labor Party has cut police officers on the Sunshine Coast. That is why when they are called out the community is getting frustrated because we do not have enough police officers. They got rid of over 14 fire officers, down from 143 to 129. I table a copy of the Premier's travel brief, which proves the Sunshine Coast Police District has fewer officers under the Labor Party than it did when it was first elected in 2015.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Sunshine Coast: Travelling Issues Briefs Index, July 2022' [\[523\]](#).

Voice to Parliament


 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.03 pm): I rise to provide support for the Voice to Parliament. I say that because Thuringowa has one of the largest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations in North Queensland. I am very proud of that. I connect with many of them all the time. I am going to stand up for them and say yes. I will be speaking to the 7,500 First Nations people in my electorate, and I will be providing a voice of support to make sure they get constitutional recognition in the federal parliament.

It troubles me greatly that we have an opposition that supposedly has no position on the Voice, yet on their own social media pages they are the campaign that says no. That is completely shameful. I say to the Leader of the Opposition, 'Stand for something. You can't be a fence-sitter on this.' What will he do about his candidates? Will they also be saying no? I would say that is a question for the thousands of proud First Nations people of Thuringowa to put to the LNP candidate when they see that candidate at some point in time.

It troubles me greatly that the federal member for Herbert, Phillip Thompson, has come out and publicly said no, following the likes of Peter Dutton. There are thousands and thousands more First Nations people in Townsville broadly, and across the seat of Herbert there were something like 21,180 according to the last census data. We expect that to go up. They want to see constitutional recognition in the federal parliament. How can we progress forward? The member for Herbert asked, 'Will anything change?' Of course it will change because it is Indigenous led and they will have a say. The first thing we need to overcome is the constitutional recognition issue. We will have an opportunity at the end of the year.

I heard Noel Pearson at parliament the other night talk about the long battle to get recognition since 1788. I say that we will all have an opportunity. I am very proud to be part of the Palaszczuk government, which is 100 per cent supporting the Voice. The people of Thuringowa know that I will be supporting the Voice. I say to the member for Broadwater, 'Stand up for something and state your position on the Voice.'

Child Safety

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (2.06 pm): Today I asked a simple question of the Premier—a hard question—with regard to the deaths of Chloe-Ann and Darcey-Helen Conley. I asked a question which I think required only a simple response, yet this Premier and her ministers hide behind hypocrisy. When it suits the government to stand next to those victims who have felt pain and anguish—I refer to the Beasleys, who have done incredible work—when there is a legal appeal underway because it suits the government's 'look feeling' agenda, they are more than happy to do so. This is a direct statement from their father, Peter Jackson—

Three years ago, the worst thing that could ever happen, did happen.

...


Darcey and Chloe deserved more. All the other children whose lives are in the hands of Child Safety, deserve more. The Palaszczuk government has given 8 years of lip service to Queensland children. Annastacia Palaszczuk, Leanne Linard, Di Farmer and Shannon Fentiman have all, in the years since the girls died, made statements for the sake of the media, suggesting action will be taken. But not one of these ministers have made time in the three years since the girls died, to reach out to me. Worse than that, children under the Department's care, are still dying. It's not enough to keep talking about changes.

Leadership is about hard conversations. Leadership is about empathy. Leadership is about caring about every Queenslander—those who are vulnerable, not just those who are out there to make the government look good.

Not one member of this government has bothered to pick up the phone to Peter Jackson and say, 'I am sorry for your loss.' Not one member of the government has demonstrated empathy or sympathy to a father who fought to try and save his children, who repeatedly reported to Child Safety, along with other family members, that those little girls were in danger. Leadership is not just about platitudes, lip-service or standing up in the media when it suits: it is about showing leadership and it is about being a human being.

I was privileged when Mr Peter Jackson reached out to me after I shared his tragic story in this House. I have taken the time to listen to him. I invited the Leader of the Opposition, who took the time to listen to him. We will not forget those two little girls who paid with their lives. I urge the Premier to reach out to Peter Jackson.

Voice to Parliament; Redlands Electorate

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.09 pm): It is interesting to follow on from the topic of leadership. Like the member for Thuringowa, I too rise to show my support for the Voice to Parliament. It is my hope that every Queenslander can go into this process with an open heart and an open mind. I have had many conversations with the member for Cook on this. The member for Cook and I share very similar but different electorates. The similarity is that we have communities of mainland residents and communities of island residents. We both work really hard across very diverse communities to deliver the infrastructure that they need for today and to think about the planning for tomorrow. I am proud of the track record that our Palaszczuk government has in delivering for our communities that are extraordinarily diverse.


We are working at the moment to make sure we deliver a housing and diversity strategy for the Redlands. It was a shame that the Redland City Council did not pick up on this when they were asked to do it, and we are now doing this work in the midst of those housing challenges. That is an important piece of work that our government is showing leadership in delivering.

Planning and infrastructure are extraordinarily interrelated. To make sure we are delivering things, the plan is so important. Our government is delivering on health infrastructure in the Redlands. We have our new satellite hospital in Redland Bay that will service those island communities very well. It is at the end of its building stage. Last week Metro South Health announced that they were hiring new staff already, and that is fantastic news for my communities. The car park opened at Redland Hospital that unlocks that site to deliver the healthcare services that our community needs as it continues to grow. We have 65 new beds coming in as part of the stage 1 delivery with the intensive care unit. That will see an increase of 30 per cent in bed capacity for that hospital, and that is significant in any terms. That is the fantastic work happening in the healthcare space.

I have spoken before about education, and the list is so long. There is \$11 million for the Redland District Special School new learning precinct. We have a new \$70 million Redland Bay school that is under construction with ADCO at the moment, and that is really exciting. That is putting infrastructure in place and planning for a growing community. In terms of police, we have increased our capacities across the islands with policing. There has been so much work going on.

There will continue to be a need to be thinking about and delivering on infrastructure and services for the future. I know our Palaszczuk government will show that leadership every single day of the week and will deliver for all of our communities right across Queensland. To my Redlands community, I want you to know that the work we do today and the work we do tomorrow will make sure we have the brightest future ahead.

Housing, Griffith University

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (2.12 pm): Six months ago at the Premier's Housing Summit, one of the signature policies was to repurpose Griffith University student accommodation into emergency accommodation for those in most need. Yesterday we heard that that program was scrapped. Despite


the number of press announcements made over the last six months talking about construction being underway and the fact that its opening was imminent, the Deputy Premier announced yesterday that another dud policy by this chaotic government had been scrapped.

This failure raises many questions for the Deputy Premier and the housing minister, and I smell a rat. First, why wasn't due diligence done at the time before \$2 million was spent and all of this false hope was given to vulnerable Queenslanders? Second, why did it take so long to come to this conclusion? Third, did Griffith University actually advise the department that there could be potential problems with fire safety? Fourth, did the \$2 million that they stated has been spent pay for a consultancy report that told them after six months that it was not going to meet fire safety standards? Fifth, how much more money needs to be spent to remediate this property and return it to Griffith University? There are questions that need to be answered about the process over the last six months which caused at least \$2 million of taxpayers' money to be wasted once again.

Here is the sixty-four thousand dollar question. Today the Deputy Premier was asked when they first knew that that property would be inappropriate. After a little bit of mumbling around, he said 'in April'. We are at most three weeks after that date, and the Deputy Premier expects Queenslanders to believe that the department of housing went out with their replacement policy and bought 64 homes in a little over two weeks. The department is good but no department in this government will move that quickly.

I will tell the House what has happened. Those 64 properties are part of the normal buying program that the state government does in the housing department, and they have decided to try to bring them in under cover and say that the money they were going to use for the Griffith University accommodation is now being spent on that. That is a lie. That has not happened, and now \$25 million that was for emergency accommodation is not going to go towards it because they have covered it under the normal buying program.

Australian Institute of Marine Science


 **Mr WALKER** (Mundingburra—ALP) (2.15 pm): That speech was a great segue and the member for Everton should listen carefully. Australia is a lucky country and it is even more so thanks to the Albanese federal Labor government, and I will explain why shortly. Last week we heard about the nine years of serious neglect of the Australian Institute of Marine Science by the previous Scott Morrison Liberal-National federal government—that is right, the same government that Phillip Thompson, the member for Herbert, belonged to. He is responsible for this total neglect of one of the world's leading marine research facilities right on his doorstep.

What was exposed and clearly demonstrated about Phil Thompson and his Liberal National Party mates was that they not only have total disregard for some of the best marine scientists in the world; they also have no respect for the Great Barrier Reef or the tourism sector and the jobs it generates—let alone the protection the reef provides to the communities along the North Queensland coast. That is right, these global warming deniers failed to adequately fund the Australian Institute of Marine Science for nine years.

After years of neglect by the Liberal and National parties, Australia's world-leading marine scientists were working in unsafe, mouldy and outdated facilities because of the Liberal National Party's poor funding decisions. There were 100 jobs in regional northern Australia on the verge of being cut. I want to thank the federal Minister for the Environment and Water, the Hon. Tanya Plibersek, for her quick response and for personally visiting the AIMS facility to see firsthand the work required to get the buildings to a safe and acceptable standard. The Albanese Labor government is stepping in and investing an extra \$163.4 million in the May budget to guarantee the future of AIMS. This will ensure that our scientists can continue to lead the world with their research, while protecting the Great Barrier Reef and our beautiful oceans.

For over 50 years, the institute has conducted world-leading marine science, providing guidance and expertise that no other agency or department is capable of. This includes the longest continuous dataset in existence on the changing nature of the Great Barrier Reef. This investment in the upcoming May budget will save 100 existing jobs and create over 100 jobs, mostly in regional Queensland, while making an additional 66 jobs permanent. It will help refurbish the Townsville headquarters of AIMS, which requires significant investment to ensure it meets modern safety standards. This funding will also support the replacement of the RV *Apollo*, a research vessel that is now 18 years old. I want to thank Minister Plibersek again for saving the Australian Institute of Marine Science.

Hydrogen Industry; Training Facilities

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (2.18 pm): The hallmark of this government is chaos and confusion, and we see examples of that almost daily. A prime example of this lack of clarity surrounds the hydrogen training facilities. For months via questions on notice I have been trying to seek clarity around this government's commitment to fund four renewable and hydrogen training centres. The Premier and minister after minister are happy to claim credit for these facilities, but no-one seems to take responsibility for any scrutiny, as my questions on notice to Labor ministers reveal.

The skills minister, whom I initially asked, referred me to the Treasurer who is now trying to refer me back to the skills minister. Labor's minister for employment and training said the 'administration and responsibility of the fund is led by Queensland Treasury'. Yet the Treasurer has disputed that by responding to another question on notice, 'Funding for renewable energy and hydrogen training centres is not provided.' Who is right and who is responsible? This is yet another example of Labor's chaos and confusion.


Talking of chaos and confusion, it is high time Minister de Brenni explained the ongoing failures at Callide Power Station. On 24 March this year, news broke that Genuity, Callide C's co-owner, went into voluntary administration. Since then we have not heard one word from the Premier, her energy minister or the Treasurer about the future of those generators. Given the energy minister and the Treasurer are the shareholding ministers, the onus should be on them to ensure the public and, importantly, the Callide staff know what is the future of these generators. Given both of these generators are still out of commission and the fact that their end of life is approaching, I suspect the prospect of finding a new private equity partner will be exceedingly slim.

The minister must answer: will the Queensland government be buying Genuity's shares in Callide using some of their coal royalty revenue or will this be used as an excuse by Minister de Brenni and the left to close these generators down early? Will Genuity's collapse have an impact on these generators coming back online? Will it cause further delays? How will it affect Queensland's electricity supply?

Given comments by the Queensland Competition Authority and the Auditor-General that prices have been impacted by these outages, how much longer do Queenslanders need to pay extra on their power bills? When can Queenslanders expect to have these generators operating again?

We now know there is no time line for the release of Dr Brady's independent investigation and review into the explosion at C4. Callide employees and the public deserve answers to these questions and as to when they will see the review. It is time the Premier and her minister cut the chaos and confusion and provided some answers.

Anzac Day

 **Mr SKELTON** (Nicklin—ALP) (2.21 pm): Today in the lead-up to Anzac Day, I would like to remember and honour the brave men and women of the Sunshine Coast who have served in the Australian Defence Force, Merchant Navy and Nursing Corps. Like many others, I will be attending my local cenotaph on Tuesday as Anzac Day holds a special significance in the hearts and minds of all Australians as it reminds us of the sacrifices made by our sailors, soldiers, airmen and nurses in the service of their country. They left their homes, families and jobs to defend our freedoms and values, to fight for what they believed in and to ensure that future generations would not have to suffer the horrors of war.


In World War I, in what was called the North Coast at the time, our region sent nearly 30,000 young people off to what was to be called the Great War. Far too few made it home. On this day in 1915, more than 200 ships were assembled in the harbour at Moudros on the island of Lemnos, Greece, in preparation for the invasion of Turkey under the command of General Ian Hamilton. The Anzacs were amongst them, listening to the guns of the battleships pounding the Turkish emplacements in the distance, preparing to land on the peninsula known as Gallipoli. This would happen on the 25th. It is forever more our day of remembrance.

We remember the families who mourn their loss and the communities that felt the impact of all wars. We honour the veterans who returned home, many of whom carry the physical and emotional scars of this service. We are grateful for the sacrifices made by these brave men and women. They have helped shape our country, our values and our way of life. Their service ensured that we can live in a peaceful and prosperous society where freedom, justice and equality are cherished values.

I pay tribute to the veterans and volunteers from Nambour RSL, Yandina-Eumundi RSL, Cooroy-Pomona RSL and Palmwoods and District RSL sub-branches. I acknowledge our region's schools holding services. Their ongoing efforts to commemorate the fallen reminds us all of the need to pay our respects to those who came before.

From the Boer War to more recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, the men and women of the Sunshine Coast, and indeed all of Queensland, have served with honour, courage and distinction. Let us renew our commitment to the values that they fought for and let us strive to live up to the high standards of courage, honour and selflessness that they embodied. Their sacrifices will never be forgotten and their service will always be remembered. Lest we forget.

North-West Queensland Floods


 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.24 pm): Yesterday I met with the Mayor of Burke Shire Council, Ernie Camp; Deputy Mayor, Tonya Murray; the CEO, Dan McKinlay; and Anne Pleash from Mission Consulting Solutions. They are not down here to socialise for the fun of it; they are down here because that shire has its back to the wall. That shire needs help. That shire, as we know all too well, experienced one of the biggest floods on record—floods 10 metres higher than previously recorded, floods that isolated the community of Burketown for months, floods that swept away an estimated 80,000 head of cattle, floods that caused the majority of the Burketown residents to be evacuated by helicopter. That shire covers an area of 40,127 square kilometres and has a resident population of 550 people. What does that mean? When it comes to recovery, it poses huge obstacles, as you would appreciate. That group are down here this week, meeting with the government, meeting with members of the opposition, asking for help. I am pleased to stand here today to say to them that I support them. I support them 100 per cent in their efforts to acquire that assistance.

What do they want? They want to designate the Gulf Savannah Way, which is the highway between Normanton and Borroloola, as 'Highway One', a national highway, which would open up funding streams for that particular council. The majority of the roads in the Burke Shire are local council roads and many of these roads, as you would appreciate, have been completely destroyed as a consequence of these floods.

What do they need? They need \$75 million to raise crossings and raise the bridges at the Nicholson River and Gregory River. We take that sort of infrastructure for granted down here in the south-east of the state, but up there, those roads are the arteries for those communities. Without those roads, they do not have accessibility. Without those roads, they struggle, as we have seen currently with the devastation in the community of Burketown. Those improvements would provide disaster resilience which we know is so important. It would improve the local economy, provide access for not only tourists and local residents but also the graziers in that community.

I know that group is meeting with the Premier this afternoon. I hope the Premier comes with the chequebook because we need money on the table, not empty promises—we need money on the table—to help that community get back on its feet.

Bundaberg Electorate, Health Care

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (2.27 pm): Firstly I would like to acknowledge my very diligent electorate officer who just let me know that someone else's microphone was on, but I since hear it has been fixed. Well done, Ben! Thank you for being at work. Talk to the Clerk about your pay rise.

Cost-of-living pressures and health are on the minds of people in Bundaberg as it is all across Queensland. It is the Palaszczuk Labor government that is addressing ways to ease the cost-of-living pressures on Queenslanders and also investing in our healthcare system.

In Bundaberg, we are delivering the brand new Bundaberg hospital, a \$1.2 million investment that will see by the end of 2027 our brand new hospital service a large portion of not only the Bundaberg community but also the Wide Bay community. We are also starting to build The Lighthouse crisis support space which is about ensuring that we are providing good care for those who are presenting to the emergency department in some form of traumatic state or are in need of mental health support. That is about diverting them from the emergency department and providing them with the right care in the right space at the hospital.


Overwhelmingly, the pressures are coming from a national level, and it is the federal government's responsibility to meet the matters around primary health care. It is absolutely a blight on the former federal government, the Turnbull-Abbott-Morrison government, that failed our primary healthcare system all across Australia for close to a decade, but the challenge is there for the Albanese government and the challenge must be met.

According to the medical data in the Bundaberg LGA reported in the census, 9.8 per cent of Bundaberg residents have asthma, 6.7 per cent have diabetes, 6.4 per cent have heart disease, 3.8 per cent have lung conditions and 11.6 per cent have mental health conditions. This is a real stark fact as well: the proportion of people with no long-term health conditions is close to 50 per cent at 49.5 per cent, so we are almost a sicker population than we are not. When we compare that with Queensland and Australia overall, 58.2 per cent and 60.2 per cent respectively do not have long-term health conditions. In Bundaberg, it is close to 50 per cent of people; it is actually more than 50 per cent of people who have a long-term health condition in the Bundaberg region. It is up to the federal government to make sure that they are supporting people seeking to get—

Mrs Frecklington: How's that fifty-fifty health funding going?

Mr SMITH: I think it is great. That is what I am calling for. I want to see people in Bundaberg able to go to the GP and also for the Medicare rebate to be unfrozen. I am calling on the Albanese government to release the rebate so it is easier for mums and dads in Bundaberg to go to the doctor.

North-West Queensland Floods

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (2.30 pm): The monsoon events before Easter in the north-west of the state have been some of the worst in living memory. The Premier needs to go and see this devastation for herself. Burketown, Doomadgee, Normanton and many other towns had been cut off for months prior to the monsoon floods. The Premier needs to see this. These communities were under pressure of isolation prior to the deluge that flooded into Doomadgee and Burketown and devastated surrounding rural properties. I want to thank the Burke and Doomadgee mayors, councillors and CEOs for their advocacy regarding the disaster events and the work that they do to keep their community safe. I have just met with the mayor, Ernie Camp; the deputy mayor and the CEO of the Burke shire. I will table some pictures of the road damage in the gulf, something that the Premier should go and look at herself.

Tabled paper: Bundle of photographs depicting flood damage to roads in the gulf [\[524\]](#).


The differences are stark in the gulf. If 1,200 people were at risk of inundation in the south-east I am sure they would not have to go and organise a local farmer to fly a helicopter over the headwaters as they did over the Nicholson River in the Northern Territory to determine if the community would flood. That is what the Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council had to do.

Speaking of flyovers, whilst the member for Lockyer and I were on the ground with Tim and Jil Wilson of Tirranna Springs Road House, the Deputy Premier flew over us. All of the Wilsons' houses and buildings, motel infrastructure and machinery was flooded. They had to be evacuated several times, first from Tirranna and then again from Burketown as the town was inundated. They are key businesses for the recovery in the area and to date, Tim and Jil are still waiting for help from the state and federal governments.

The Premier should go to Tirranna Springs Road House and listen to Tim and Jil and see for herself the devastation and the loss. It is just unbelievable what that water did when it went through that area. The Deputy Premier should tell us how many flooded homes and businesses he visited in Burketown after his flyover and whether he will ever visit Tirranna Springs.

The councils want resilient works to raise crossings and bridges, and I have seen firsthand how dangerous the crossing is on the Gregory River leading from Burketown to Doomadgee. The people of the north-west need help. The councils are calling for a \$75 million investment in roads and bridges. These gulf communities deserve better from this Labor government.

Housing

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (2.33 pm): Right across Queensland we know that housing is very tough right now. In our Pumicestone communities people are telling me loud and clear about the pressures they are facing when it comes to maintaining their housing. We know the reasons are

complex. We have more people who have moved to Queensland during COVID—and why wouldn't they—but we also lost thousands of homes during the floods. Of course, since COVID more people are choosing to live in smaller households or on their own, which increases demand.

Meanwhile we are seeing rents go up, house prices go up, cost of living go up, interest rates go up—it is all going up and people are struggling. That is why our Palaszczuk Labor government is taking real action with over 50 urgent measures to make sure that Queenslanders have a roof over their head and can keep it there. Importantly, we have doubled the Housing Investment Fund to \$2 billion to deliver more housing supply into the future. This week we took action to limit rent increases to once every 12 months so renters get a fairer go and to create a circuit-breaker in rental increases. It will let people and families plan their budget for 12 months, and that is invaluable.

Since coming to government we have started builds on over 5,000 social and affordable homes and completed 4,000. That is 4,000 families who now have a home because of our Palaszczuk Labor government. We are looking to buy 335 NRAS properties to keep them on the social and affordable housing books after the federal LNP did what they do best and cut the NRAS. In Pumicestone we have seen major action on housing. Our government partnered with Churches of Christ to construct the Coolamon Apartments, 170 new purpose-built affordable homes for older people on Bribie Island.

Mr Hart: It was a 10-year plan. It expired. You can't tell the truth. It's finished.

Ms KING: I am not taking the member for Burleigh's interjections. By investing in older Queenslanders with these dignified comfortable apartments we are freeing up larger social homes—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Order, member for Burleigh, member for Rockhampton.

Ms KING:—for families who need them. When I visit the Coolamon Apartments I see the enormous pride and comfort the residents take in their beautiful new homes and I feel so proud to be part of our Palaszczuk Labor government. People tell me that these homes have changed their lives. In building them, we have also helped build a supportive and secure community where they can enjoy their retirement. That is what Labor governments do. We listen and we work hard to deliver. We build and invest to keep Queenslanders in housing.

Now we are embarking on stage 2 of our rental reforms to ensure that the housing system is fair on renters, and I ask everybody in our Pumicestone communities to take part in that consultation. What a contrast with the LNP, who do nothing but carp, criticise, whinge, whine and cut when it comes to housing. We saw that under the member for Everton—428 fewer houses.

Gladstone, Maternity Services



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (2.36 pm): Queenslanders deserve regional and rural communities that are provided with the services they have paid for by the government of the day. The reason I am talking about this is because I have the honour of being the shadow minister for regional development. Since the Minister for Regional Development in this great state is from a town called Gladstone, which is supposedly the engine room of the Central Queensland economy, we would assume that that minister would do something about the regional development problems in his own patch. That is exactly what the minister said he would do over 43 weeks ago. He went on local ABC Radio and said, 'If maternity services aren't fixed in the next six months I'll resign.' Guess what? If he was pregnant he would be post term and the baby would be in serious trouble. I would suggest to this minister that his baby is cooked and so is his ministerial status. This minister must stand by his words and resign.

When I was in Gladstone three weeks ago it was exactly nine months—270 days—since this minister went on local ABC Radio and said if maternity services were not restored he would be gone. Guess what? The only way they can have a baby there is to have a caesar. I do not know whether this minister knows it, but new mums like Melina, Emily and Linda with whom I met did not want to be pushed into a caesar. One of them in particular is a 22-year-old who had moved to Gladstone to take a job as a heavy vehicle operator. She loves her job. She loves her husband. She is happy to be pregnant. She is young, fit and healthy. Her doctor from Brisbane said, 'You are a prime candidate to have a natural birth in the Gladstone Hospital. Guess what? She could not because women are not able to have a baby in Gladstone.'

Here we have a young female who moved to Gladstone with her husband for one of these jobs and she cannot even have a baby there. I wonder what Twiggy Forrest thinks about his new plant there. How is he going to get his employees to move there if the local member of parliament, who happens to be the regional development minister, cannot even provide maternity services? Gladstone has over 60,000 people—

Mr BUTCHER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I think the member for Nanango is being seriously misleading. She knows full well that birthing services are now coming back to Gladstone. She continues to say that they are not.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): I will you pull you up there. Minister—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: When, Minister? That is the question I would ask.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please resume your seat, member for Nanango.

Mr Butcher interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Gladstone, can you please stop interjecting? Your point of order was not a point of order.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It shows how out of touch the Palaszczuk government is. There are 60,000 people around that Gladstone area. What about if you are from Monto, Theodore, Biloela or Cracow? In any of those places, you cannot get medical services because the poor nurses in Rocky are at their wit's end with the number of births they are trying to deal with. It is about time the Palaszczuk government did something about regional birthing services.

Rockhampton Ring Road


 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (2.39 pm): I take this opportunity to update the House on the Rockhampton Ring Road. This long-term visionary project will deliver a new 14.7-kilometre section of Bruce Highway west of Rockhampton, including a new bridge over the Fitzroy River, with key linkages into the city at Ridgeland Road, Alexandra Street and the intersection of the Bruce Highway with Rockhampton-Yeppoon Road.

Early works have commenced, with surveyors surveying the road corridor, and the fencing contractors are in place. Ergon is relocating power poles and just last week we saw Telstra service relocations underway. There are 16 structures that will be moved or demolished over the coming weeks, and tenders have been called for approximately \$280 million in road construction which will be awarded in the next couple of months, with major works commencing prior to Christmas this year. One tender will be for the Rockhampton-Yeppoon Road end of the corridor, and the other will be for Ridgeland Road and the Capricorn Highway. It has amazed me how the federal member for Capricornia, Michelle Landry, and Senator Matt Canavan have criticised Labor governments, both state and federal, when the coalition federal government had over 10 years to deliver the ring-road project.

I have been on the phones talking to a few hundred people regarding the ring-road, and they are pleased that it will be delivered over a slightly longer period with more local employment supporting more local businesses where possible. Originally it was proposed to set up a 500-person workers camp. Having a large fly-in fly-out workforce is of no benefit to the locals in Central Queensland. These contractors would spend their pay in their home towns, not locally in Rocky or on the Capricornia Coast. We have a couple of major projects nearing completion, like the \$360 million Rookwood Weir and the major works up at Shoalwater Bay, and they have a few hundred Rocky locals working on them. This will allow these workers the opportunity to apply for work on the Rockhampton Ring Road project.

We are getting on with delivering this outstanding jobs project, which will be an absolute game changer for my community of Rockhampton. Something like 2½ thousand trucks travel through Rockhampton each and every day and they have to go through some 19 sets of traffic lights. A new bridge over the Fitzroy will take the bulk of that traffic out of the town and make the commute much easier for everyone.

Residential Tenancies, Mould

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (2.42 pm): Queensland's housing crisis extends beyond a lack of affordable housing. A combination of a climate crisis and dismal rental standards is leading many everyday Queenslanders to suffer a health crisis, with outbreaks of mould. Gold Coast renter Christine Butler launched an e-petition in August last year calling on the government to raise the

standards for mould prevention and removal in rental homes. Chrissie's home was engulfed by toxic mould, which spread to her furniture and belongings. Chrissie's doctor advised that the property was unsafe after her family suffered serious health impacts. What is more, Chrissie and her family ended up out of pocket by \$12,000 for mould testing, additional rental costs and loss of damaged goods and furniture. Unsurprisingly, the landlord refused to take responsibility for the mould outbreak.

Sadly, Chrissie's story is not unique. Last week a renter in Woolloongabba shared her story with me. Over the last two years, this renter and her housemate have been through two floods, a leaky roof, a broken air conditioner and a massive mould infestation. As their landlord does not reply to their requests for maintenance, these two renters have been paying out of their own pockets for repair and maintenance. To make things worse, the property manager has been pushing to increase the rent by 33 per cent—despite no repairs or upgrades to the property. These housemates now have to decide: do they accept an extreme rent increase, or do they risk getting evicted in a cutthroat rental market?

The sheer power imbalance that renters face when asking for a safe home is mind-boggling. I note that there are no requirements for a real estate agent to alert prospective tenants if a property has flooded in the past. This puts people, their homes, their lives and their possessions at risk. No wonder Chrissie's petition, calling for stronger rental standards that protect renters from mould outbreaks, gathered nearly 3,000 signatures.

It is promising to see that as of October last year, following Chrissie's media advocacy and the launch of her petition, the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Regulation now requires landlords to ensure a property is 'free of vermin, damp and mould'. Unfortunately, these new regulations will not apply to new tenancies until September this year and all tenancies in September next year. I would argue that this needs to be set out in the legislation. Mould of a structural nature or mould relating to flooding must be dealt with by the property owner.

Crucially, without real security for renters, even these regulations are largely meaningless. While landlords can still evict people at the end of a lease for no reason or evict people with an extreme rent increase, tenants remain at the mercy of real estate agents and property investors and will continue to be forced to choose between enforcing their flimsy rights under this regulation and keeping a roof over their heads. I close by sincerely thanking Chrissie Butler and her family for advocating so fiercely for the right of renters to feel safe in their homes.

Bundamba Electorate, Health Services



Mr McCALLUM (Bundamba—ALP) (2.45 pm): The Palaszczuk government is continuing to deliver more world-class health care closer to home as part of what is the biggest investment in health, hospital beds and hospitals in Queensland's history. That includes our local Bundamba community. We are already delivering the Ipswich Hospital expansion; the public bed expansion of the Mater Hospital in Springfield; and our brand new South Ripley satellite hospital. That will be added to, with the very exciting addition—we have community consultation open right now—of a new subacute facility in South Ripley. This will mean a new three-storey subacute facility with a 90-bed capacity to be located right next to our state-of-the-art satellite hospital, which is currently well under construction in South Ripley on Barrams Road. This subacute facility is expected to provide healthcare services such as rehabilitation, geriatric care, palliative care and interim care. I encourage our local community to have their say on the proposal before submissions close on 2 May. The delivery of this facility will mean even more health care closer to home whilst helping to free up capacity for acute and emergency patients at our larger public hospitals like at Ipswich. It also will mean more health care for our rapidly growing Ripley community.

This is another important investment in our local community by the Palaszczuk government. It is an investment in the health and wellbeing of our local community. We are focused on delivering for our local community. This is in stark contrast to the LNP, who have no healthcare policy other than to cut, sack and sell. Unfortunately, their flimsy policy to cut, sack and sell includes the entire Satellite Hospitals Program. This puts in danger the South Ripley satellite hospital. It puts in danger this brand new 90-bed subacute facility. We could fully expect that, given the chance, the LNP would not only sack our healthcare workers but also either cut these badly needed healthcare facilities entirely or put them up for sale and privatise them.

I conclude today by wishing the Ipswich Men's Shed in Bundamba a very happy 10th birthday. As proud patron of the group, I thank Terry Carter and the team.

Regional Queensland, Energy Projects; Housing



Mr ANDREW (Mirani—PHON) (2.48 pm): The government currently has \$20.8 billion of green energy projects which are either already underway or confirmed to commence between 2021 and 2025. Most of these projects are expected to land in Central and Northern Queensland, with the two hotspots being Gladstone and Mackay. Construction activities in these areas are expected to be some of the largest industrial deployments ever undertaken in Queensland.

Central Queensland, Mackay and the Darling Downs account for an estimated 50 per cent of the projects in the pipeline. Central Queensland alone will account for 20 per cent, or one-fifth, of the state's renewable projects by value. The vast share of projects—around 85 per cent—to be located in both Central Queensland and Mackay are only at the planned or possible stages, so the full impact is yet to be felt. It is going to be a huge undertaking. We are looking at an absolutely unprecedented scale of investment in infrastructure and renewables in Queensland. According to Construction Skills Queensland, 90 per cent of the labour needed to build these renewable projects will be in the regions. Highly skilled trades and technicians could account for one in five roles across the renewable construction workforce, and this could increase to almost 30 per cent for hydrogen projects. At a minimum, it is going to require significant workforce planning frameworks and deployable skills solutions for any of this to be at all feasible.

The other problem is: how do you attract workers to a region where there is nowhere for them to live and where existing services are already at breaking point just coping with the existing population? With a rental vacancy of just 0.7 per cent and population growth predicted out to 2040, the region urgently needs a raft of housing development incentives to reduce the enormous pressure on its increasingly tight housing market. Data from the Queensland Government Statistician's Office shows that housing stock across Mackay and surrounding regions has decreased 33.8 per cent in the past decade when compared to the previous decade. My electorate office in Mirani is regularly inundated with cries for help from people who have moved into the area for work and are unable to find accommodation. Amenities and services are already bursting at the seams and we have critical labour shortages in virtually every sector as well as near catastrophic shortages of doctors, teachers, police officers and emergency workers. The people I have spoken with say that they want more land released, but it is just not happening. Clearly the system is broken and the upshot is that we now have a chronic lack of housing supply, lack of investment, lack of skilled labour and a lack of just about every other essential service you could name.

Another issue is just how willing builders and developers will be to undertake construction where there are risks of house prices falling, especially when credit is a lot more difficult to secure and where planning rules are uncertain. We are in a bad situation. Mackay council is trying to do its best to give developers 100 per cent discounts. We just do not think that the land is being released fast enough.

Ipswich, Health Infrastructure




Mrs MULLEN (Jordan—ALP) (2.51 pm): Our Labor government is committed to ensuring that we have a strong healthcare system for all Queenslanders. The solution is not simple and requires new investment as well as reform and innovation across the health system to ensure that we continue to deliver world-class health care for all Queenslanders. Early in my first term of parliament I attended an evening community briefing on West Moreton HHS's 15-year master plan for infrastructure and clinical services in response to a predicted doubling of our population in the region by 2036. I recall as a fairly new MP feeling slightly overwhelmed by what would be required by both the HHS and our government to deliver such an ambitious but necessary plan. I am pleased to reflect that in less than five years our government has been able to secure much crucial investment for health infrastructure and clinical services for the people of the Ipswich region.

Stage 1 of the \$146.3 million master planned expansion of Ipswich Hospital has delivered a 26-bed ward and refurbished space for allied health, oncology and outpatient care as well as a brand new state-of-the-art MRI suite. In the most recent state budget, stage 2 announced a further \$710 million that will deliver around 200 additional beds. Our \$91 million acute mental health facility is nearing completion and will open this year—50 beds in a contemporary environment for best practice mental health care and assessment, recovery and rehabilitation services. A brand new \$24.5 million alcohol and other drugs withdrawal management and rehabilitation facility will provide 10 withdrawal management beds and 35 residential rehabilitation beds.

Our new public hospital in Springfield which we are delivering in partnership with Mater Health Services will deliver another 174 public overnight and same-day beds. An intensive care unit, much needed emergency department, maternity services and additional high-level clinical services are all now under construction. Our nearly completed South Ripley satellite hospital is a fantastic new healthcare facility which will ease demand on Ipswich Hospital and provide care closer to home for residents in the growth corridor and will deal with outpatient services as well as minor injuries and illnesses. As the member for Bundamba mentioned, in even better news this satellite hospital will also include a modular subacute expansion which will boost capacity with 90 additional overnight subacute beds, freeing up capacity for those acute patients in other larger public hospitals in our region.

I recognise that our health system is facing greater demand and pressure than ever before. This is not a uniquely Queensland problem. Indeed, nationwide health services are feeling the stress. The significant investment that only a Labor government would make for the West Moreton region will ensure that we not only stabilise our health system but deliver even more and better health services for the people of Ipswich.


Meningococcal B; Fidler, Ms B

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (2.54 pm): In November last year the Fidler family were dealt the most cruel blow imaginable, enduring every parent's worst nightmare. Their beautiful girl Bella tragically passed away at the age of 23 years old after contracting meningococcal B. Bella was a happy and healthy young woman with a huge life of promise ahead of her. Having recently completed her degrees in law and government and international relations, Bella went on a girl's trip to Bali to celebrate. A week after returning to Australia, she noticed something was not quite right. She thought she might have had COVID. She arrived at John Flynn hospital in the early hours of the morning and soon became critically ill. In the space of 24 hours, beautiful Bella had gone from feeling a bit unwell to tragically losing her life.

Meningococcal B is a life-threatening bacterial infection. While the state government school vaccination program immunises against meningococcal, meningococcal B is not included in the immunisation program. Some 4½ years ago the South Australian government acted to protect its young people by including meningococcal B in its vaccination program and today we are calling on the Queensland government to do the same. Karen from Meningococcal Australia and Bella's family are here today in the gallery and they are here to bring Bella's story to parliament to encourage the state government to ensure that meningococcal B is added to the school vaccination program. We know that we can vaccinate against it. If Bella was vaccinated against it, we would be in a different situation right now.

Meningococcal B is the most prevalent strain. It accounts for 65 per cent of all meningococcal cases and the mortality rate is shocking. One in 10 people die from it. If you are lucky enough not to die, one in four are permanently disabled. It is a preventable disease, but to privately pay for the vaccine can cost upwards of \$400. In a cost-of-living crisis, parents cannot afford it and they simply should not have to. The state government has known about this. In 2020 Deb Frecklington when leader of the LNP committed to including meningococcal B as part of the vaccination program, and yet here we are today after another young life has been tragically lost to this preventable disease. This place must draw on the courage of the Fidlers. We cannot let their courage go to waste. We have to make sure we act. This state government needs to make sure that it listens to Bella's story and that it includes meningococcal B in the school vaccination program. We cannot wait for the federal government. We must have action now. No more young lives can be lost.

Timber Industry Ministerial Roundtable

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (2.57 pm): Recently I had the privilege of chairing the Timber Industry Ministerial Roundtable at DAF's Salisbury research facility, Australia's premier forest product research facility. Joined by industry leaders from some of Queensland's key businesses and industry representatives, the round table got to work providing updates on the sector. This round table is also a great opportunity for me to hear from colleagues about the challenges on the ground as well as productive and innovative ways forward for the industry from the industry. All stakeholders contributed to the meeting in a meaningful way, discussing how the timber industry can contribute to other Labor government commitments such as housing supply and Queensland's effort to be carbon positive.

The timber industry is predominantly a male-dominated industry. However, it is pleasing to note that the round table was made up of around 30 per cent women. It is also welcome to have key positions in industry occupied by women. As the member for Maryborough is aware, a former member for Maryborough and the founder of Hyne Timber, Richard Matthews Hyne, was well ahead of the game, once stating—

Women are subject to the laws yet have no say in making them. They may own property and run business, so why should they not be enfranchised to vote? The notions that giving the vote to women would make them less womanly, or that their delicate constitutions would be challenged by the robust nature of political life, are plainly ridiculous.

I could not agree more.

We all know that trees are a great way to capture carbon and so last month in Rockhampton I was pleased to launch the Queensland Low Emissions Agriculture Roadmap. This road map was produced with the support of the Queensland Farmers' Federation and AgForce. The road map is as a result of engagement with industry, with key themes and actions identified in a commissioned CSIRO report. The Palaszczuk government has joined with industry partners to create the best conditions for a sustainable future across five focused pathways: livestock emissions; cropping and horticultural emissions; on-farm energy opportunities; carbon farming and landscape management; regions and supply chains. Industry and primary producers are at the forefront in trying to reduce their emissions. By industry and government working together we will all make a difference to the environment while ensuring we maintain a profitable and productive agricultural sector.

I was also fortunate today to meet the new CEO of HQ Plantations Jason Wilson. Jason, a former deputy director-general at the Ministry for Primary Industries New Zealand, will bring a wealth of experience to the company. While in New Zealand he led the partnership between government, industry and workforce and Maori to strengthen New Zealand's forestry and wood processing supply chain. I wish Jason well and look forward to working with him to see this important industry of forestry grow well into the future with the hard work and commitment of the Palaszczuk government.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

Resumed from 30 March (see p. 868), on motion of Ms Richards—

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.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note



Mr KING (Kurwongbah—ALP) (3.02 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Transport and Resources Committee Report No. 24, 57th Parliament, *Public Works inquiry into the Sumners Road Interchange Upgrade project*, tabled on 26 October 2022.


Our committee resolved to look into this upgrade project in November 2021, as well as the Peninsula Development Road in Far North Queensland, as part of the scrutiny role our committee has under the transport portfolio that we cover. This project was championed from day one by the hardworking local member for Mount Ommaney, Jess Pugh. We would not have it without her. In a previous life I used to cross that old bridge, travelling from the depot I worked at at Richlands to Powerlink's West Darra substation. That was quite a while ago and I have to say that the bridge needed an upgrade back then due to traffic holdups so thank you to the member for Mount Ommaney for giving us the subject of this inquiry. We appreciate it.

Our terms of reference were, as typical with public works inquiries: the stated purpose of the works and the apparent suitability of the works for the purpose; the necessity for, and the advisability of, the works; value for money achieved, or likely to be achieved, by the works; revenue produced by, and recurrent costs of, the works or estimates of revenue and costs for the works; the present and prospective public value of the works; procurement method for the works; the balance of public and private sector involvement in the works; the performance of the constructing authority for the works and the consultants and contractors for the works; and the actual suitability of the works in meeting the needs and in achieving the stated purpose of the works.

I am glad to say that after our inquiry our committee concluded that the work was suitable for its purpose; the work was necessary and advisable; the work was reasonable value for money; the costs and recurrent costs of the work are reasonable; the work has had a positive impact on the community, the environment and the economy; the procurement method for the work was suitable; the balance of private and public sector involvement in the work was satisfactory; and the work was completed according to specifications and delivered ahead of time and within budget while meeting contractual obligations. There was no statement of reservation from the non-government members so I can safely say we all agree that this was a well-run, great job by the department. We had a public briefing from the director-general of DTMR and our public hearing also attracted the bicycle users group that collaborated heavily on the design of the upgrade, and I would like to thank them both for assisting with our inquiry.

The project costs initially started at \$65 million but due to design changes went up by \$15 million to \$89 million. That is not bad though because the design changes were to increase the projected life of the project. However, savings during construction resulted in the project being delivered under this budget and back at the original \$65 million with all the upgrade designs built in. It was a great job by the department. The upgrade was delivered six months ahead of schedule. It was a win-win for all involved, especially the enthusiastic member for Mount Ommaney. Going by her enthusiasm for the completed project, the community loves it as well. I have some highway interchange projects in my area. The member for Bancroft and I have worked hard to get them so we can both relate to the member's elation.

I would like to thank the current and former members of the Transport and Resources Committee for their work on this report. We have had some changes in our membership over the time since this inquiry started. I was the only member available to visit the project site on the day so I encourage my colleagues to have a look at the interchange if they are out that way, in particular the bicycle tunnel which is amazing. The way that has been done is quite special. I would also like to thank our hardworking secretariat staff. We have had some changes there as well. We appreciate that they have picked up the ball and run with this. There has been a lot of hard work and it is noticed. I would finally like to thank all the department officials for their assistance during the committee's site visit. I commend this report to the House.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (3.06 pm): I endorse the comments made by the member for Kurwongbah and thank the committee for its work looking into this very important project which has quite an infamous history. This was on the hit list of cuts by the previous Newman government. We saw the savage cuts in 2012-13 when a lot of necessary transport infrastructure for a growing population was cut by the previous Newman-Crisafulli government. This is one of the most infamous that was cut. It was this government that promised to bring back the Sumners Road Interchange project to ensure that the growing suburbs out that way could get greater capacity across the Centenary Highway. It is a notorious local choke point. It should have been proceeded with years ago. It was first proposed and funded by the Bligh government and then defunded by the Newman government as part of a suite of cuts right across the state where we saw everything come to a standstill. We saw economic growth drop to as low as 0.7 per cent—a zero in front of it—under the Newman-Crisafulli government.

Mr NICHOLLS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I understand there has been a ruling by the Speaker in relation to the reference being made to former governments and the name that is being used and there has been a specific ruling against doing so.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): I will seek some advice. I will ask you to continue. We will have to review the tape to see whether or not there was any reference made to the former government.

Mr BAILEY: I am happy to refer to the previous government as the Newman government. That is fine. The member for Clayfield is very sensitive. He was the Treasurer under the Newman government responsible for the cuts and does not want me talking about the previous government. It is almost like he is ashamed of their record.

Mr NICHOLLS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and ask the member to withdraw.

Mr BAILEY: I withdraw. Very sensitive, the member for Clayfield. Strong Choices.

Mr NICHOLLS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I can do this all day. I am sure you know what the objection is. I take personal offence and I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr BAILEY: I withdraw. There are two words you can never say in this place when it comes to those opposite and those two words are 'strong choices'. They never like it. They never want to go back there. It was the thing that did them in. We have here a worthy project that was done properly. We improved the design to ensure that there was great separation of the active transport from the motorway so that everybody benefited. When we do transport infrastructure we need to do it properly, we need to do it multimodal. We need to be thinking in the 21st century.

I thank the committee and the member for Kurwongbah for their interest in this matter. I thank, in particular, the member for Mount Ommaney who has been a fierce advocate for Sumners Road as well as the Centenary Bridge duplication where we saw heavy works start this morning. Milton Dick, the federal member for Oxley and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, was there as well. The Sumners Road Interchange is a very important project. It was funded by this government because we believe in infrastructure for a booming population. We do not believe in cuts. We do not believe in slashing. We do not believe in pruning, as the member for Chatsworth said. Let us be very clear about the difference between pruning and cutting. Pruning is when you have a pair secateurs and a checked apron and you take off little bits of branch. When landscaping, you change something into certain shapes. You make it very neat.

Mr NICHOLLS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Gardening has no relevance whatsoever to a committee report into Sumners Road. I ask that the minister be brought back, under relevance, to the committee report, which is the report into Sumners Road, and nothing else.

Mr BAILEY: Madam Deputy Speaker, to the point of order: this project was cut and I am speaking specifically about what a cut is. I am explaining that for the benefit of members. The difference is this project was cut—

Mr NICHOLLS: Madam Deputy Speaker, the point of order should not be in relation to argument, which is what the minister has just done, with references. My point of order went directly to relevance. I ask you to rule on it.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will seek some advice from the Clerk. Member, I ask you to stick to the debate on the committee's report.

Mr BAILEY: Certainly, Madam Deputy Speaker. This project was cut; it was not pruned. A pruning is taking a small amount off something, whether it is a project or a plant in the garden. Pruning means taking a small amount. When you cut something, you cut something totally. This project was cut by the previous government. That is a matter of fact and record. It was not pruned. What the member for Chatsworth means is that they actually cut it off at the trunk; at the base. They do not prune it. There is a big difference in that.

We will continue to point out the incompetence of those opposite who cut this project. They had the largest majority in political history in this country and messed it up in one term. The member for Clayfield was the treasurer. How embarrassing! How humiliating would that be? The cutting of this project is a symbol of the incompetence of the previous government.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Clayfield, you will be warned. I have given you multiple warnings.

Mr BAILEY: This is a very important project. The constant interjections from the member for Clayfield are to try to cover up his incompetent record in cutting this project and I could not have planned it better.

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

Mr BAILEY: Another frivolous point of order from a very sensitive member.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

Mr NICHOLLS: I ask that the member withdraw. I take personal offence.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, do you withdraw?

Mr BAILEY: I withdraw. The record of the Newman government, of which the member for Clayfield was treasurer, is a matter of public record.

Mr NICHOLLS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Again I take personal offence and I ask the member to withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, do you withdraw?

Mr BAILEY: I withdraw with joy.



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (3.13 pm): On 29 November 2021 the Transport and Resources Committee resolved to conduct a public works inquiry into the Sumners Road Interchange Upgrade project, with terms of reference set out in accordance with section 94 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001. As outlined by the committee, the project involved the construction of a new two-lane eastbound bridge, a new four-lane westbound bridge with provisions for pedestrians and active transport users to replace the existing westbound bridge, a separated cycle track as an underpass below the western intersection and new signalised intersections to replace two existing roundabouts.

While on the subject of active transport and cycle infrastructure, I take this opportunity to acknowledge the Brisbane West Bicycle User Group and its advocacy not only in relation to this project but also for other vital cyclist safety infrastructure requirements across the western suburbs of Brisbane, including the electorate of Moggill. I also thank and commend the Brisbane West Bicycle User Group for its dedicated and comprehensive submission to the Transport and Resources Committee for the committee's consideration and full deliberation throughout this inquiry.

In returning to this report, I note that the stated purpose of the work undertaken through this upgrade project included the objectives of reducing congestion at the Sumners Road Interchange and the adjacent Centenary Motorway, enhancing connections to cross network links, improving road-user safety on the interchange as well as the adjacent Centenary Motorway and, finally, improving accessibility to nearby public transport infrastructure and stations. These are very important objectives. The objectives of reducing congestion on main and connecting arterials, improving road safety, enhancing coordinating network and transport links and improving access to public transport infrastructure could equally be applied to the many various and important transport, cycle, pedestrian and active transport needs of local residents in the electorate of Moggill.

The report tabled by the Transport and Resources Committee outlines in clear terms the need for improved transport infrastructure for the western suburbs of Brisbane, particularly given the significant utilisation and patronage of the Centenary Motorway each and every day. The Centenary Motorway and Western Freeway form a significant transport corridor with direct connections into the electorate of Moggill and with significant use by local residents.

I note that the committee report specifically referenced a joint media statement issued in July 2018 by the Premier and the Minister for Transport and Main Roads titled, 'Palaszcuk Government fast-tracks design for a second Centenary Bridge'. The media release states—

Minister for Transport and Main Roads Mark Bailey said ... the time was right to put the pedal to the metal on the proposed duplication of the Centenary Bridge which carried more than 92,000 cars a day.

That was five years ago. Today the Palaszcuk state Labor government is proudly celebrating its broken promise to local residents, with shovels finally hitting the ground on the Centenary Bridge duplication. Whilst it is important that the project has commenced, it is still two years later than what western suburbs residents were promised. Five years later means a two-year delay and there has been a \$50 million budget blowout. If that is the Labor government's idea of putting the pedal to the metal then that is extraordinary.

The western suburbs of Brisbane need a full integrated transport plan with funded solutions to bust traffic congestion, enhance public and active transport, and improve pedestrian and cyclist safety. Still there is no transparency on how this government will improve safety on Moggill Road, particularly the section between the Kenmore roundabout and Kilkivan Avenue. There are serious safety concerns for students in relation to that section of road. Many issues are still to be resolved, particularly across the western suburbs of Brisbane, let alone what is happening in relation to the Mount Crosby Road and Warrego Highway interchange project.

Whilst the committee found that the Sumners Road Interchange Upgrade project is suitable for its purpose, the work is necessary and advisable, and it is reasonable value for money, certainly far more work needs to be progressed by the state Labor government when it comes to planning and delivering transport and main roads projects for the western suburbs of Brisbane, not only to reduce traffic congestion but also to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety and enhance public transport availability and connectivity. I take this opportunity to say to the Labor Minister for Transport and Main Roads: please look at the entire western suburbs corridor, not only what exists on the Centenary Motorway and Western Freeway but also certainly what is needed in the electorate of Moggill, particularly in relation to traffic congestion on Moggill Road as well as additional solutions for pedestrian and cyclist safety and additional public transport, which is needed and will also reduce traffic congestion.



Mr WALKER (Mundingburra—ALP) (3.18 pm): I rise to speak to the Transport and Resources Committee report No. 24 of the 57th Parliament. Firstly, I thank our chair, the member for Kurwongbah, Shane King; fellow committee members; and the committee staff for this report. Three submissions were received, which helped to inform the report. The submission of most interest to me was from the Brisbane West Bicycle User Group. The first five paragraphs of their summary state—

West BUG had taken interest in the Sumners Road Interchange Project since our inception in 2015. The plans proposed in 2011 were in our view inadequate for cycling, with the Centenary Cycleway required to cross at least a three-phase crossing of Sumners Road to proceed. The previous alignment was also poor with a 500m detour to the Dandenong Road intersection.

We advocated to the Department of Transport and Main Roads via consecutive Members of Parliament for Mount Ommaney to adjust the design to ensure an uninterrupted path for the cycleway. We were pleased to see this was included in the final design, with a tunnel providing direct and grade separated cycling travel underneath Sumners Road.

While we acknowledge that incorporating this solution into the project would have added to the project cost, we note that the previous detour and unsafe crossing of Sumners Road acted as a deterrent to people choosing cycling for transport. The new cycleway tunnel and additional improved connections encourage more people to choose to cycle or walk instead of drive, reducing demand on the road network and increasing return on investment for the project.

Department of Transport and Main Roads notes that cycling infrastructure returns almost \$5 in benefits to the Queensland economy for every \$1 invested.

There are additional benefits to motorists from this solution or the cycleway, having eliminated all potential conflicts between drivers and cyclists at intersections on the main Centenary Cycleway, and ensuring fewer light phases and crossings which would delay both cyclists and motorists.

On 29 November 2021 the committee resolved to conduct a public works inquiry into the Sumners Road Interchange Upgrade project, located in the Brisbane suburb of Sumner. The terms of reference for the inquiry, as set out in section 94 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001, were to examine the Sumners Road Interchange Upgrade project and report to the parliament on—

- a. the stated purpose of the works and the apparent suitability of the works for the purpose; and
- b. the necessity for, and the advisability of, the works; and
- c. value for money achieved, or likely to be achieved, by the works; and
- d. revenue produced by, and recurrent costs of, the works or estimates of revenue and costs for the works; and
- e. the present and prospective public value of the works, including, for example, consideration of the impact of the works on the community, economy and environment; and
- f. procurement methods for the works; and
- g. the balance of public and private sector involvement in the works; and
- h. the performance of—
 - (i) the constructing authority for the works; and
 - (ii) the consultants and contractors for the works;
 with particular regard to the time taken for finishing the works and the cost and quality of the works; and
- i. the actual suitability of the works in meeting the needs and in achieving the stated purpose of the works.

The committee has concluded: the work is suitable for its purpose; the work was necessary and advisable; the work was reasonable value for money; the costs and recurrent costs of the work are reasonable; the work has had a positive impact on the community, the economy and the environment; the procurement method for the work was suitable; the balance of public and private sector involvement in the work was satisfactory; and the work was completed according to specifications and delivered ahead of time and within budget, while meeting contractual obligations. In recommendation 1 the committee recommended that the Legislative Assembly note the contents of the report.



Mr BOOTHMAN (Theodore—LNP) (3.23 pm): I too rise to make a contribution to the report titled *Public works inquiry into the Sumners Road Interchange Upgrade project*. As I will be experiencing some major roadworks in my region in the very near future, this report was of great interest to me. I thank the committee, its chair and deputy chair for all of their hard work on the inquiry into this project and the report.

On 29 November 2021 the committee resolved to conduct a public works inquiry into the Sumners Road Interchange Upgrade project. I was interested to note the numerous references in the committee's report to sound barriers. It is an issue I am very passionate about for not only my region but also other areas. Traffic noise has health repercussions for local residents. Governments must do everything they can to mitigate the negative effects of sound from roadways.

A World Health Organization report outlines the serious health repercussions for local residents of sound leaving roadways. It can cause sleep deprivation, affect human health, be an annoyance and cause learning impairments, especially for students at schools located close to these areas. When it

comes to sound barriers, there is world's best practice in terms of placing caps on top of sound barriers. Scientific research proves that caps on sound barriers make a meaningful difference. There can be a difference of up to 14 decibels between a properly designed, capped sound barrier and a conventional sound barrier. It is something that the department needs to take into consideration when it comes to all future road projects. We need to get on board with best practice. The report titled *Traffic noise mitigation using single and double barrier caps of different shapes for an extended frequency range* outlines best practice. I table the report.

Tabled paper: Article from *Applied Sciences*, dated 19 August 2020, titled 'Traffic noise mitigation using single and double barrier caps of different shapes for an extended frequency range' [\[525\]](#).

This report is very detailed in terms of what can be done on our road systems to alleviate noise coming from roadways. Down my way, the Coomera Connector is being built. Not only would I love to see these types of sound barriers installed at the Coomera Connector; I would also like to see existing sound barriers updated and fixed. The further alleviation of noise from roadways could be considered in other areas. I say to the minister that this report is very good. The departmental officers I met with recently were certainly aware of it. Noise is an issue we need to seriously consider going forward in terms of other roadways. The Coomera Connector could be a great example of world's best practice in terms of alleviating the impact of road noise to make the lives of nearby residents much more bearable. We need to move into the 21st century and think outside the box. If there is something that is working in other countries, the Department of Transport and Main Roads needs to seriously consider it for future road projects to make sure roads have the lowest possible impact on local residents.



Mr MARTIN (Stretton—ALP) (3.28 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker—

Ms Pugh: Happy birthday!

Mr MARTIN: I take that interjection! I rise to speak to the Transport and Resources Committee's report No. 24 of the 57th Parliament titled *Public works inquiry into the Sumners Road Interchange Upgrade project*. I acknowledge the work of the committee members on this important report. I thank individuals and organisations who made written submissions to the inquiry and appeared at public hearings. I also acknowledge the advocacy and efforts of the member for Mount Ommaney, someone I knew before she was the member for Mount Ommaney and who, even then, was advocating for this important upgrade.

The committee came to several positive conclusions about the project including that: the work was suitable for its purpose; the work was necessary and advisable; the work was reasonable value for money; the costs and recurrent costs of the work are reasonable; the work has had a positive impact on the community, the economy and the environment; the procurement method for the work was suitable; the balance of public and private sector involvement was satisfactory; and the work was completed according to specifications, and delivered ahead of time and within budget, while meeting contractual obligations.

It was certainly a good job done by TMR. This is another Palaszczuk government project delivered on time and under budget.

Ms Pugh: Early.

Mr MARTIN: Early and under budget. I will take that interjection. The committee resolved to conduct the public works inquiry into the Sumners Road Interchange Upgrade project in November 2021. It received a number of written submissions from stakeholders and subscribers, including TMR. The committee undertook a site inspection of the project, accompanied by TMR officers, on 18 March 2022. A public briefing was given by the director-general of the department.

Sumners Road was identified as an interchange that needed to be upgraded. Every day approximately 85,000 vehicles use the Centenary Motorway, with 35,000 of them using Sumners Road and Monier Road. These high traffic volumes meant that the interchange was operating beyond capacity, which resulted in queuing and delays on the adjoining exit and entry ramps.

By way of history, following three years of community engagement a concept plan was developed in 2012. However, the funding was deferred—cut—following a change in government. In case anyone was wondering, that was the Newman government. It was a victim of the strong choices of the Newman government. However, in 2017 the Palaszczuk government committed \$65 million to funding the Sumners Road Interchange Upgrade. In September 2018, the design was released with an enhancement to deliver greater time savings, better transport facilities and better outcomes for the community. I am happy to report that significant savings during construction in respect of design


management, insurances and contingencies resulted in the project being delivered well under budget. The project was completed and opened six months ahead of schedule, which certainly was a fantastic effort by all the workers involved—those from the department, planners and others.

The project included a new two-lane eastbound bridge, a new four-lane westbound bridge with provisions for pedestrians and active transport users, a separate cycle track as an underpass below the western intersection and a new signalised intersection to replace the existing roundabouts. The project upgrades have improved capacity, road user safety, connectivity and active transport accessibility for cyclists and pedestrians. Congestion at the intersection that previously presented serious safety issues has been vastly improved. The congestion also inhibited access to the Darra Railway Station, which affected freight reliability and passenger transit times. This has been improved as well.

Construction of the project began in July 2019 and the project was completed ahead of schedule in March 2021. The new four-lane bridge was subsequently named the Len Waters Overpass in honour of the first known Indigenous person to serve as a RAAF fighter pilot during World War II. Mr Waters passed away in 1993 and his family are residents in the local area.

The project is a great example of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to creating jobs, supporting our growing population and improving services in Queensland. We have seen seven record road and transport budgets in a row that have helped to build an impressive pipeline of projects. The most recent package is the \$29 billion four-year plan that will support over 25,000 jobs.

We are delivering the critical infrastructure to keep Queensland moving and ensure future growth and prosperity. I am particularly looking forward to seeing the completion of the \$30 million Illaweenaa Street upgrade in my local area.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (3.33 pm): I rise to make a small contribution on the Transport and Resources Committee's report No. 24 of the 57th Parliament titled *Public works inquiry into the Sumners Road Interchange Upgrade project*. We found that it is a very well built road. It has been done well. It services the people in the western part of Brisbane. It is important to get people from the western part of Brisbane into the city.

I would like a fraction of the money spent on Sumners Road to be spent on the Peak Downs Highway. What about the Dawson Highway? I am glad the minister is in the chamber. We are talking about Sumners Road and the importance of Sumners Road, but I invite the minister to meet me in Emerald. I will pick him up from the airport and we can drive the Capricorn Highway from Emerald to Alpha. Let us see how he goes there. I would advise you—because I know you like to ride bikes—to bring your bicycle helmet to sit in the car because you will be hitting your head on the roof quite a few times.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Member for Gregory, please direct all comments through the chair.

Mr MILLAR: The minister will need a bicycle helmet. You should talk to the member for Burdekin about the Peak Downs Highway between Clermont and Moranbah—one of the most economically beneficial regions in Queensland in terms of the mining industry and transport industry. If just a little of the Sumners Road project funding went into the Peak Downs Highway it would make it safer for families and people working in the mines to get home, whether that be to Moranbah or Clermont. Let us talk about the Dawson Highway stretch between Moura and Rolleston.

Mr BAILEY: I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker, on relevance. The member is clearly not referring to the committee report but taking this opportunity to talk about a few of his pet subjects. He is not mentioning all the sealing that we are doing in his electorate. I urge him to come back to the committee report.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Gregory, while I will give you some latitude to talk about other road projects, I encourage you to still be relevant to the report.

Mr MILLAR: Absolutely. The Sumners Road project was an example of people being very happy at the end of the project. It provides an opportunity for people to get to work and get home. I am comparing and contrasting that to what we have in the seat of Gregory. People want to get home on safe roads, whether it is the Peak Downs Highway, the Dawson Highway or many other roads in regional Queensland.

We had witnesses come forward who were very happy with the Sumners Road project. I thank the chair for his guidance with the Sumners Road inquiry. I thank the member for Mount Ommaney for bringing it forward. It showed what does work. When you put funding and the right people together you can get a great outcome.

I am comparing and contrasting that to regional Queensland. Where do we get that great outcome? We have people who need to get to the mines and need to get to work and the roads are getting to the point where they are unsafe. The No. 1 thing that people ring my office about—whether it is the office in Emerald or Longreach—is road conditions. Road conditions are certainly top of mind for people when it comes to getting home safely and living in regional communities.

The Sumners Road project was finished on time and under budget; thank you. How about we try to finish some things in Central Queensland—the Dawson Highway or the Peak Downs Highway to Moranbah or Moranbah to Nebo.

Mr BAILEY: I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker, again on relevance. He is veering well off the committee report.


Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, can I please encourage you to stick to the committee report.

Mr MILLAR: The minister is very proud of the Sumners Road project. I know the member for Mount Ommaney is very proud of it. It is a project that has worked and has benefits for people in western Brisbane. What about people in Western Queensland? That is what I am trying to get to. If the minister could direct a little of the money from the Sumners Road project to the Dawson Highway, the Peak Downs Highway, the Capricorn Highway to allow people to have safe roads to travel on, we would love that. Minister, you have a budget coming up soon and I am expecting to see some line items.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, please direct all comments through the chair.

Mr MILLAR: Absolutely. When the budget comes down in coming weeks I expect that it will have some line items that reflect the importance of regional Queensland. Sumners Road is important and I am glad that we did the investigation of that project. It showed what can happen when people come together and get a project going. It was delivered under budget and on time.

How about we do that for Western Queensland. How about we do that for the Capricorn Highway. How about we do that for people using the Peak Downs Highway. The mining industry and agricultural industry put a lot of money into the state government, whether it is through trade or royalties. How about we spend some of those royalties back where they belong—in Western Queensland.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (3.38 pm): Is it Christmas? I have five minutes to talk about the Sumners Road overpass! Just this morning I got to turn the sod on the Centenary Bridge upgrade on the Centenary Motorway at Jindalee. To say I am excited would be the understatement of the millennium! I am sure the House is by now aware that the Sumners Road overpass is a fantastic project in my electorate—35,000 vehicles a day use that road. Many of those are heavy vehicles. This fantastic overpass over the Centenary Motorway services two business parks, as well as the communities of Darra and all of the Centenary suburbs.

This fantastic piece of infrastructure was a six-lane project built by the Queensland company BMD. They did, as we have heard from previous speakers, an absolutely outstanding job. I am absolutely thrilled that BMD will be working with the Georgiou Group on the Centenary Bridge upgrade as well. What fantastic news for my community. I thank the minister for joining with me this morning in turning the sod, alongside my federal friend the member for Oxley, Milton Dick.

The member for Callide asked earlier—maybe he was not listening—was the Sumners Road overpass project on time and on budget? I am thrilled to inform the House that in fact it was \$15 million under budget—that is a 25 per cent saving—and it was completed six months early thanks to the fantastic management of the BMD group and all the fantastic work that was done by Transport and Main Roads.

This project was strongly advocated for by so many locals in my community, including but not limited to every single person who lives in the Centenary suburbs and Darra of course. Seriously, we did have some fantastic community groups including the Jamboree Residents Association and the western suburbs bicycle users group. Their feedback was incredibly helpful. They also made a submission to the committee which was really valuable.

Members of the House have already mentioned—and I am very proud to have advocated for this—that this bridge is named after Len Waters, the first known Indigenous fighter pilot in World War II. His family lives in nearby Middle Park. It is especially poignant to have this bridge named after Len

and opened when it was. It has only been a few short years since then but his wife, Gladys, who was so proud to be at the opening has since passed away. She was so proud on that day to cut the ribbon with the Premier. The look of joy and pride on her face is something I will never forget, alongside almost every member of Len's family and a lot of his friends as well.

This bridge opened up reliable travel time for members of the Centenary community which comprises a vast number of suburbs including Westlake, Riverhills, Sumner and so many more. Locals can now get across to the Darra train station where the travel time into the city on an express service is under half an hour. Previously Centenary residents were locked in a choke point to try to get to the Darra train station. They could not get there. They did not have reliable travel to the Darra train station so they could use that public transport.

This bridge has been a game changer for people in my community wanting to use public transport, wanting to get on that Darra train. It is about 22 minutes to the city on an express service. Of course they can now park their car at the newly opened Darra park-and-ride, where 440 car parks are now open. Centenary residents can use our new bridge, park in our new park-and-ride and soon they will be able to get on our new Cross River Rail and get into the city faster than ever.

To wrap up, this amazing project has been a game changer for my electorate. It finished six months early and 25 per cent under budget—\$15 million of extra value. To borrow a phrase from the Minister for Main Roads, 'It's awesome!' I commend the bridge to the House.



Mr NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (3.43 pm): I was not going to speak on this committee report, but commentary by the Minister for Main Roads and some other misrepresentation of the history of this matter compel me to say a few short words. Firstly, I have to disagree with the member for Gregory. Member for Gregory, the people of Mount Ommaney and places west do not need to thank the current member for Mount Ommaney. They need to thank 'Tanya' Smith, who was the member for Mount Ommaney, who was out there—

Ms PUGH: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Not only is that the use of incorrect titles, but her name is Tarnya, not Tanya.

Mr Bailey: Tarnya—you don't even know her name, you idiot!

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Order, members!

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

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order, member for Clayfield?

Mr NICHOLLS: Obviously it was the unparliamentary language that the minister used which I found offensive. I ask him to withdraw because he is a serial offender.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, the member for Clayfield has taken offence to your comment. Do you withdraw?

Mr BAILEY: I withdraw. I take personal offence to the comment made by the member for Clayfield and I ask that he withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Clayfield, you have the call.

Mr NICHOLLS: The former member for Mount Ommaney, Tarnya Smith, has done all the hard yards in terms of raising this issue. Let me correct some of the record made by the member for Millar. Firstly, he said that this was a project of the Bligh government. Let me tell you what the Bligh government left behind in 2012 when the Newman government was elected in terms of planning for the Sumners Road overpass. What they left behind is slightly better than everything else they left behind: they left nothing, not a plan.

We went to the cupboard and opened the cupboard and asked the department of transport, 'Where's the plan for this so-called Sumners Road overpass that you think you've funded?' They said, 'Sorry, Minister. Sorry, government. There is no plan.' There was no plan and the minister knows there was no plan, like there was no plan to upgrade the Bruce Highway, like there was no plan to fix the \$200 million-plus maintenance backlog in the schools, like there was no plan to fund the police radio system that saw police—

Mr BAILEY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Clayfield clearly is not speaking to the report. He is getting way off track. I ask him to come back to the report that we are actually debating here.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will get some advice. Member, while I will give you some latitude, I encourage you to come back to the report.

Mr NICHOLLS: Of course, Madam Deputy Speaker. I was in fact referring to the report itself, talking about a concept plan for the upgrade being developed in 2012. The reason why a concept plan had to be developed in 2012 was because there was no plan. The only reason you deliver a draft plan is because there is not one previously. Like everything else that the Bligh government touched, it had all been in their imagination. It was an announcement made for the sake of an announcement in the lead-up to an election with no money behind it. Have we heard that playbook roll out since 2012! Let me say this: there was no plan by this government to fund the Sumners Road overpass until the election commitment was made to match the LNP commitment in 2017 to fund the Sumners Road overpass. That is where it came from and the report itself—

Mr BAILEY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is clearly misleading the chamber. I ask that he correct what he said and apologise. That is clearly misleading.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, there is a process for misleading the House. I encourage you to write to the Speaker.

Mr NICHOLLS: The report itself states on page 18—

No funding was allocated in QTRIP 2012-13 to 2015-16.


That is correct because there was no plan. It continues—

Funding was allocated in QTRIP in 2018-19 ...

That is four years after the Palaszczuk Labor government was elected. It was not one of their first top-of-the-pops priorities in 2015-16. It was not there in 2016-17. It was not there in 2017-18. It was not there until 2018-19—almost three years later and after an election commitment.

Any story that this was a cunning plan or even a thought through plan by the Palaszczuk Labor government is quite blatantly false because there was no funding and it was not even mentioned. Those of us who can remember back to the Palaszczuk government's budget blueprint that was in fact tabled in this place—their secret business plan in 2015-16—will recall there was no mention of the Sumners Road overpass and the report itself shows there was no funding for it. For 4½ years the Sumners Road bypass languished on the backbench. It was of no concern to the minister, it was of no concern to the Premier, it was of no concern to the Labor government until they had to match the election commitment that Tarnya Smith fought so hard for.

The minister was part of the council administration that gave us the Coronation Drive tidal flow system. That was so unsuccessful and such a catastrophe that it had to be ripped out at a cost of millions and millions of dollars. To have the minister lecture this side of the House about planning for projects, for a project that was never planned and never delivered and in fact took another four years for them to get interested in after they were elected, speaks volumes in relation to this government's capacity to plan for the future. As always with this government, it is important to set the record straight.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (3.50 pm): In the famous words of the member for Clayfield, I was not going to speak on this but I had to stand to correct—

Mr NICHOLLS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. If he is going to plagiarise me, at least he should have the courtesy to—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): There is no point of order.

Mr POWER: After that extraordinarily misleading statement from the member for Clayfield I felt duty-bound to stand up.

Mr NICHOLLS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the comments made by the member for Logan and I ask that he withdraw.

Mr POWER: I withdraw. What we did learn from that speech was extraordinary. We do know that the member for Clayfield was the treasurer who made enormous cuts to the roads budget. I know personally about the Mount Lindesay Highway. He slashed, he cut, he pruned. He slashed, he cut—

Mr NICHOLLS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and I ask that he withdraw.

Mr POWER: I withdraw. We have also learned from the member for Clayfield's speech that there was nothing in QTRIP for the four years after the LNP was in power. They had no plans to build the Sumners Road overpass—nothing at all.

One thing I will tell you is that the now member for Mount Ommaney—between being a candidate before and being a candidate again—was persistent in advocating and fighting for it. Every time I met her she would say, 'Linus, do you know about the Sumners Road overpass?' I am sure the minister for main roads was saying, 'Please, can you stop about the Sumners Road overpass?'

She was advocating again and again, despite the fact we knew the LNP had no plans to do it. How do we know this? Because on the very day we announced when the Premier went out there—I believe it was a sitting day—Tarnya was in such a state that she had to quickly race around to make a matching announcement.

They were following along with the hard work of the current member for Mount Ommaney. How do we know this? The member for Clayfield's speech was amazing because it revealed that the member for Clayfield did not even know the name of the former member for Mount Ommaney, whereas the current mains road minister was going, 'Jess, please leave me alone. Stop hassling me,' because she was persistent in her advocacy. The current member for Mount Ommaney is the greatest advocate for roads and transport connections. I hope to be half as good at hassling the minister for main roads about the Mount Lindesay Highway and other roads in Logan. I have to set the record straight because we cannot let the cuts that the member for Clayfield made to our roads budget be left unmentioned.

Mr NICHOLLS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Again I take personal offence to the comments made by the member for Logan and ask that he withdraw.

Mr POWER: I withdraw.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note



Ms McMILLAN (Mansfield—ALP) (3.54 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Community Support and Services Committee Report No. 23, 57th Parliament, *Towards a healthier, safer, more just and compassionate Queensland: decriminalising the offences affecting those most vulnerable*, tabled on 31 October 2022.

In 2017, Ms Tanya Day, mother, grandmother and a proud Yorta Yorta Victorian woman, was arrested for being drunk in public on a train and detained in custody. She sustained a serious head injury after falling in a police cell and died 17 days later, on 22 December 2017.

On 24 June 2022, the Legislative Assembly referred to the Community Support and Services Committee an inquiry into decriminalising public intoxication, begging and public urination offences and health and social welfare-based responses. This report presents a summary of the committee's inquiry into the decriminalisation of public intoxication, begging and public urination in the Summary Offences Act 2005 and available health and social welfare responses required to support decriminalising these offences in Queensland's communities.

During the inquiry the committee met with police, people supporting persons experiencing homelessness, people assisting in safe night precincts and urban entertainment districts, people working in diversionary centres and detoxification centre, as well as advocates for First Nations people, local council representatives and community members. The committee witnessed the great work of many people in programs and services throughout Queensland that make a real difference in people's lives, often working throughout the night and in challenging conditions.

The issues that create problematic public intoxication, begging and urination are complex and multifaceted. It is clear that our health and welfare response needs to strike a balance between community safety and people's enjoyment of public spaces and the need to ensure that vulnerable people who are not acting aggressively or in a threatening manner are not charged with minor offences committed because they suffer from chronic ill health, poverty or homelessness. They have no realistic prospect of paying these fines, nor should they be put at risk by being incarcerated.

Research shows a strong correlation between intoxication and a higher risk that a person will die in custody. In the 30 years since the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody made its recommendations addressing the over-representation of First Nations people in custody and dying in custody, statistics still show an over-representation of First Nations peoples among those charged with these offences in Queensland. These statistics are deeply concerning.

The committee's report takes into account the path taken in other Australian jurisdictions to decriminalise these offences, including the model proposed in the more recent report to the Victoria Attorney-General *Seeing the clear light of day: expert reference group on decriminalising public*

drunkenness. The Victorian report recognised that places of safety are essential to ensuring the health and welfare of intoxicated people, and a range of services must be supported to meet the decriminalisation reforms.

As well as saving lives, there are great benefits to society by diverting people from the criminal justice system onto a pathway to wellbeing with greater use of diversionary approaches. A response to the problems that the committee identified requires wraparound services with police, health and welfare services all having a role to play, one that is both community led and trauma informed.


The committee recommends that public intoxication, begging and public urination be decriminalised subject to appropriate community-based health and social welfare responses being in place. Should the committee's recommendations be accepted by the Palaszczuk government, Queensland will be last jurisdiction in the nation to decriminalise the offences that affect those experiencing periods of vulnerability and our most marginalised Queenslanders. As Queensland embarks on the journey to a Path to Treaty—a momentous occasion and a highly significant moment in Queensland history—we must address recommendations 79 to 91 of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody report handed down in 1991. This is an essential first step to right the wrongs of our past—an essential first step towards a fairer, more just and compassionate Queensland.

On behalf of the committee, I thank the many people who took the time to meet with the committee to share experiences honestly and frankly, setting time aside from their essential work to address this important issue. The committee also acknowledges the tireless work of the secretariat to ensure this report accurately captures the views of our vast, decentralised and diverse Queensland community. I commend this report to the House.

Debate, on motion of Ms McMillan, adjourned.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (3.59 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 136, that the Health and Environment Committee report on the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Surgeons) Amendment Bill by 2 June 2023.


POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2022

POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2023

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from p. 1144, on motion of Mr Ryan—


That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (4.00 pm), continuing: As I was saying before the lunch adjournment, the Australian Institute of Criminology tells us that recidivism amongst sex offenders is generally lower than for other types of crimes, and where an offender is not likely to reoffend, reporting orders can help ensure against recidivism without resorting to further imprisonment. However, the institute also noted that the vast majority of sexual abuse goes unreported and unknown to police, such that reporting orders can only ever have an extremely limited ability to keep children and victims safe.

If we want children to be safer, then we need to increase resources not just for police but for community services, whether that be victim-survivor services that make it easier to seek help or housing services that make it easier for family members to leave abusive households. After sentencing and imprisonment, enormous resources will be dedicated to a small minority of known perpetrators, while victim-survivors will struggle to see a trauma counsellor or a social housing worker even once. The government needs to do better on these things.

In summing up on these two bills, I note again that the government has crammed so much into this cognate debate on two bills that deal with quite disparate issues. There is no way I could reasonably address all of those issues that I want to in my 10 minutes, so I will finish by reiterating my optimism that the 2023 bill represents a really important move towards commonsense drug laws. The new diversion scheme is more in line with international law, which views drug use as a health issue and acknowledges that prohibitionist notions of a drug-free world are simply unrealistic and we have to live in the real world if we want to be sensible legislators.

This government continues to criminalise drugs and funnel money into law enforcement while prevention, treatment and harm reduction are underfunded, and that is something that fundamentally has to change. I will finish, if I might, on a serendipitous high note, if you will pardon the pun, Madam Deputy Speaker, and wish you and everyone else in the chamber a happy 420.


 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (4.02 pm): I rise to contribute to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 and the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 cognate debate. I will focus my delivery on the key aspect of the bill related to the reportable offenders period.

In 2014, under the conservative Newman government, Queensland reduced the periods for reportable offenders in the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2014 making the period in Queensland the shortest period in Australia. The monitoring of more than 1,700 offenders on the register ceased. I must say I found this incongruence in the LNP's approach to reducing time for reportable offenders and this soft-on-crime approach given their tour of terror they seem to be embarking on throughout the state.

Like most communities, my electorate is not immune to incidents of crime, but the tour of terror tells me much about the beliefs about leadership held by the LNP. When one leads with fear or leads with the intent of creating fear, known as fear-based leadership, they communicate failure, fear of change, fear of the unknown and fear of criticism. Leading with fear breeds a culture of anxiety, negativity, cynicism, distrust and intimidation in organisations and across communities. The consequences make transparency, decision-making and policy development based on evidence and honesty difficult. It stifles communication and inhibits relationships.

Permeating this culture of fear across a progressive and entrepreneurial Queensland is limiting. It restricts teamwork, is divisive, discourages people from speaking up and challenges public confidence and the reputation of our communities—a matter alluded to by the member for McConnell in her contribution. Amendments in this bill repeal those laws established by the Newman government which will change the reporting periods from eight years, 15 years and life to 10 years, 20 years and life. The amendments in this bill will readjust the reporting periods for reportable offenders, other than a reportable offender who is a post Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003 offender.

Reporting periods will be calculated in the same previous manner: a 10-year reporting period where an offender has never been given a notice of reporting obligations; 20 years if the offender is convicted of a single prescribed offence after being given a notice; and life where an offender is convicted of more than one prescribed offence after being given a notice. If an offender was a child when convicted, they will be required to report for 2½ years, four years and 7½ years in the circumstances as above. This is consistent with reporting periods for children in other jurisdictions. The changes to these reporting periods will mean Queensland will have the longest reporting periods in Australia. This is yet another example where the Palaszczuk government is responding with agility and decisiveness to improve the safety of our Queensland community. I commend these bills to the House.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (4.05 pm): I rise to address the cognate debate into the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 and the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023—legislation that proposes to amend sex offender reporting requirements and improve the capacity of police to investigate cybercrime and other offences committed by reportable offenders; legislation that seeks to enhance QPS's ability to investigate organised crime; and, of significant interest to my community, legislation that seeks to strengthen laws to deter hooning.

In the second of the bills we are debating today, we are strengthening provisions in relation to evading police and creating offences for those who assault Fire and Emergency Services officers. These are all important initiatives that will strengthen community safety, but it is the provisions that will effectively see the decriminalisation of drugs in Queensland that concern most residents in my community and concern me. We are not just talking about decriminalising cannabis, as we have heard.

This legislation will see drugs like heroin, methamphetamine and fentanyl decriminalised. If this legislation passes into law, Queensland will have among the weakest drug laws in Australia and indeed the world.

Mr Bailey: That is not accurate.

Mr MICKELBERG: It is accurate, Minister for Transport and Main Roads, and I will shortly address your comments from yesterday. You would think that such proposals would be rigorously considered and debated by the parliament, but they are not. They are not being rigorously considered and debated by the parliament. In fact, they are going to guillotine debate and members with extensive experience in relation to this matter will not have a chance to speak on these important matters. It is simply not good enough. It talks to how serious this government takes these significant laws. Government ministers say they want illegal drugs like heroin and methamphetamine decriminalised. In fact, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads was interjecting yesterday comparing those types of drugs to alcohol. Do not get me wrong—

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

Mr MICKELBERG: We are happy to review the record—

Mr BAILEY: Point of order—

Mr MICKELBERG: if the Minister for Transport and Main Roads wants to dispute—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Order!

Mr BAILEY: Sit down. There's a point of order.

Mr MICKELBERG: I won't sit down.

Mr BAILEY: Sit down. There's a point of order.

Mr MICKELBERG: If the Deputy Speaker wants me to, I will.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I will seek some advice. Minister, did you have a point of order?

Mr BAILEY: I did. I find those comments personally offensive and inaccurate and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr MICKELBERG: I withdraw, and I will be writing to the Speaker given the fact that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads says they are inaccurate. I will be asking the Speaker to review the tape because the minister very clearly said them yesterday.

Ms McMILLAN: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. On two occasions in the last 30 seconds to a minute, the member for Buderim appeared to challenge your ruling and I ask you to reflect on that.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order. Member for Buderim, you have the call.

Mr BAILEY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I took personal offence, he withdrew and then he repeated pretty much the same accusations. I have to again say that I find it personally offensive and I ask that he withdraw his most recent comment, which is the same as his previous comment.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Buderim, do you withdraw?

Mr MICKELBERG: I withdraw unreservedly. Do not get me wrong, alcohol is a damaging substance which causes considerable harm to our communities, but the health and societal impacts of methamphetamine use are without parallel and cannot be compared to the impact on an individual level of alcohol.

We heard earlier from the Minister for Health who cited evidence about the improved outcomes for cannabis users who have accessed drug diversion programs in Queensland, but we cannot compare the use of cannabis with the use of other drugs. The harm caused at an individual level by cannabis cannot be compared to the harm to the individual and the community which is the result of drugs like methamphetamine. The fact that the government want to expand the drug diversion program to give users multiple warnings for possession of hard drugs like heroin and methamphetamine is widely accepted as decriminalisation. For those opposite to suggest anything other than the fact that this is decriminalisation is ridiculous.

The government say they want drug use dealt with as a health problem, rather than a criminal one, but Queensland Health did not even make submissions to the parliamentary committee that considered this bill. If drug use is to be dealt with as a health problem, then at the very least we should

be seeing a considerable increase in the funding for drug diversion services, rehabilitation and improved pathways so that drug users can access support when they make the decision to break free from their addiction.

The Minister for Health referenced the contribution by the Queensland Mental Health Commission in relation to drug use. I have read that contribution from the Queensland Mental Health Commission Alcohol and Other Drugs Plan which, I would have to say, presents the blueprint for the government position presented in this legislation. What that report makes clear and what those opposite have not mentioned is that there is a critical need to enhance treatment and support systems for drug users in Queensland. The report explicitly states that Queensland's current alcohol and other drugs treatment system is unable to meet current demand—not proposed demand, current demand.

Proponents for drug decriminalisation frequently cite the Portuguese model to support their arguments. There is some evidence to suggest that the model employed in Portugal did improve outcomes in some areas. However, what is also clear is that a key plank of the Portuguese model was a considerable increase in investment in treatment services to ensure that drug users can access the treatment services that they need without delay. Such a circumstance is not what we have presented here before us today. Nurses on the Sunshine Coast, for example, have told me that they struggle to get support from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs staff outside of business hours, at the very time they need support for those who are addicted to illicit substances.

The other issue that needs to be considered is the fact that the Portuguese model was a response to heroin use, not methamphetamine use as the state government are proposing to effectively decriminalise here today. There are very limited pharmacological treatments for methamphetamine users compared to that available to heroin users, and when coupled with the health and societal impacts that methamphetamine users create, I would contend that this legislation goes further than the Portuguese model. We know that the use of methamphetamines like ice is a major factor in 39 per cent of cases where a child is taken into the care of Queensland Child Safety authorities.

Government members interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: I can hear those opposite laughing about this issue. To be frank, the plight of young children like Mason Jett Lee and other young children who have died at the hands of those affected by drugs is not a laughing matter. It is not a laughing matter that young children in Queensland right now are suffering at the hands of methamphetamine users.

Mr BAILEY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There was no laughter from anyone in this chamber in the last few minutes—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr BAILEY:—and that is an offensive comment that reflects on me and everyone else in this chamber, and I ask that it be withdrawn. There was no laughter.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Reference to the laughter is not a point of order.

Mr MICKELBERG: In homes where methamphetamine use has been identified by Child Safety, 55 per cent of children are subjected to neglect, 31 per cent suffer emotional harm, and 13 per cent experience physical harm. That is in Queensland. Let's be clear, such abuse is not unique to methamphetamine users who are interacting with the criminal justice system. It is a symptom of using that particular drug. The very nature of methamphetamine use frequently results in symptoms like drug induced psychosis, depression and hallucination. While users could, in theory, access treatment and rehabilitation options, the weakening of Queensland's drug laws will mean that users will use dangerous drugs like methamphetamine, heroin and fentanyl longer, all of which will mean more harm to the families of those living with drug users.

I will be opposing the provisions in this bill that will effectively decriminalise the use of drugs like methamphetamine. Drug diversion and rehabilitation are important, but this legislation is a tacit admission that the Palaszczuk government has given up on reducing drug use in our community. If they were genuinely committed, they would be increasing resourcing for drug rehabilitation and enforcement, not simply writing away the problem.

The evidence says that there has been a six per cent drop in illicit drug use by young people since 2001. We are actually winning—there has been a six per cent drop since 2001. The effects on health of illicit drugs are well known. Why would we open the gates for the use of heroin, methamphetamine and fentanyl? We should not. I do not support these provisions and I will be opposing the provisions today.

In the time I have left, I want to address the provisions that relate to sex offender reporting. The current arrangements are inadequate. I would support any measures to protect our communities from those vile individuals who sexually abuse children. The offences of those individuals are, in my opinion, among the worst offences than any individual can commit. I want to draw—

Mr Harper interjected.


Mr MICKELBERG: I hear, I think it was, the member for Thuringowa saying, ‘Why did the former government weaken them?’ The first point I will make is I was not here and I would oppose those sort of provisions. The second point I make is this government has been in power for eight years. If you cannot fix a problem in eight years, then how will you fix it in the future? It is ridiculous to suggest that the government thinks this is such an issue that they took eight years to address it by bringing this legislation in. It is absolutely ridiculous. If they thought it was a problem, it should have been their first action when they came into parliament back in 2015.

I want to draw the attention of the House to a shortfall in the existing offender reporting framework, a shortfall that has seen a man, convicted of multiple instances of storing and distributing child exploitation material, able to access a state school—material, I might add, of children as young as three years old. After being found guilty and placed on what in my mind was an inadequate sentence of probation and a fine, that individual is now a reportable offender. He is a convicted sex offender who has reporting obligations, but because he is a father, he is able to attend state primary schools in my electorate, and there is no government legislation or education department policy that prevents him from doing so.

A man convicted of offences against three-year-old children can visit Queensland state primary schools because he is a father and he has no prohibition on his conditions that prevent him from doing so. That is not acceptable. That is not acceptable to my community. Regardless of whether he has a prohibition order in place, those subject to sex offender reporting should not be permitted in places like schools.

The government are best placed to determine what the mechanism is to address that. I would suggest that the Department of Education could simply amend their policy rather than change legislation. I implore the government to act. It beggars belief that parents who are convicted of sex offences, regardless of whether or not they are contact offences, can access state school classrooms. That does not pass the pub test in my community, and I am confident it does not pass the pub test right across Queensland.

(Time expired)

 **Mr HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (4.17 pm): I rise today to make my contribution to the debate surrounding the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 and Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. As is my custom, I would first like to thank the members of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, but with a slight difference this time. I would like to thank the committee chair, Mr Peter Russo, member for Toohey; Ms Jonty Bush, member for Cooper; and the incontestable member for Noosa, Ms Sandy Bolton. I would normally at this time acknowledge Mrs Laura Gerber, the member for Currumbin, and Jon Krause, member for Scenic Rim, however their contributions were so at odds with the hearing that I am not completely convinced they were there at all. The secretariat, as always, was completely indispensable, and once again I thank them for the sheer volume of hard work that they undertake on our behalf.

This bill was introduced by the Hon. Mark Ryan MP, Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services. The bill was referred to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee on 21 February this year. The committee invited stakeholders and subscribers to make written submissions to the bill. The inquiry received 15 submissions. The committee received a written briefing on the bill from QPS on 17 March 2023. The committee also received advice from QPS and QFES responding to the submissions on 16 March. The public hearing was held on 20 March in Brisbane with stakeholders while a public meeting with QPS and QFES was held on 24 March, at the conclusion of which three recommendations were made.

The first recommendation was that the bill be passed. Secondly, the committee recommended that the Queensland Police Service review their training processes to ensure the amendments to the police drug diversion program proposed under the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other

Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 are adequately implemented. This review should include an assessment of whether any changes to current training processes are required to ensure that the greater discretion afforded to police when dealing with children suspected of minor drug offences does not result in them being treated more harshly than if they had been adults.

Thirdly, the committee recommends that the Queensland government report to the Legislative Assembly within 24 months of the act commencing on its progress regarding the independent evaluation of the police drug diversion program's operation. I will concentrate my own contribution on the first and perhaps primary objective of the bill, that is, to enhance the police drug diversion program through introducing drug diversion warnings, allowing an eligible person an opportunity to participate in a subsequent drug diversion assessment program and the expansion of minor drug offences to include the possession of prescribed quantities of any type of dangerous drugs and certain pharmaceuticals.

Currently, police can only offer an eligible person the opportunity to participate in and complete a drug diversion assessment if the person possesses less than 50 grams of cannabis and/or a thing used in connection with smoking cannabis. For minor drug possession offences involving any other type of dangerous drug or the unlawful possession of pharmaceuticals that are S4 or S8 medicines under the Medicines and Poisons Act 2019, the only option available to police is to enforce the law and commence formal proceedings against the person in court. That is currently the only option. The bill amends the PPRA by making minor supportive amendments to other acts to improve the law enforcement response to drug offences that involve small quantities of drugs that are used for personal use by providing police with access to an alternative other than bringing the person before the court. Police will, of course, maintain a zero tolerance approach to the suppliers and producers of illicit drugs.

It is worth reiterating because the LNP are quite clearly ignoring the fact that the amendments in this bill have been requested by the Queensland Police Service to implement a common sense change to the criminal justice response to illicit drug use in Queensland by the Queensland Police Service. No less authority than Commissioner Katarina Carroll has indicated that research shows if you divert people early to health and education services, they are less likely to reoffend.

I myself firmly believe that it is high time that lower level offences are treated as a health issue and addressed in the same way we would assist those who are addicted to nicotine or suffer alcohol abuse, and I am not alone in that view. The Australian Medical Association Queensland has publicly called for the expansion of the drug diversion program and has taken the position that the substance should be treated as a health issue to address the underlying causes of substance abuse and encourage help-seeking behaviours.

For me, the most intelligent and concise synopsis of the amendment came during the hearing from Acting Deputy Commissioner, Regional Operations, Mark Wheeler, who is worth quoting directly. He stated—

Drug diversion is not a new concept in Queensland. Queensland police have been diverting people for cannabis possession for over 20 years. We know that that program is effective. We know that the current policing drug diversion program has diverted more than 158,000 people from the criminal justice system and into a health intervention since the program began in 2001. The most recent analysis of drug crime recidivism among drug diversion recipients shows that 72 per cent of those who completed drug diversion did not reoffend for a drug related offence during the four-year evaluation period. That is consistent with other evaluations of drug diversion programs conducted in other Australian jurisdictions. Importantly, diversion has operational benefits for police.

There are crickets from the opposition. He went on—

It saves police and court resources and time. It allows police resources to be focused in areas where they can have a greater impact on community safety.

This last point is worth restating—

It saves police and court resources and time.

That is an excellent outcome by any measure.

The QPS are supportive of these measures, so the LNP contributors are trying to put themselves above the Queensland Police Service. Endorsement from the Queensland police should really put the merit of these amendments squarely beyond doubt and, indeed, most of the submitters were very much in favour of the objectives of the bill. In point of fact, most of the submitters supported in principle the proposal to expand the diversionary options for minor drug offences under the bill. The Queensland Network of Alcohol and Other Drugs Agencies, for example, considered that the proposed expansion of the PDDP is an important step towards reducing the potential harm for associated use with alcohol and other drugs in Queensland.

There was some dissent from the overwhelming tide of agreement from submitters. However, Drug Free Australia raised concern that the bill would undermine the deterrence of existing laws as potentially only on the fourth time a person is caught with drugs are police required to issue a person with a court notice to appear. It is worth noting again that, according to the Queensland police, of those engaged in diversion, 72 per cent did not reoffend. This is a compelling statistic because four years is a very long time to measure recidivism.

In the 21 years I worked in Corrective Services I did not see one shred of evidence to support the contention that you need incarceration to encourage drug rehabilitation. That is absolutely at odds with reality. My former career leads me to draw attention to another amendment in the cognated bill. In my time working at Woodford Correctional Centre I had considerable dealings with child sex offenders as a unit officer. Custodial officers are required to deal professionally with paedophiles and they do so with consummate professionalism, but it ain't easy. Child sex offenders are even more disgusting than anyone can ever possibly imagine. They are evil and they are dangerous. Early in my career when doing cell searches in protection units with child sex offenders it was not uncommon to find shopping catalogues lifted from newspapers containing images of children from the underwear section of the advertisements. These are the creatures that the LNP decided to let slip into our community unmonitored.

In 2014 the LNP, who try to claim that they are concerned about community safety, let 1,700 child sex offenders slip off the radar. That was 1,700 people who seek sexual gratification through children's underwear catalogues who were permitted to slip silently into the darkness of obscurity. This is the LNP commitment to community safety. This was not an administrative error; this was not because of a software failing. The LNP deliberately, knowingly and with breathtaking callousness put our communities and our children at increased risk by cutting the reporting period from eight to five years, and many of those responsible for that decision are still in this House daring to talk about community safety. I absolutely commend the Minister for Police for fixing this hideous and deliberate piece of cost cutting—

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr HUNT: You cut it; you own it.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr HUNT: You put them at risk; you own it.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Order, members.

Mr HUNT: On that note, I commend the bill to the House.



Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (4.27 pm): I rise to speak on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. I welcome the amendments contained in this bill which are proposed to enhance the capability of the Queensland Police Service. Both sides of the House are largely supportive of this bill's intent, which proposes: firstly, to increase the time periods for which reportable offenders must report; secondly, to improve the investigation of cybercrime and offences committed by reportable offenders by making certain offences relevant for controlled operations and surveillance device warrants; thirdly, to enhance the QPS's ability to investigate organised crime by authorising the use of civilian participants in controlled activities in certain limited circumstances; and, fourthly—and an issue that has plagued my electorate of Surfers Paradise—to address the danger and disruption caused by hooning by creating additional offences and increasing penalties for certain offences.

Sadly, Queensland has a sordid past when it comes to sex offenders. With a two per cent increase in sexual offences across the state in 2022, measures to tighten child protection laws are welcomed by the opposition. It must be noted, however, that the CCC is currently undertaking an independent review of the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004 to see how the act operates including policies, training and practices that give life to the act and to review how well the options in the act protect children and manage and mitigate the risks posed by offenders under the act. The government's insolence in proposing amendments to an act that is currently being reviewed by an independent entity appears to show that again they are choosing when they want to listen to a stakeholder's advice.

The amendments in relation to the Child Protection Act 2004 would see the current reporting period be extended from five to 10 years and increase repeat offender reporting periods from 10 years to 20 years.

Strong laws need to be made by the government as, after eight years of watering laws down and creating a youth crime epidemic in the process, Queenslanders continue to see serious offences on the rise. I refer to an article in the *Courier-Mail* on 10 March 2023 titled 'Queensland's convicted sex pests named and shamed as laws set to tighten'. The article outlines that the Gold Coast had the second highest number of sexual offences, recording 851 cases over the year. Already 2023's statistics for recorded sexual offences have rocketed, with 870 cases in January and a further 934 in February, compared to 717 and 725 for the same period last year.

In relation to amendments to address hooning behaviour under the Summary Offences Act 2005, I have regularly stood in this chamber and lobbied for more police resources and the enforcement of existing laws to tackle the issue in my electorate of Surfers Paradise. Last month in parliament, on behalf of Main Beach residents I submitted a petition which received nearly 400 signatures asking for speed reduction and cameras in the area to address hooning.

This bill amends the Summary Offences Act to create a new offence provision that prohibits a person from: willingly participating in a group activity involving a motor vehicle being used to commit a racing, speed trial, burnout or other hooning offence; organising, promoting or encouraging another person to participate in or view a group activity involving a motor vehicle being used to commit a hooning offence; or filming, photographing or publishing a film or photograph of a motor vehicle being used for a hooning offence for the purpose of organising, promoting or encouraging a group activity involving a motor vehicle being used to commit a hooning offence. These new offences will carry a maximum penalty of 40 units, or one year imprisonment.

The recent e-blast that I sent out to 9,000 constituents and other people on my database about a speech that I gave in this place shows that throughout the Surfers Paradise electorate—from Surfers to Broadbeach, on Bundall Road, the Esplanade in Surfers Paradise, the Gold Coast Highway, Nerang Broadbeach Road, Markeri Street, Robina Parkway, Ashmore Road, Main Beach Parade and Old Burleigh Road—these issues are significantly irritating and frustrating the residents of Surfers.

I welcome the amendments to the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act which will create a new offence to address gaps by prohibiting a person from wilfully operating a motor vehicle in a manner that causes the vehicle to undergo a sustained loss of traction—that is, drifting and burnouts. I know, too, that the amendments will address the common tactic of removing or obscuring numberplates or displaying false plates on the vehicle that is used to commit the offence. There are existing provisions generally for such offences; however, they do not relate specifically to hooning. The bill increases the maximum penalty from 20 penalty units to 40 penalty units where the circumstance of aggravation—attaching an altered numberplate—is involved.

Stakeholder views on the amendments are varied, with the Queensland Law Society highlighting that the time frame for meaningful consultation was too short and that the reporting periods should be delayed until the CCC has finalised its inquiry outcome. The CCC itself has raised concern about the proposed amendments being premature given the current review and has cited insufficient resources needed to monitor the increase in offender numbers.

I move on to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, which will allow for the expansion of drug diversion for minor drug offences which will now include all dangerous drugs and certain pharmaceuticals. It is proposed that the bill will achieve its objective of enhancing the efficiency of the Queensland Police Service through amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act. The amendments will expand the range of alternative options available to police to divert minor drug offenders from the criminal justice system and into appropriate health interventions by expanding the police drug diversion program through: introducing drug diversion warnings for a minor drug offence; allowing an eligible person the opportunity to participate in a subsequent drug diversion assessment program; and expanding the eligibility for a drug diversion assessment program to apply to a minor drugs offence involving prescribed quantities of any type of dangerous drug and certain pharmaceuticals.


As the member for Burdekin, the shadow police minister, mentioned to me before I rose to make my contribution, these issues will potentially affect thousands of schoolies in Surfers Paradise in my electorate every November. They now potentially will not cop the same sorts of penalties that they would have in the past, with the deterrent effect. The member for Caloundra denied that there is any potential deterrent effect from penalties. I do not agree. Well-resourced rehabilitation and drug diversion programs are not cheap, and the already strained health system would not cope with an increase in workload including the extra staff that would be required.

In the time remaining to me, I acknowledge the members of parliament who have significant expertise in these areas—I mention the member for Moggill, a drug and addiction specialist—who, because of the guillotine that is being applied to this debate, will not be able to speak. I table the list of members who will not be able to speak in this debate.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, speaking list titled 'PPRA Bills' [526].

Finally, it is a strange coincidence—the member for Maiwar referred to it—that today is 420 Day. I refer to an article from the National Day Calendar that explains people believe, especially in America—cannabis is becoming the largest cash crop in the United States—that cannabis is safer than alcohol and that legalising it allows regulation, allows law enforcement to focus on violent crimes and eases pressure on public resources. I do not agree. I do not agree with going soft on drugs, and I do not like seeing the things we are seeing in this particular legislation.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Under the provisions of the business program motion agreed to by the House and the time limit for this stage of the bill having expired, I call the Minister for Police to reply to the second reading debate.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (4.35 pm), in reply: I would like to thank all members who have made a contribution to the debate on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 and the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. The legislation before us today is multifaceted, as all members have noted in their contributions, with many reform elements touching on various aspects of the administration of justice and of community safety in our state. However, every facet of the legislation that we are debating today has a common goal—the goal of a safer and better community.

We are here again with a number of important matters for us to consider when it comes to reform and when it comes to community safety and to building stronger, better communities. Disappointingly, we are witnessing yet another reality check for the LNP. Our legislation doubles the length of time that child sex offenders are monitored, righting one of the LNP's many wrongs. When in government, as many government speakers have noted today in the debate, the LNP made a decision to change the law—it was a deliberate decision—to stop the monitoring, overnight, of more than 1,700 child sex offenders. When the LNP very deliberately cut the monitoring—overnight—of 1,700 child sex offenders, it resulted in Queensland going from having one of the strongest regimes in the nation to having the weakest sex offender monitoring periods in the nation. Even in this debate, I have noticed a number of members from the LNP using mealy words to try to delay these amendments reversing their 'soft on crime' approach to child sex offenders, with a number of members suggesting that the government should not be progressing these amendments at the moment.

That is the record of those opposite. They talk tough, but their law and order record is in tatters. They cut the police monitoring of child sex offenders, they closed prisons and they sacked police and corrective services staff. They even cut the corrective services dog squad, with devastating outcomes. Under their watch, a murderer escaped from a low-security facility. Under their watch, a serial paedophile was caught kissing and groping a 12-year-old boy in public. Under their watch, a paedophile who sent a love letter to a nine-year-old victim did not have his sentence increased. Under their watch, a child rapist who breached a supervision order was not returned to prison for possessing child pornography. When it comes to the LNP and law and order, we should never listen to what they say; we should look at what they do.

A number of members have raised the issue of police resourcing at the Child Protection Offender Register in relation to the amendments in this bill. I have already addressed those concerns in my second reading speech, but I will reiterate it now. This government will always back police with the strong laws and resources that they need. Our record is clear on that front. Additionally I am advised by the Police Commissioner that, to accompany the changes in this bill, the commissioner intends to double the resources allocated to the Child Protection Offender Register over the next eight years, and this will be allocated from police growth positions already funded by this government.

I will now address the amendments that I will move shortly. Just as education has a pool of relief teachers to call upon when needed, the Police Commissioner has requested that the Queensland Police Service should have a similar arrangement. At the Police Commissioner's request, this legislation establishes a new category of special constables—state officers—who can undertake frontline work on a casual employment basis. The Police Commissioner wants to attract to the Queensland Police Service an untapped pool of already experienced police officers. The commissioner says other

jurisdictions have similar arrangements, as do the teaching and nursing sectors. The commissioner says that the additional workforce capability will be particularly useful when a surge in numbers is required during, for instance, major events like natural disasters. Any special constable employed by the Queensland Police Service will be in addition to the 2,025 extra full-time permanent Queensland Police Service positions the government has funded.

The Queensland Police Service advises that the police academies are currently going flat out training new recruits, with intakes of new recruits occurring approximately every six weeks. In addition, police advise its international recruitment campaign is also generating a great deal of interest. Of course, none of this would have happened if those opposite had their way. The LNP went to the last election committed to cutting the number of extra police officers the government is delivering by more than two-thirds, and what would that look like? That would mean 130 fewer police officers in the Brisbane Region, 150 fewer in the North Coast Region, 125 fewer in the Central Region, 90 fewer in the Northern Region, 70 fewer in the South Eastern Region and 150 fewer in the Southern Region, and it is not just me who says that.

The President of the Queensland Police Union is on the public record noting that the LNP's commitment at the last election was 1,000 fewer officers than this government—1,000 fewer police in Queensland if those opposite had been elected.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): This is not question time. The minister is not taking interjections and I ask both sides of the House to restrain themselves.

Mr RYAN: Let me also remind those opposite of something that Ian Leavers said. When referring to 2012, the President of the Queensland Police Union, Ian Leavers, said—

I was involved with the police numbers in 2012, and sadly they were not fully funded.

He meant by that government. He continued—

That meant that the police budget had to be stripped elsewhere ... police have been badly burnt by previous sneaky governments who made commitments and didn't fund them properly.

It is on the public record as to who Ian Leavers was referring to. Our commitment to the Queensland Police Service is fully funded and just this morning Ian Leavers said this about our government's commitment—

... the money is there and the commitment is there from government.

Our record is strong when it comes to supporting the Queensland Police Service.

This legislation will also establish a health-based framework for dealing with minor drug offences. Again, this is a very clear choice for members of parliament. They can side with the police who have requested these measures. They can side with the medical experts who support these measures. They can side with former Federal Police commissioner Mick Palmer who supports these measures. They can side with every former Queensland-based police commissioner since the Fitzgerald era who support these measures. They can be on the right side of history, or they could side with the LNP and oppose these measures.

Some members say that they cannot support laws that condone the possession of illicit drugs. Nothing about the amendments in this bill condones the use of illicit drugs. Nothing about these amendments minimises the serious impacts that drug use can have on individuals and the community. The opposite is actually true. The government takes the impacts of drug use very seriously. Unlike those opposite, we take it seriously enough to listen to the experts, to listen to the police. Despite what those opposite have tried to suggest, the possession of drugs will still remain a criminal offence. What is changing is the criminal justice response to give people a chance to turn their lives around before a criminal conviction and all of the devastating consequences that can flow from that. A criminal conviction does not help treat drug addiction. All of the evidence says it actually exacerbates the problem. I will read from the words of Acting Deputy Commissioner Mark Wheeler when he addressed the committee. He said—

... the staff I speak to—and I am talking about hardened detectives who work in drug squads and the like—are happy about this because, instead of wasting their time dealing with small-time people who often have chronic underlying health conditions, they can divert their attention to producers, suppliers and traffickers who trade on other people's misery.

That is an important point. The other side of this legislation is that we are targeting even more harshly those who profit from the misery of others. The penalty for those who traffic drugs will increase from 25 years imprisonment to life in prison. I note that some members have made comments about

the way the bill allows quantities of drugs to be prescribed for the purpose of determining whether a drug offence is a minor drug offence. Some members say that this should not be done by regulation. The Drugs Misuse Regulation 1987 is the relevant subordinate legislation. It already prescribes what the dangerous drugs in Queensland are and the quantities that trigger certain aggravating offences. In other words, to say that there is something unusual about this approach is simply not true. It is entirely consistent with the way that the existing legislation is structured and has been structured for decades.

Expanding the police drug diversion program has broad support. The Alcohol and Drug Foundation contracted uComms to conduct a survey of Queensland residents on which action they supported for an individual found with a small amount of drugs for personal use. The survey of more than 6,000 people was conducted in the electorates of Barron River, Broadwater, Cairns, Kawana, McConnel, Moggill, South Brisbane, Mundingburra and Townsville. In Broadwater up to 86 per cent of respondents supported our approach and up to 92 per cent in Barron River, up to 88 per cent in Maiwar, up to 91 per cent in Cairns, up to 77 per cent in Kawana, up to 94 per cent in McConnel, up to 90 per cent in Moggill, up to 88 per cent in South Brisbane, up to 88 per cent in Mundingburra and up to 83 per cent in Townsville.

I will now briefly address one of the issues raised by the member for Maiwar in relation to the application of the expanded drug diversion program to young people. The amendments in the bill provide that where an adult meets the eligibility criteria for a minor drugs offence the application of the scheme is mandatory. Applying the framework in a mandatory way to children would constrain the ability of police officers to use the existing diversionary options in section 11 of the Youth Justice Act. For that reason, the bill makes the use of drug diversion warnings and drug diversion assessment programs in relation to children discretionary. Section 11 of the Youth Justice Act requires police officers to consider the most appropriate way of dealing with a child before commencing proceedings. That section currently provides a range of diversion options—for example, taking no action, administering a caution or, in the case of a minor drug offence, drug diversion.

Under the Youth Justice Act the Childrens Court has the discretion to dismiss charges if the court is satisfied police should have initiated a diversion option rather than charging a child. When dealing with a child for minor drug offences, a police officer must still consider the range of diversionary options outlined in section 11 of the Youth Justice Act. The bill will amend the Youth Justice Act to include a drug diversion warning as well as a drug diversion assessment program as diversion options available to police when dealing with a child for a minor drugs offence. Acting Deputy Commissioner Mark Wheeler also discussed this in the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee hearing. He said—

With young people we are interested in intervening at an early stage—intervening early, keeping kids out of court, keeping kids out of custody and reducing reoffending are the four pillars of the Bob Atkinson report—and working with them to tailor the approach and treatment for them. The most important thing is being able to involve the family and also to be able to use those traditional diversionary approaches more than twice—in fact, at times more than three or four times—because young people may offend over different periods of their young lives. Being able to involve the family allows police to tailor the approach to each individual child, particularly for our young disadvantaged, vulnerable people in our First Nations communities across the state.

I want to take this opportunity to thank police officers, police support staff, firefighters and their support staff and all of the people in the Queensland Police Service and the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services for the work that they do right across the state. The volunteers, the frontline workers, make our community a safer place with their efforts. They go to work every day with a determination to make Queensland a safer place.

I acknowledge the support of my colleagues in the development of this legislation, in particular, the Attorney-General and the Minister for Health. I take this opportunity to thank the Queensland Police Service Legislation Branch, the Queensland Police Service Drug and Alcohol Coordination Unit and the Child Protection Offender Register team who have worked tirelessly on the development of these bills. In particular I would like to acknowledge Acting Inspector Margo Watson, senior sergeants Andrew Wilson, John Henderson, Aydina Pugh and Ian Carol and acting director of the legislation branch Jessica Mudryk. I also wish to acknowledge the work on these reforms by the Police Commissioner herself and her team, Acting Deputy Commissioner Mark Wheeler, Acting Deputy Chief Executive Paul Friedman and Senior Executive Director Tony Brown. Thanks also to the team at Queensland Fire and Emergency Services including Acting Executive Director Jane Houston and Acting Director Carly Osbourne. Thanks also to former police commissioners Mick Palmer, Jim O'Sullivan, Bob Atkinson, Ian Stewart and former corrective services commissioner Professor Peter Martin. Thanks to Matt Noffs of the Noffs Foundation.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the health and addiction specialists who help Queenslanders overcome the devastating impacts of addiction for their tenacious advocacy for reform. In particular I acknowledge Dr Erin Lalor of the Alcohol and Drug Foundation, Rebecca Lang of the Queensland Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies, Dr Maria Bolton of the Australian Medical Association of Queensland and her predecessor, Dr Chris Perry, who was a very strong advocate for these reforms. This legislation before the parliament is significant. Importantly, it strengthens the monitoring framework in relation to child sex offenders, it establishes a health-first approach to minor drug offences and it does much more to keep the community safe. As I said at the outset, everything this important legislation does is aimed at building a better and safer community. I commend the bills to the House and I encourage all members to support them.

Question put—That the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Question put—That the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022

Clauses 1 to 32, as read, agreed to.

Message from Governor



Mr RYAN (4.54 pm): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): The message from Her Excellency recommends the amendment circulated by the minister. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2022

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

I, DR JEANNETTE ROSITA YOUNG AC PSM, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly that an appropriation be made for the purposes of the attached amendment, to be moved by the Minister, to a Bill for an Act to amend the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the Summary Offences Act 2005, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Accreditation and Other Provisions) Regulation 2015, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995 and the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2021 for particular purposes.

GOVERNOR

Date: 19 April 2023

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 19 April 2023, from Her Excellency the Governor recommending an amendment to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 [527].

Insertion of new clauses—



Mr RYAN (4.54 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Mr RYAN: I move the following amendment—

1 After clause 32

Page 28, after line 8—

insert—

Part 3A Amendment of Police Service Administration Act 1990

32A Act amended

This part amends the *Police Service Administration Act 1990*.

32B Amendment of s 1.4 (Definitions)

(1) Section 1.4—

*insert—***special constable (associate)** means a person holding appointment as a special constable (associate) under section 5.16.**special constable (State officer)** means a person holding appointment as a special constable (State officer) under section 5.16.(2) Section 1.4, definition *senior officer*—*insert—**Note—*

In relation to special constables (State officer), see section 5.16A(5).

32C Amendment of s 2.2 (Membership of service)

Section 2.2(2)—

insert—

(f) the persons holding appointment as a special constable (State officer).

32D Amendment of s 3.1 (Meaning of officer in part)

Section 3.1, after 'constable'—

insert—

(associate)

32E Amendment of s 3.2 (Relation to office of constable)

Section 3.2—

insert—

(5) This section—

(a) applies to a special constable (State officer) subject to section 5.16A(4); and

(b) applies to a special constable (associate) subject to section 5.16B(1)(c).

32F Amendment of s 5.14 (Calculation of continuous service as officer)

Section 5.14—

insert—

(4) For the purpose of calculating continuous service of an officer, a period of service as a special constable (State officer) is to be disregarded.

32G Replacement of s 5.16 (Special constables)

Section 5.16—

*omit, insert—***5.16 Appointment of special constables**

(1) The commissioner may make as many appointments of special constables as, in the commissioner's opinion, are necessary for the effectual administration of this Act and the efficient and proper discharge of the prescribed responsibility.

(2) The commissioner may, in writing, appoint a person as a special constable on the terms and conditions the commissioner considers appropriate.

(3) An appointment must be as—

(a) a special constable (State officer); or

(b) a special constable (associate).

5.16A Special constables (State officer)

(1) Appointment as a special constable (State officer) is to be on the basis of employment other than full-time or part-time employment.

(2) The commissioner may at any time, by written notice given to a special constable (State officer), revoke or vary the special constable's appointment.

(3) A special constable (State officer) is entitled to the salary, allowances and other remuneration that are—

(a) provided for in the special constable's instrument of appointment; or

(b) prescribed by regulation.

(4) The powers of a special constable (State officer) may be limited by the special constable's instrument of appointment.

- (5) Despite section 1.4, definition *senior officer*—
 - (a) a special constable (State officer) is the senior officer in relation to a constable on probation; and
 - (b) an officer other than a constable on probation is the senior officer in relation to a special constable (State officer).

- (6) In this section—

constable on probation means a constable whose appointment is on probation under section 5.12.

5.16B Special constables (associate)

- (1) A special constable (associate)—
 - (a) is not an employee of the State or of the commissioner; and
 - (b) is not entitled to salary, allowances or other remuneration, except as provided for in the special constable's instrument of appointment; and
 - (c) has the powers and duties of an officer, under this Act or another Act, as specified in the special constable's instrument of appointment, and no other.
- (2) Subject to subsection (1), relevant provisions and other Acts apply to a special constable (associate) as if the special constable were an officer.
- (3) In this section—

relevant provision means a provision of this Act relating to an officer that may be reasonably applied to a special constable (associate).

5.16C Exclusion of matters about special constables from review under other Acts

- (1) This section applies to the following matters (each an **excluded matter**)—
 - (a) a decision to appoint or not to appoint a person as a special constable;
 - (b) a decision to revoke or vary a person's appointment as a special constable;
 - (c) the terms and conditions of a person's appointment as a special constable, including the salary, allowances and other remuneration to which a special constable is entitled;
 - (d) a decision about a matter mentioned in paragraph (c).
- (2) An excluded matter, or a matter affecting or relating to an excluded matter, is not an industrial matter for the *Industrial Relations Act 2016*.
- (3) Without limiting subsection (2), an industrial instrument does not apply to a person appointed as a special constable.
- (4) Subsections (2) and (3) apply despite section 5.15(b).
- (5) However, subsection (2) does not affect the *Industrial Relations Act 2016*, section 471.
- (6) Unless the Supreme Court decides an excluded decision is affected by jurisdictional error, the decision—
 - (a) is final and conclusive; and
 - (b) can not be challenged, appealed against, reviewed, quashed, set aside or called in question in any other way, under the *Judicial Review Act 1991* or otherwise (whether by the Supreme Court, another court, a tribunal or another entity); and
 - (c) is not subject to any declaratory, injunctive or other order of the Supreme Court, another court, a tribunal or another entity on any ground.
- (7) The *Judicial Review Act 1991*, part 5 applies to an excluded decision to the extent it is affected by jurisdictional error.
- (8) In this section—

appoint, in relation to a special constable (State officer), includes employ.

decision includes a decision or conduct leading up to or forming part of the process of making a decision.

excluded decision means a decision that is an excluded matter.

32H Amendment of s 8.2 (Retirement)

- (1) Section 8.2, from 'other' to 'basis'—
omit.
- (2) Section 8.2—
insert—
 - (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to—
 - (a) an officer who holds a position on a contract basis; or
 - (b) a special constable (State officer).

32I Insertion of new pt 11, div 15

Part 11—

insert—

Division 15 Transitional provision for Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2022

11.43 Current appointments as special constable

- (1) This section applies to an appointment under section 5.16 in effect immediately before the commencement.
- (2) From the commencement, the appointment is taken to be an appointment as a special constable (associate).

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

Tabled paper: Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes to Hon. Mark Ryan's amendments [\[529\]](#).

Tabled paper: Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Mark Ryan's amendments [\[530\]](#).

Mr LAST: Isn't it ironic that here we have an amendment presented to this parliament that will signal one of the biggest changes in Queensland Police Service history and with zero notice we are now expected to consider it in detail as part of this process?

I have some questions for the minister. The explanatory notes state that the amendments will be met within the existing budget of the QPS. Can the minister advise what modelling has been completed on the estimated costs per year for wages—that is, full-time equivalents and other associated costs? Will the funding come out of the existing budget? Will there be any impact on the full-time recruitment program? When a special constable is attached to a station, will that special constable be occupying a permanent position number for the period that they are at that station? Will the number of special constables be counted in the government's election commitment of 1,450 officers by 2025? Are there any superannuation implications for officers who retire and then continue immediately as a special constable? For officers coming from another jurisdiction, such as State Police or the Australian Federal Police, how long will the training course be? What are the time frames—that is, how long would an officer need to be out to come back on a short course and what would a longer course look like? Can the minister confirm that officers can be called in to backfill when a general duties officer goes sick, for example, on night work? Will they be used for police operations and major events? Can they work in highway patrol or will they be restricted to general duties only? If they have a specific skill set, if they are a scenes of crime officer, for example, can they work in that capacity? We know that the attrition rate over the last 12 months is running at 5.7 per cent. That means that more than 850 officers will go by 2026 by the mandatory retirement age.

The LNP acknowledges that bringing back these officers with that experience is a good thing, but we also must point out here today that if Queenslanders wanted proof positive that this government is not going to meet its recruitment targets, if they wanted proof positive that this government is in real strife filling vacancies across this state and putting officers on the street then here it is in this amendment before this chamber. It should be a separate bill and it should not be tacked on at the 11th hour for us to consider in this format. It should go before a committee. We should be debating this in the House. For that reason I raise these concerns and I hope the minister answers the questions that I have asked.

Mr BLEIJIE: This absolutely shows that the government has failed with its recruitment drive for more police in the Sunshine state. It shows this minister is an abject failure. He said he was going to put more police on the beat and he has failed in that regard. Earlier today I tabled the RTI document from the Premier's travelling brief which clearly shows 10 fewer police on the front line on the Sunshine Coast.

The Palaszczuk government has been in power for eight years. How long has this minister been the minister in this Palaszczuk Labor government? I blame this minister for 10 fewer police on the Sunshine Coast. I blame this minister for the crime increases we have on the Sunshine Coast. He plays a tough game. He comes out in press conferences saying, 'We have the strongest laws in the country!' The police do not believe him. The police have no regard for him. He sits in meetings and gets briefed by the top brass. I suggest to the minister that it is not the top brass he should be talking to; it is the police on the beat in our communities, the ones fronting the criminals every day who are living the real-life experience of fighting crime in our communities. We have seen crime rates increase on the

Sunshine Coast and around Queensland. This is an absolute failure of the government. How is its international recruitment drive of 500 recruits a year for the next five years going? That was meant to solve the problems of not having enough police on the beat.

Now they are forced to ask retired police officers to come back as special constables, and I associate my remarks with those of the shadow police minister because God knows we need them on the Sunshine Coast. My community is tackling the issues of youth crime at Bokarina, Bokarina Beach and Wurtulla. I would absolutely support retired police officers coming back as special constables to fight the good fight on the beat. The minister absolutely misleads the people of Queensland when he talks about approved versus actual. If only I had a whiteboard to explain to the parliament about approved—

Mr Last interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the shadow police minister: or a PowerPoint presentation like the minister supposedly took to cabinet. He talks about approved strength. I can say to the minister that having an X number of approved police officers on the Sunshine Coast means nothing. Actual police officers, men and women in the blue uniform, fighting crime and protecting our community means something. It would mean something for young Scot who was assaulted when a NightOwl was broken into the other day. That may not have happened if we had more police on the beat and more consequences for actions. I thank Scot and the community for their outpouring of love for that man who was viciously assaulted at the NightOwl in Little Mountain.

Mr PERRETT: I rise to support the amendment. The amendment to allow retired police officers to re-enter the service shows that the government is plugging gaps in staffing numbers after years of dismissing claims that the numbers are falling. Bolstering the service with retired officers is sensible, but what about those who were forced out through restrictive COVID vaccination requirements? The Gympie region lost experienced police officers from small communities because of that requirement. If we have moved on from COVID conditions, we should stop preventing those well-regarded and experienced police officers from returning to the service.

Communities are already being left without adequate policing or any police officers at all. This week I received reports that there were no frontline operational staff or sworn police officers at the Imbil Police Station in the Mary Valley. The situation has existed for at least three weeks. Both officers are on leave so this is not the result of an unforeseen emergency. I repeat: there have been no police stationed at Imbil during the peak period of the school holidays and the Easter break. I am told that there are hopes that a relief officer will arrive next week. For two days a week, an administrative assistant has been the only person available at the station. She has had to deal with issues that she should not have to deal with.

Imbil has an approved strength of two officers. That is grossly inadequate. I hope this amendment will help deal with inadequate staffing and relief issues such as are being experienced at Imbil. These shortfalls are unacceptable. For several years I have raised with the minister that Imbil urgently needs additional police and a station upgrade. I have raised it in the budget applications, in correspondence and in speeches. Two officers in an area with a population of 6,500 is insufficient, especially as the population swells with crowds of tourists not only during the weekend and holiday seasons but also on weekdays. Two police officers may be stationed there but there are long periods when only one has operated there. Now there has been none for almost a month. Hopefully, this amendment will prevent this situation ever occurring again.

Whenever I have raised concerns about police numbers, the minister's excuse has been that it is outside the remit of his portfolio responsibilities and that he has no say in the matter. That is unacceptable. It ignores the safety needs of residents. Padding numbers with those from outside the area to hide the reality of the situation or hiding behind definitions of frontline staff is also unacceptable. Locals who live and work there know what is happening.

Mr POWELL: In addressing the amendment moved by the minister, I start by returning to one of the first debates of the week which was on the business program motion. We forecast that a number of members from both sides of the chamber would not have the opportunity to give their contributions, particularly on this bill but also the previous two bills. That proved to be true. The member for Surfers Paradise tabled a list of those members who were unable to speak on the bill because of the guillotine. I was one of those members as was the member for Gympie.

The other reason the business motion does not work is that we have had put into this chamber an amendment—

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. This does not go to the amendment before the House. I ask that the member be brought back to the amendment before the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Manager of Opposition Business, please come back to the amendment.

Mr POWELL: The other reason is that the minister has introduced an amendment that is substantially significant but not only is it outside the long title of the bill; it will mean a significant change to how the Queensland Police Service operates. The amendment has not been before a committee. Stakeholders have not had an opportunity to have input into it. A bipartisan committee has not had an opportunity to report on it. Indeed, members have barely had an opportunity to read it and understand the consequences of it because it has been put in at the last minute. All we will have potentially is an hour-long debate, if we forgo any other debate. That is why the House cannot continue to operate under the current business program arrangements.

I turn to the actual amendment. Whilst there may be some benefit to this, I have been in this place now for 14 years and I have seen a number of local police officers aged out of the service. They get to the age of 60 and they need to retire. Some of those embraced that with glee. They saw it as an opportunity to move on and do more with their life, potentially in a different career or simply by enjoying the beautiful lifestyle that we have on the Sunshine Coast and in the Moreton Bay region. Others were devastated that they had to walk away from a job that they loved. They have been devastated by that. I do acknowledge that this will give those people an opportunity to continue, on a casual basis, to do the job for the foreseeable future. I welcome that.

However, let us be clear: as the member for Kawana and the member for Burdekin pointed out, this is an admission of defeat by the government in relation to their election commitment. They promised 1,450 extra police. They are going backwards, as the member for Kawana said. In the case of the Sunshine Coast, there are 10 fewer police. It is no wonder the constituents of Glass House do not always get an officer to come out when they call triple 0 because there are 10 fewer officers if we go on the approved figures let alone the actual figures. This is an admission of defeat. It shows that the government are bereft of ideas and cannot deliver on the promises that they made to the people of Queensland.

Mr HART: We all support having more police on the beat. There is no doubt about that. However, at the moment our police officers are working under adverse conditions and a lot of them are worn out. They are tired of carrying the weight of responsibility that they carry without any assistance from the government.

I do not know how many times I have asked questions on notice about the allocation of police in the Palm Beach police division. I receive exactly the same answer over and over again: there are so many police allocated to the police division. I have asked that question in half a dozen different ways, trying to find out how many actual police officers are currently available at the Palm Beach police division. From talking to police officers I know that only 50 per cent of the officers allocated are actually able to attend every day.

One would think that this sort of amendment will assist. However, I wonder how many police officers will see it as an opportunity to depart the police force and come back on a casual basis as a special constable. I feel a lot of police officers are tired of what has been going on. They are reaching out to us and saying that this government is not giving them the support that they need to enforce our laws. We hear from our residents that when they call the police sometimes they do not show up at all and sometimes they take hours to show up. Our police officers are not happy about the fact that they cannot respond in a timely fashion to calls from people.

Something needs to give here. There is no doubt about this. This government now has been in power for a long time. Its members keep fibbing about the numbers of police on the beat. They keep trying to rewrite history. It is not reasonable to expect this to continue. We need more police officers—absolutely. I support retired police officers coming back, but something has to give. There has to be some honesty in this discussion. Quite frankly, to date we have not seen any honesty from this government at all.

Mr POWER: I want to speak about this from a Logan perspective. So many of our fantastic police officers live in Logan and are great community members. Some of them have recently retired from the police force and are out there in organisations such as the Logan Village Lions and other organisations doing active community work. For a long time, one of our retired police officers was very active in the

blue light disco in Browns Plains. These people deserve recognition. They have a burning desire to continue to keep their community safe. I have often talked to them and asked, 'Do you think you have more to give?' They say, 'Of course we do. We are out here giving.' They are just over 60 years of age. They have a wealth of corporate knowledge. The minister and I have spoken about a particular officer whom I think it would be absolutely fantastic to have back. I spoke to the member for Ninderry about him, too. These people are already out there doing volunteer work, because they care so much about their community. They speak to me about the issues they see in the community—road safety issues and issues to do with the skate park and behaviour. In a volunteer sense, they are already connected with our local police stations.

I recognise the Logan Village Yarrabilba Police Station. I know that people in the Logan Village Lions are talking to police officers about issues they see, because they still are passionate about policing and they are still passionate about their communities. I recognise the police officers who have retired in Browns Plains. I want to talk about one particular police officer. He was not actually 60, but he would be over 60 by now. He was one of the officers sacked by the LNP. When I came across him while I was doorknocking, he said to me clearly, 'I had a lot more to give to the community.' He felt gutted that the Newman government disrespected the administrative unit that he ran, because he was deeply passionate about his policing. I have spoken about this before. The Newman government saw those police officers, who had so much corporate knowledge, as a cost to be cut, a cost to be pruned. I want to see the skills, corporate knowledge and experience that they can pass on to young officers—

An honourable member interjected.

Mr POWER: We could even get something out of the member for Lockyer.

Mr McDonald: I've got plenty to give.

Mr POWER: He says that he has plenty to give—after he retires from parliament and goes back to the Police Service. I know that we in Logan can make use of this and bring value in terms of serving our community.

Mr FURNER: I rise to speak about the urgency of passing this amendment. It is a significant and important measure. Given the current circumstances not only in Queensland but also the nation and the world, you would have to be an oxygen thief to not realise the importance of supporting this amendment. Several months ago I was in Bowen as acting police minister. At the local police station I spoke to a senior sergeant who had just returned from a world holiday. Most police while on holidays interact with other police. So did this police officer while he was in Europe. He indicated to me that this was a problem over there as well. Some of the members here who are ex-ADF would realise that the defence—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr FURNER: Member for Kawana, you might learn something if your ears were not painted on.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): The member's comments will come through the chair.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

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

Mr FURNER: This applies to every industry, including the ADF. The brigadier of the Enoggera Barracks in my electorate approached me earlier this year to explain the problems they have with retention. That is why they are looking at lateral transfers. They have been doing this for some years. This amendment makes common sense in terms of utilising the experience of not only officers from interstate but also officers from other countries coming to Queensland to help the Queensland Police Service.

I also recognise and acknowledge the good men and women of Ferny Grove Police Station. They are honourable people who do a sensational job. I refer to the scurrilous attacks on those men and women about a month ago by the opposition leader and the member for Everton, who claimed there were reductions in staff. It was another example of how those opposite attack our good men and women in the Queensland Police Service. It is only the people on this side of the chamber who support the good men and women of the Queensland Police Service. That is demonstrated not only in the good agreements that are in place—

Mr Purdie interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Ninderry, order!

Mr FURNER: We also are supporting them by passing these amendments. I encourage every member to stand and speak in support of this amendment. It is a sensible amendment. It is the right amendment. It will support and protect the health and safety of not only the good men and women in the Queensland Police Service but also our society.

Mr WATTS: I support this amendment, but I am very concerned about the process that led us here. First, the second reading debate was guillotined and I was unable to speak. Second, we see an amendment brought in that makes a serious change to the structure of the organisation that keeps law and order sacred in this state. It is most important that our Police Service is well resourced and well looked after. We know that this government has been hiding numbers. I know because I keep asking how many people are available to be rostered in Toowoomba. It is too hard for the minister to work that out; it would take too much work. I now have asked about a past period, that has actually finished. The rostering was done and the payroll has been done. I will be most interested to see if we get some honesty about how many officers were available on the ground.

I have to congratulate the officers for the job they do in keeping the people of Toowoomba safe and reassuring us that there is law and order on the streets in Toowoomba, albeit very difficult to enforce because their numbers are too low. Having special constables may well help that. It may well patch over this government's incompetence in fully recruiting the police required.

This government has made a lot of promises about police numbers, but it has been incredibly evasive about telling the people of Queensland how many officers are wearing a blue uniform and are available on their streets night and day, week in and week out. That is what the people of Queensland care about. When they have people standing in their front rooms with two-foot-long machetes, when they see their car disappearing down the street and when their local coffee shop is attacked with an axe and everything is smashed up overnight, they care about whether the police are available. Are they there on the roster? Are they able to come and assist? We know that the police are not there. We know that as a percentage of the population the numbers are dropping. We know that this police minister keeps hiding behind approved strength rather than what is the blue line.

I support the amendment. I am very concerned about the process that has led us here. On several occasions now we have seen rushed legislation and rushed amendments in this place. A few months later we will have to come back and have a further debate to amend the amendment to the legislation that was guillotined in this place. The process is flawed, but I do support the amendment.

Mr BROWN: I too did not get a chance to contribute to the debate, but I am more than happy to contribute to the debate on this amendment. What other speakers have been more focused on is the older cohort of police who retired at 60. This covers everyone who has left the police force. There are multiple reasons officers have chosen to leave the police force. I want to focus on the number of female police officers who left the police force for reasons such as marriage break-ups, maternity leave and having families that had grown up. Undoubtedly, that would be a massive resource to have those officers back and contributing to the workforce.

I was having a beer with an officer at the Wellington Point Bowls Club. My old man has already put the hooks in to get him bowling because he knows he is coming up to 60. I will be able to put the hooks in to get him back out on the streets and doing the job he loves very much.

This is a sensible amendment. Those opposite are complaining about the process. It sounds like they want to delay this. They want to delay getting extra cops on the beat. This is a no-brainer. This is an innovative idea of the Police Commissioner and the police minister to ensure that we have more police officers on the beat. All we hear from those opposite is whingeing and whining—just like their leader—about having extra police on the beat. We are trying to get on with that. Why wait for another bill to be introduced? Why wait until after the budget, the recess and estimates to get these police officers on the beat?

I commend the police minister for bringing this amendment forward in a timely fashion to ensure we could have a proper debate on it, as we are having now. They agree to the amendment. Who could not agree with having extra police officers on the beat—not just those who are retiring but those who have left the police force for a multitude of reasons?

Ms Pease: Marty Hunt.

Mr BROWN: I take the interjection—Marty Hunt. There are a couple of former police officers who served on our side of politics too such as Phil Weightman and John English—RoboCop himself; he could come back. I know many officers who would take up this opportunity. I commend the minister for bringing this amendment to the House.

Mr HUNT: When this amendment was first announced I spoke with the minister. We talked through some of the details. I then went outside onto the balcony and spoke to some local police in Caloundra. I can tell members that they are absolutely thrilled with the minister and with this amendment.

Mr Purdie interjected.

Mr HUNT: The member for Ninderry will be aware, of course, that there were five extra police announced for Caloundra last financial year. I am reliably informed that there are another five on the way, which is good news. They will file in on top of this amendment that will provide the capacity for extra police in and around Caloundra. Who knows, Minister, they may well be able to take advantage of this amendment in the new police station that will open in Caloundra South, which will double the policing capacity at that end of the Sunshine Coast. I thank the minister for that. That is a marvellous thing.

Custodial operations, which is more in my wheelhouse, have operated with this sort of capacity for quite some years. It provides dexterity and agility for operations. When I was talking to the officers out on the veranda I could hear the cogs turning. I could hear the permutations about where this would help, where they might be able to deploy these officers, what sorts of operations they would be able to use them for and how they could draw on their experience. These officers will be experienced and we will be lassoing that experience with this amendment and bringing it back into the fold.

On the whole, one would have to say that it is a highly acceptable and well thought out measure. I can say hand on heart that within moments of our discussion, Minister, the police in Caloundra were very pleased. They did say, 'We have been wanting this for some time.' This is a sensible measure in response to their—

Mr Purdie interjected.

Mr HUNT: Fair enough. I take the member for Ninderry's interjection. He is against it. He does not think we need any help. That is fair enough. The police in Caloundra have a different view. They are very pleased. I commend the minister for this very sensible amendment.

Mr RYAN: There are a number of matters which members have raised. Unfortunately, I was not fast enough to write down all the questions that the member for Burdekin asked, but I am happy for him to share them with me later. I did get a few. Mr Acting Speaker, I know that you probably say I am too compassionate in this regard, but sometimes I do worry about the member for Burdekin. Whether he has a short memory, blocked ears or no idea, I invited the member for Burdekin to a briefing with the commissioner yesterday—and he attended—where the commissioner outlined the answers to a number of these questions. I wonder whether the member for Burdekin is grandstanding or whether he does in fact have a short memory. Maybe we should worry about him.

He did ask a couple of questions. I am happy to address as many as I can right now and make some other remarks. One of them was about superannuation. We have been very clear about that. As these officers will be paid casually, the superannuation will be in line with the standard Public Service superannuation. Full-time permanent police officers who have mandatory retirement at 60 have a very generous superannuation scheme that this government is very proud to support and back which is significantly higher than the Public Service superannuation rate. That is obviously to compensate them for mandatory retirement but also in recognition of the outstanding service they provide the people of Queensland, in addition to the very challenging, dangerous role that many of them undertake every single day.

The roles are very clear. That is in the explanatory notes. There have been public statements by the commissioner around that today. These roles are frontline, general duties roles. It is very important to ensure that the front line has that support and the ability to rely on this untapped pool of experienced officers to support the front line and frontline policing responses.

The training will be variable depending on the person's experience and how long they have been out of the Police Service. Those matters are, rightly so, operationalised by the experts, by the Police Service, and not by politicians. I have every confidence that leading academies like the Queensland Police Service academies at Townsville and Brisbane will ensure that appropriate training is provided to those officers.

There was a question about whether these are in addition to or complement the 2025 government commitment. They are in addition. These are casual roles to support the front line. The government's commitment around 2,025 additional police personnel is a rock-solid commitment. They are permanent

full-time positions. In fact, the government is delivering on that commitment because our commitment to not only the Police Service but also the people of Queensland is to provide the positions and the funding.

Obviously the Police Service has a number of strategies underway in the current tight labour market to attract as many people as possible. I heard from the commissioner today—and bearing in mind we only announced the international labour agreement less than two months ago; the biggest international labour agreement in Australian history for policing—that 300 international police officers have expressed interest and are moving through the application process. In two months that is quite significant. The commissioner also says that there are over 300 recruits currently at the academy. There is a pipeline of 900 applicants who will be progressing through the application process. The commissioner and the academy have both told me that the pipeline of recruits and applicants to be recruits is the strongest it has been in a number of years. The Police Service is working very hard in a tight labour market to recruit against the government's commitment—a record commitment; the biggest commitment to additional police in almost 30 years.

There was another question around how it will be funded. There is a record budget for the Queensland Police Service—the global budget. This is to support the front line. Obviously it is funded through the Queensland Police Service's planning around when extra demand is required. The Police Service makes allocations around those financial arrangements. Also, it does support when there are vacancies. Allocations are made in those instances as well.

It is important to highlight that these amendments provide the legislative framework for the commissioner and the Police Service to operationalise these things. Rightly so, with any workforce in government it is not for politicians to say how the workforce and employment matters should be operationalised. Much of the detail is not for politicians to establish or set out. It is for the Police Service and the commissioner to set out. Those workforce matters are, quite rightly, matters for the Queensland Police Service and will be operationalised by the Queensland Police Service and the commissioner.

There were some matters in the debate on this amendment relating to police numbers, police resourcing. I think it is important to highlight that, notwithstanding anything that they say, there would be a thousand less police in Queensland if those opposite had been elected at the last election. I refer to a further quote—I found another quote—from Ian Leavers. He said—

I try and get the best deal regardless of which government will form. That is my job. I'm not sided with one side or another. What I did get out of the LNP was a commitment of nearly 400 new police across the state of Queensland and I got a commitment from Minister Ryan and Annastacia Palaszczuk of 1,450 new sworn police over the same period of time.

That is from Ian Leavers—a thousand less police in Queensland should those opposite have been elected. That would have been felt right across the state. Based on the commitments and statements they made at the last election compared to the government's commitment to the Queensland Police Service, that would have meant 130 less police officers in the Brisbane region, 150 less in the north coast region, 125 less in the central region, 90 less in the far northern region, 90 less in the northern region, 70 less in the south-eastern region and 150 less in the southern region.

This government's commitment to the Queensland Police Service is a solid one. It is a record. We support the Queensland Police Service when they come to us asking for resources, asking for changes to legislation. This amendment was requested by the Police Commissioner. We listen to her. We support her. A number of stakeholders are also speaking out in support of this amendment. It is not a new concept in policing. Other policing agencies adopted this concept some time ago. It is not a new concept in other professions like teaching, like nursing, like the fire service, like Corrective Services. This is a framework which has existed in other professions and other jurisdictions prior to the Police Commissioner coming forward with this idea.

The Police Commissioner believes that it is the right time to tap into that pool of experienced officers, and rightly so. This is not just about supporting the front line with a pool of experienced officers who can complement the front line, support the front line. It is also about recognising people's changing employment patterns. It is very important. I wanted to highlight the remarks of the member for Capalaba. This is as much about supporting those people who want to continue to contribute in an occupation of service who might want a career change. They might be in their thirties or forties and no longer want to be a full-time police officer. They might want a career change. They might want to go into the business sector. They might want to go into another profession but they still want to contribute, and they can still contribute through being a special constable of the Queensland Police Service, and rightly so.

This is an important amendment that will support the front line. It is an important amendment that has been requested by the Police Commissioner. It supports the government's commitment to the Queensland Police Service of stronger laws and more resourcing. I encourage all members to support it.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 33, as read, agreed to.

Clause 34—



Mr POWELL (5.34 pm): Clause 34 pertains to the hooning provisions. As I was one of those members who had my opportunity to speak on this bill guillotined, I want to make a brief contribution and ask a very quick question. Hooning is a constant issue in the electorate of Glass House. Just in the last 10 days I have had Aidan from Beerwah raise concerns around Old Peachester Road and Kilcoy Beerwah Road. I have had Lisa in Glass House Mountains raise the constant frustration that is the intersection of Beerburum Woodford Road and Old Gympie Road. Just today Dorothy from Rocksberg talked about the intersection of Caboolture River Road and Old North Road at Rocksberg. In each of those instances I know that police, with the resources they have, are doing the best that they can, but there are higher priorities—obviously domestic violence being one of them. Dorothy asked for the usual things—more police presence, speed vans, fixed speed cameras, lighting and all of those things—to try to deter hooning.

The one quick question I have for the police minister is that the LNP took a policy position into the last election where we would trial a new type of road surface in known hooning hotspots—a road surface that was designed to shred tyres. Has the minister given consideration to this? Has the government given consideration to this as yet another deterrent to hooning in some of these known hooning hotspots? It would have a significant benefit not only for the community but also for the precious police resources in those areas.

Mr BROWN: I, too, would like to rise to speak in favour of this amendment because I did not have the opportunity during the debate. Hooning is an issue in the Redlands. I know that this minister has made a number of amendments in this bill to ensure that we strengthen the laws around hooning. This one is particularly important because I know there are a number of incidents in Wellington Point, where they congregate and hoon. I have seen footage on social media that has come from the hoons. It attracts more of a crowd and gives them more of a thrill if they are able to post footage. This amendment is sensible. I think it will be a deterrent to hooning in the Redlands and I fully support it.

Mr RYAN: These are important amendments for continuing the government's strengthening of hooning legislation, ensuring that for those who wish to disrespect the roads and disrespect the community there are consequences for their actions and that police officers are empowered with efficient and effective laws that they can apply as easily as possible not only in the detection of these offences but also in respect of the compliance and consequences that flow from that particular criminal activity.

The member has mentioned anti-hoon road surfacing. I have sought advice from the Queensland Police Service about it. Obviously the government will look at any options or initiatives that will deter or reduce hooning. Interestingly, the Queensland Police Service, when they provided me advice, did not support that initiative. The reason why is that, for the category of hoon you could call a determined hoon or a professional hoon, those road surfaces actually attract them. They meet at those locations because they know that they can destroy tyres and make a mess.

The inadvertent hoon—the hoon who might not necessarily be participating in accidental activities—does not actually hoon in those locations so having that surface in those particular locations would not act as a deterrent to them. The Police Service has previously given me advice to say that that surface would be a magnet for those hoons who would be causing the most harm and damage to the community.

The better approach is supporting police with detection equipment and detection laws. The number of initiatives around driver deeming or owner onus are nation-leading. No other jurisdiction has a legislative provision around owner onus or driver deeming in respect of hooning offences. The offences the Queensland government has put into legislation are leading the nation with regard to deterrence, also in a related amendment the aggravating offence of evade. That ensures the Queensland framework is one of the most punitive in the nation, but there is also the additional

equipment we have provided to the Queensland Police Service, including: covert cameras, drones, camera trailers and the technology associated with that as part of our maximum saturation anti-hoon strategy that was funded in last year's budget.

In respect of that particular initiative, obviously we will always take the advice of the Queensland Police Service. We are not ruling out those initiatives, but we want to make sure the initiatives are supported by the police and do not have adverse consequences. It sounds good on paper, but when the Police Service analyse it and provide me with advice it may exacerbate hooning in those locations because the professional hoon, the serious hoon, the organised hoon, is attracted to those particular surfaces because they know they can get the desired effect. They come prepared with extra tyres, extra activities and the like. Amendments in relation to this clause also address that preparatory behaviour of those engaging in hooning by allowing the police to take compliance offence action against those who might have fake numberplates or spare tyres in the back and the like. Obviously we are resolved in respect of our hoon strategy with tough laws, strong penalties and extra resources for the Queensland Police Service to ensure they keep on top of it. Quite frankly, we lead the nation when it comes to an anti-hoon approach.

Clause 34, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 35 to 43, as read, agreed to.

Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023

Clauses 1 to 4, as read, agreed to.

Division: Question put—That clause 5, as read, be agreed to.

AYES, 53:

ALP, 50—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, 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.

KAP, 1—Dametto.

NOES, 33:

LNP, 33—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 5, as read, agreed to.

Clause 6—



Mr BLEIJIE (5.47 pm): This is the day the Labor Party has gone soft on crime and soft on drugs. This is the day the Labor Party has given up on the war on drugs. This is the day the Labor Party is happy for druggos to have drugs in our local community parks. We do not accept it. We will always make sure that drugs are not in our communities. Yes, put diversion programs in place, but hold those responsible for drugs in our community accountable. We have seen too much crime because of drug use in our community.

Because many of us have been guillotined and we are not able to have a free and fair debate on this bill, I am speaking on this. At Little Mountain a couple of weeks ago young Scott was viciously assaulted at night-time. I want to thank the Meridan Plains and Little Mountain community for reaching out and putting their arms around Scott, who was viciously attacked at nearly 11.30 at night. His father sent me video footage. He had to go to hospital because of the crime crisis we have. I want to thank the Little Mountain and Meridan Plains community for putting their arms around Scott after the terrible tragedy that occurred at Little Mountain the other night.

We need drugs off our streets. We need drugs out of our communities. We need drugs out of our parks and schools. Going soft is not going to fix it. They have put the white flag up to drugs in our communities and we will not stand for it.

Mr PURDIE: I rise to support the member for Kawana. I am glad I have an opportunity in the final dying minutes of this debate to put on the record my strong opposition to these amendments—

Mr Krause: As a former policeman.

Mr PURDIE: As a former police officer. I acknowledge my colleagues who are strongly opposing these amendments. Take note of this marker in the ground and this date. We can all clearly look back to 17 June 2016 when this government imposed their soft-on-crime agenda and watered down the Youth Justice Act. There is a clear line now between that and the youth crime crisis which is gripping communities across Queensland. Mark my word, in years to come we will be looking back on this date when this government basically raised the white flag on the war on drugs in this state. I know this from my experience on the front line fighting that war against drugs, and my former colleagues are still on the front line tonight risking their lives on the war against drugs.

I have no doubt that the commissioner and senior executives of Queensland police would have supported this, because as was written in the talking points for their side—and the member for Caloundra repeated this a couple of times—the police said it will save the police time and resources. We know the police are suffering with a crisis in the allocation of scarce resources at the moment.

This is not only my experience, and it is not only the frontline police who are furious about this. The police in the drugs squad, the major crime unit and the bikie task force knew nothing about these amendments when they were tabled by this minister. It is not just my experience and their experience. History shows around the world how the harm minimisation process that was started in places like California and America 2000 has ended. My brother lives in San Francisco, and anyone who has visited there—and more recently Vancouver and LA—over the last 20 years has seen the decline in those cities. I have some statistics. In 2000 there were 17,000 people who died across America from drug overdose deaths. In 2020 that number rose to over 93,000 drug overdose deaths.

We know on this side that when you remove deterrents you increase drug supply, drug costs come down and it becomes easier to get and more people take it. Drugs like heroin and ice are addictive. As of today, the average purity of heroin on the street in Queensland is 20 per cent, so one gram of heroin can be jumped on five times, making five grams of heroin which is 50 points of heroin which sells for \$90 to \$110. I can tell the House that 50 points of heroin is death, it is misery. We know with more drug addiction comes crime, extra DV, extra homelessness, mental health issues and, unfortunately, more overdose deaths.

Mr BROWN: This gives me a chance to talk on the amendment, which I support wholeheartedly. Not only do I support it; the police support it, the AMA supports it and the doctors support it. I cannot find a group other than those opposite who do not support it. Why do they not support it? Ideology. We saw it in the contribution from the member for Kawana. He still believes in the war on drugs. I thought that ended in the eighties. I thought that ended with Reagan. I thought it ended when the CIA kept on pumping drugs into America.

These are sensible reforms with regard to marijuana that have been proven before. It has been proven that, when you intervene with these drug offences and get people onto programs, it works. It is not soft on crime; it is making sure they get the treatment that they need. It is making sure we are diverting police resources into other measures, such as DV, assault and a multitude of other things that we hear those opposite complain about. It is an important measure that is supported by the police, by the AMA—

Mrs Frecklington: It is disgraceful.

Mr BROWN: Again, they are the only group that are opposing it, and that is based on ideology and political grounds only.

Mr POWELL: Let me give the member for Capalaba ideology. This is from Mr Mark Forbes, former Sunshine Coast Citizen of the Year, founder of endED, someone who has lived with disorders. In creating his eating disorder facility, he has lived with people living on drugs. These are his words—

The proposed bill refers to decriminalising the personal possession of small amounts of illicit drugs such as heroin and ice. The proposal refers to a small amount as one gram. One gram of ice equates to 10 doses. In most cases it only takes one dose to become addicted as it is the most addictive drug on the street. A dealer looking for potential addicts and clients only needs to carry one gram at a time, as that potentially represents 10 future clients and addicts. To treat all drugs under these proposed changes, including ice, in the same manner is dangerous and naive.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I also rise to speak in the strongest possible terms against this amendment. I agree with what the member for Glass House said. One gram represents 10 shots of ice. It takes one shot for people to get addicted. Those opposite are sending the message to our children and the communities of Queensland that it is okay to carry one gram of any of these illicit drugs, but it is the wrong message. I do not know if any of them have bothered to get out of their electorates and talk to the people of Queensland and listen to what is happening with the ice epidemic. I know the

member for Keppel tried to carry on about it. Honestly, the ice epidemic across this state is wrecking regional Queensland. This is the government with its head in the sand saying it is okay to carry a gram of hard illicit drugs not once, not twice but three times and then be given diversion.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time allocated for this stage of the bill having expired, I will now put all remaining questions. In accordance with sessional order 4, the House must now consider clauses or remaining clauses, schedules and any amendments circulated by the minister in charge of the bills.

Division: Question put—That clause 6, as read, stand part of the bill.

AYES, 53:

ALP, 50—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, 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.

KAP, 1—Dametto.

NOES, 33:

LNP, 33—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 6, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 7 to 34 and the schedule, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading (Cognate Debate)

Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022

Question put—That the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, as amended, be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023

Question put—That the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title (Cognate Debate)

Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022

Question put—That the minister's amendment No. 2 be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment as circulated—

2 Long title

Long title, after 'the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*,'—
insert—

the *Police Service Administration Act 1990*,

Question put—That the long title of the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, as amended, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.


Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023

Question put—That the long title of the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.


ACTING SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Sittings of Parliament

 **Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Members, it being near to 6 pm, we will move to the automatic adjournment. Before I call the first speaker, I want to say thank you to all members for all of your advice and feedback, solicited and unsolicited. The Clerk did advise me that if everybody was upset I was near to doing a good job, so it seems I might have achieved that. For those who thought I might have been cancelling the prayer at the start of the week, I am sorry to disappoint you; it is very much here to stay. To all of my Catholic colleagues who have lobbied me heavily this week, the prayer will remain unchanged.

ADJOURNMENT

Couran Cove

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (6.04 pm): I quote—

... our problems over here are getting worse ... someone has to help us.

And—

I am blind and recently moved here for the lifestyle. I am on a blind pension and the increase will be impossible to pay.

And—

There is currently no supply of sewerage, water or power ...

And—

Without these essential services, basic human needs cannot be met. There are still permanent residents on site, who have no other option of a place to go.

And—

We purchased a free standing residence ... in the ... resort, off the plan in 1997 and have watched with dismay over the past 6 or so years as the resort infrastructure, facilities and common property have fallen into disrepair and the services (garbage, path maintenance, building maintenance etc) to the individual Lots have fallen away to almost nothing despite the ongoing payment of increasing levies for these services.

And—

My Husband and I are now in the position where we are not allowed to have transport on the island.

And—

We need urgent help to restore our services even if it is temporary while the court cases are dealt with.

And—

We do not live in a war-torn country or in a Third World nation. To have our services cut like this through no fault of our own is absolutely disgraceful. Having no help offered by our government is even more disappointing.

These are not comments from one individual. They are comments from dozens of residents living on Couran Cove, dozens of residents who need help and they need it urgently. I have written repeatedly to the Attorney. I have written repeatedly asking for their cries of help to be heard. They need help, and they need it now.


I want to read a quote from the Attorney which states—

While I am very concerned about the impacts of these ongoing issues and disputes of residents on Couran Cove, as you would appreciate, it would not be appropriate for me as Attorney-General to seek to intervene in those matters.

It would be appropriate, Attorney. It would be. They need help. What form that assistance takes is one that this parliament must find. There are people living in conditions that are like a war zone. We are not talking about some impoverished nation. It is on the Gold Coast. It is in my electorate of Broadwater. These residents need help. What are the solutions? It is up to this parliament to find a way through.

Finally to Jack McKay, who leaves today for greener pastures—a political tragic, someone who has been a great friend of this House—we wish him well in his new endeavours.

Cricket; Redland City Bulletin

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (6.07 pm): As co-chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Cricket, it is with great pleasure that I announce the Redlands Tigers QCA first grade champions for 2022-23—

Mr Janetzki interjected.

Mr BROWN: I take the interjection from the member for Toowoomba South who is a proud ex-member of the club. We beat the nerds; we beat Uni this year. I would like to congratulate captain 'Lethal' Leigh Drennan, who brought home the chocolates; coach Simon Belston; and man of the match Jack Sinfield, who took 10 wickets. There were plenty of players who contributed to the final across the board—too many to name. I congratulate Jack for achieving man of the match. I would also like to congratulate those associated with the team, like selector Dom Cassell, who is my ex-coach, and even team support staff like Graeme and Julie Madden, who supported the team week in and week out with Gatorade, chocolates and everything the team needed on the field.

I also want to congratulate club stalwart Nick Hurford, who is retiring from the field this year after 20 seasons. I grew up playing cricket against Nick Hurford. He played 297 games for the mighty club, made 7,000 runs and took 165 wickets. He also, back when we last won the QCA first grade premiership, was a player/coach in that team. I congratulate Nick Hurford. No doubt he will be around the club in the capacity of coach or selector in the future.


Unfortunately I have to report on some bad news, and it is the news itself. *Redland City Bulletin*, the local newspaper in Redland City, printed their last paper at the start of this month. I want to pass on my thanks to the team of journalists there, led by the editor Craig Thomson who was doing a fantastic job taking over the paper. They did a fantastic job.

The *Redland City Bulletin* and, before that, the *Bayside Bulletin* and the *Redland Times* have been cornerstones of our community. They were much respected and much trusted with regard to the news they have delivered, so it is a sad day that our local paper has shut down. I dare consider whether if it had happened before such big news as the mayor's drink-driving incident the scrutiny that incident was afforded during that time would have been possible.

It is a sad day, especially for local democracy in the Redlands because they did hold all sides of politics to account. There is another paper popping up there. I hope it is one that comes through. Call me a bit old-fashioned, but I do like waking up every day to a hard copy paper. I will be sad to see that the *Redland City Bulletin* will no longer be a part of our local community.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Redland City Bulletin*, dated 5 April 2023, titled 'Goodbye from the team at the Redland City Bulletin' [531].

Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment; Superannuation Fund Assets

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (6.10 pm): The Treasurer, well known for his 'tricky Dicky' pea and thimble financial figure shuffling, regaled this parliament about how clever he was getting a valuation of \$7.6 billion over 50 years for an asset he cannot sell, namely the titles office. This was done all in the name of saving this debt ridden Labor government from a financial ratings downgrade by the ratings agencies, which was the hallmark act of former treasurer Andrew Fraser of the Bligh Labor government before the people of Queensland threw that government out because of their financial—

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member, you have used some language that was unparliamentary. I would ask you to withdraw.

Mr STEVENS: I withdraw. It now gets even grubbier with the Auditor-General highlighting that the Treasurer has technically sold 25 per cent of that asset, the titles office, that he cannot sell—but which the superannuation fund board can—to the public servants superannuation fund in exchange for more liquid assets the superannuation fund owned. Obviously these assets can be sold and perhaps they have been sold already. We do not know the secretive deckchair shuffling of the Queensland government's 'Titanic' economy. The real smoke and mirrors trap for those public servants wanting to retire on a healthy superannuation payout is that they have a \$1.8 billion asset in their portfolio that they cannot sell without government consent.

Which directors of the superannuation fund allowed this three-card monte trick to happen? How will they cash out of the titles office asset when it comes time to sell? Is it to be treated as a loan until the government can buy it back again? If so, when is the sunset clause on this return to the government balance sheet? Surely it would not be in 50 years time when the valuation period ends. This blatant


figure fudging is symptomatic of this Labor government hiding the real financial position of the Queensland taxpayer from public scrutiny that would tell Queenslanders how hopeless and desperate this government has become by drowning in debt.

Thank God for the resource industry and the word dreaded by the Labor-Greens alliance, coal, which has saved this government from financial ruin. The hypocrisy they worship by publicly berating the coal industry while at the same time savouring the financial benefits the coal industry provides is absolutely breathtaking. It is the only government income that is saving this government from a Standard & Poor's downgrade. If I were a public servant in Queensland I would be very worried about my annual defined benefit payment—if I was going to get one—being available upon retirement if the Treasurer continues to drop unsalable government assets into the superannuation fund's book of assets.

There must have been strong coercion on the fund's directors to agree to this convenient government shakedown. When estimates comes around later in the year those opposite should be prepared to own up to the public about how they intend to realise the value of their titles office asset that they cannot sell.

(Time expired)

Pine Rivers Electorate, Small Business Awards; Anzac Day

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (6.13 pm): They were some heavy-hitting revelations from the member for Mermaid Beach. Let's see if they are actually willing to front up next question time and ask the Treasurer of Queensland a question about this because they are sorely lacking in that department each and every question time.

I am really pleased to update the House on our fantastic Pine Rivers Small Business Awards, which we held for the first time in November last year. This year, in its second year, we are holding it in Small Business Month. Already our finals have 30 businesses in total, five businesses per group and six overall groups. In the cafes and restaurants category we have Pure Shot Cafe, 2 Chefs and a Cupcake—the winner of last year's awards—All Folk Espresso, Uno Caffè & Pizzeria, Rendezvous at Dayboro. In the cosmetics and hairdressing category we have Ibeauty Collective, Hair and Soul Room at Dayboro, Styles of Brendale, Hair & Beauty by Peta and Belles Boutique Hair.


In the early education centres category, a new category for this year, we have Mother Duck Childcare at Lawnton, Dayboro Community Kindergarten, Cashmere Village Natural Learning Centre, Samford Community Kindergarten and Goodstart Early Learning at Bray Park—Kensington Way. In health and fitness there is My Fit Tribe, All Star Boxing Academy, Xenial Fitness, Integrate Physiotherapy and Dragonfly Yoga Studio. In retail and sales there is Petaholic Warner—the winner last year—JBS Dog and Cat Grooming Services and Doggy Day Care, Mount Nebo Railway Carriage and Chalet, the Cookie Jar and More, and for the wizards and muggles out there, the Store of Requirement at Samford. In trades and services there are All Occasions by Nic, Pulse Vet Warner, Weber Automotive, Aztech Automotive and YDF's 2 Do Crew.

All up, this year in the finals we have had 26,000 votes and counting. I am so pleased to update the House as the voting progresses with the finalists and to welcome the Minister for Small Business, Hon. Di Farmer, member for Bulimba, out to the community to celebrate in style.

I also had some fantastic school tours through the parliament each and every day this week, from Pine Rivers State High School, Bray Park State High School and Mount Samson State School. It was great for Mount Samson State School today to run into Her Excellency the Governor here in parliament. I am sure that was a big event that they will not forget any time soon.

Finally, I remind my community about Anzac Day services that will be held right across the community on Tuesday. There will be dawn services put on by the Dayboro War Memorial at Roderick Cruice Park in Dayboro and also at Jollys Lookout by the Samford Anglican Church and many more from Dayboro, Bray Park, Strathpine—the list goes on.

Run Army; Anzac Day

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (6.16 pm): This weekend on Sunday, 23 April, the Run Army annual charity and fundraiser event is being held and I am looking forward to participating in the five-kilometre event. Run Army aims to promote resilience, health and wellbeing across all members of the Australian Army and enhance and promote the Army's relationship with local communities and specifically Defence Force families in the lead-up to Anzac Day. Run Army also raises important funds for Legacy.

This year is an important one for Legacy as the organisation is celebrating its centenary. I wish to acknowledge Legacy's 100 years of keeping its promise to help families to continue with their lives following the loss of a relative due to military service.

I also wish to acknowledge Run Army president, Major General Jake Ellwood DSC, AM, CSC and his ongoing leadership of this important initiative. Last year I was pleased to welcome Major General Jake Ellwood to the electorate of Moggill in his capacity as the then Queensland flood recovery coordinator and discuss with him the significant disaster management, emergency resourcing and flood resilient infrastructure needed for the electorate of Moggill.


Next Tuesday, 25 April, will be Anzac Day and many important commemorative services will be held. Specifically in the electorate of Moggill, the Kenmore-Moggill RSL sub-branch will be holding its annual Bellbowrie dawn service at 5.30 am followed by the 9 am morning service at the Brookfield Showground. There will also be a service at the Bolton Clarke Fairview aged-care facility for aged-care residents and their families as well as a special service held at midday at the Mount Crosby Bowls Club. An important local tradition will also continue this year with the Shell Green T20 cricket match being head at the Brookfield Showground between the Australian Army XI under 7th Brigade Commander Brigadier Mick Say and the Lord Mayor's Brookfield United Cricket Club XI.

I recognise and thank all of our current serving Australian Defence Force personnel, veterans and their families for their contribution to our nation. As a member of the 2nd Health Battalion in the Australian Army, I also acknowledge all health colleagues and serving soldiers, particularly those within the 1st Surgical Company and the 11 Close Health Company. Anzac Day certainly holds important significance for my own family given Captain Andrew Percival Rowan of the 10th Australian Light Horse Regiment was killed in action on 7 August 1915 at Gallipoli. His death occurred whilst leading the charge at Walker's Ridge.

The 2023 Anzac Day national RSL campaign is 'That's the ANZAC spirit' which connects the importance of the day and the reasons we commemorate. Lest we forget.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I would like to thank the member for Moggill for his ongoing support of people with Parkinson's disease. I would also like to commend him for his intimate knowledge of his electorate. He picked the exact right time to leave the walk before the biggest hills in his electorate. Well done, member for Moggill!

Campbell, Ms B

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (6.19 pm): I rise tonight to acknowledge a community member, tireless worker, union member and, quite frankly, someone I consider a member of my family. In my first speech I made reference to the fact that I have always been a full-time working mum, and in my list of thanks I made reference to the many early childhood educators who have played a significant role in raising my kids. In doing so, I was really referring to one individual in particular, Ms Barb. Barbara Campbell has been an early educator for all my children—from my eldest when she was in the nursery in 2010, some 13 years ago, to my youngest. Ms Barb attended her kindy graduation only 18 months ago. For 11 years she has been a daily fixture in my kids' lives. Even when they were not in her class, we always had to go to her room to visit her every morning so my kids could get their morning hug from Ms Barb.

She was especially of great assistance to my family when my son was born in England. Not only did she assist with my daughter back here in Australia, visiting and keeping her entertained while I was in England for many months; she was also a Liverpool expat and a very proud Scouse, so while we spent some considerable time in Alder Hey she deployed her family members there to come to my assistance. When we travelled to England in 2018 and I could not take my son with me, Ms Barb looked after him. She considered my son Ronan her beloved little England compatriot. Ms Barb was a regular at our house at Easter and on Christmas Day, and birthdays were also celebrated with Ms Barb. She was also a key contributor to my campaigns, because she looked after the kids on election day.

It was with great sadness that I received the news of her passing last week in her sleep. My thoughts and prayers are with her husband, Mick, and all of her colleagues at Kidzco Springwood, where she was a cornerstone for over 15 years. I cannot begin to comprehend the number of young lives Ms Barb has touched. Wherever Barb is now, she can feel comfort in the knowledge that she brought so much joy and happiness to so many young lives and, in her way, she also introduced an entire generation of young children to her beloved Everton Football Club. My house is strewn with blue teddies, shirts and scarves. For Ms Barb, I really do hope the Blues—the Toffees—get up this weekend.

Kashmir



Dr MacMAHON (South Brisbane—Grn) (6.22 pm): We are joined in the gallery today by members of the Kashmiri community here in Brisbane as well as supporters from the Pakistani community. I join the Kashmiri community as well as human rights advocates and UN special rapporteurs in condemning the violence and repression that has unfolded in Kashmir over many decades, and I share my call for azadi—freedom. It has now been nearly four years since the revocation of the special status of Kashmir by the Indian government—one of the greatest attacks on the sovereignty of Kashmiris in modern times. The revocation has led to a new wave of repression and violence, restrictions on freedom of expression, the press and the internet, and the detention of journalists. The UN's Special Rapporteur on minority issues said—

The loss of autonomy and the imposition of direct rule by the Government in New Delhi suggests the people of Jammu and Kashmir no longer have their own government and have lost power to legislate or amend laws in the region to ensure the protection of their rights ...

Forced demographic changes, new rules allowing outsiders to buy property and register to vote in Kashmir, and literal bulldozer politics are stripping Kashmiris of their land, homes and resources. The rates of sexual violence against Kashmiri women have been amongst the highest in the world's conflict zones. The perverse use of the Public Safety Act has led to illegal arrests and detention of Kashmiri journalists, stripping people of their voice and preventing alerts of violence and atrocities from reaching the world. I know that members of the Kashmiri diaspora here, the broader South Asian diaspora and people worldwide are watching on in horror. It is not everyday people who are responsible for the violence and repression but rather military and political elites who benefit from dispossession and violence while everyday people suffer.

The Kashmiri community in Kashmir, around the world and here have remained defiant and strong and continue to resist. They continue to fight for their freedom and sovereignty. With the G20 soon to be hosted in the Kashmiri city of Srinagar, the Kashmiri diaspora is calling on the Australian government to urgently raise the issue of Kashmir with the Indian government. I add my voice to these calls to: immediately lift the military siege and withdraw the estimated 900,000 Indian Army troops currently stationed in Kashmir; halt demographic changes that are forcing Kashmiris off their land; reinstate article 370 to grant Kashmir autonomy; release Kashmir journalist Fahad Shah and all other journalists and human rights defenders; allow freedom of speech and end harassment of political activists and human rights activists and journalists; investigate and prosecute all cases of sexual violence allegedly perpetrated by state and non-state actors; and provide reparations to victims. I express my immense gratitude to the Kashmir community for joining us here today and for your ongoing fight for freedom and justice, which we wholeheartedly support you in. Azadi.

Burndy Cable Support Systems



Mr MARTIN (Stretton—ALP) (6.25 pm): I rise to recognise a fantastic local manufacturer in my electorate of Stretton. Burndy Cable Support Systems is one of many outstanding businesses on the south side that help to keep our great state moving forward. Last year, Burndy celebrated its 40th anniversary and I was pleased to be given a tour of their manufacturing site.

Manufacturing is one of our most important industries. It is the backbone of many communities in Queensland and provides good, secure jobs for locals. Burndy Cable Support Systems employs hardworking teams of welders, machine operators, toolmakers and metal fabricators that have been involved in many major construction projects throughout their four decades of operation. They currently have around 80 full-time staff but, with huge demand for their products, they are still looking to add more welders to their growing team.

The Acacia Ridge TAFE, which is just down the road from Burndy, is a great place for those looking to learn a trade such as welding. Thanks to the fee-free TAFE program supported by the Palaszczuk government, people can learn a variety of new skills and gain industry recognised qualifications like welding.

Over the past few years we have seen exciting progress on the Cross River Rail project, and I am proud to say that Burndy Cable Support brackets will soon be installed as part of the Cross River Rail project after being made locally in the Stretton electorate. They also manufacture materials for the Melbourne Metro and many other projects around Australia, including underground mine sites in Queensland and Western Australia.

Burndy is a great example of a thriving Queensland manufacturing industry. To accommodate their rapid growth and increased demand for their products, they have recently moved into a larger premises in Acacia Ridge, in Stretton. I had the pleasure of officially opening their new factory, which is equipped with state-of-the-art technology. I recognise the Burndy team of Peter Moore and Carl Devini as well as the founder and chairman, David Knowland, for supporting Burndy's transition to this new facility.

Businesses like Burndy that produce quality products close to home have numerous economic and environmental benefits. Over the past few years global supply chains have experienced significant disruptions, highlighting the need for a resilient and diversified local manufacturing sector. I am proud to be part of a Palaszczuk government that supports local manufacturing and the jobs it creates. We have brought forward investment in several large projects that support manufacturers all around Queensland.

I am very proud to represent Stretton. It is not just fantastic food, fantastic small businesses and fantastic schools—

A government member: Karaoke bars.

Mr MARTIN: We have the best karaoke bars in Queensland. It is also world-class manufacturing. I make a special mention of Nerada Tea—they are also based in the Stretton electorate—and something that I know all the members use, Lucas' Papaw Ointment and creams.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I used a lot of it recently.

Bonney Electorate, Arundel Hills Proposed Development



Mr O'CONNOR (Bonney—LNP) (6.28 pm): Developers from Victoria have put in a proposal to take out around 3½ thousand koala habitat trees and build 450 luxury houses on the site of the Arundel Hills golf course. Having a small, dense electorate like Bonney of just 29 square kilometres, that is quite a big chunk of my electorate they are proposing to cut down trees in and turn into housing. Over the weekend I worked with my part of the Gold Coast's newest community association, the Arundel Hills Community Association—incorporation pending—to host a public forum on the proposal, and it was a new record in terms of the forums I have had. Over 700 people turned up to Arundel State School to find out more about the process from our local councillors and to learn what they can do to have their voice heard as this progresses.

Firstly, I want to acknowledge and thank the committee led by chair Jason Young and members Kate Bentley, Katharine Campbell, Roger Farrell, Jessica Chaffey, Thomas Adamson, Bob Aley, Michelle Young, Jeannine Farrell, Greg Williams, Paul Bentley, Allison Williams and so many other people who have stood up to have their voices heard and to do what they can to protect what they love about our part of the Gold Coast. We ran a survey on the day and I received 344 responses which I will share with the House tonight. Some 96 per cent of people said that they had an understanding of what is proposed and 98.25 per cent of people said that they were against that proposal. In terms of the biggest issues that people raised, 91 per cent of people said environmental threats to wildlife and habitat destruction, particularly koalas; 77 per cent said increased traffic congestion; 52 per cent said further loss of green space in the northern end of the Gold Coast; 48 per cent were worried about the impact it would have on their property value; and 40 per cent were worried about what it would do to our area's character.

In terms of what people would like to see, around three-quarters would like to see the site become a dedicated green space or conservation area run by the council; 52 per cent would like to see it remain as a golf course; and one in five people would like to see the development footprint scaled back but something similar to what was proposed. That is a really important point, because people in my area are not against development. Just up the road in the other golf course in my electorate in Parkwood, Living Choice is building multiple five-storey buildings with 210 apartments. If that was proposed for this site, then I do not think that people would have had many issues with it. There is even a surf park proposed for that site which, admittedly, is more contentious with the people who live next to the course, but overwhelmingly I think it is supported by the broad number of people that I represent. This area in Arundel is zoned as sport and recreation. The developers did no consultation. It is really arrogant of them. It is disappointing. We need to keep this green space zoned as sport and recreation and we need to protect our local environment.

Lytton Electorate, Events



Ms PEASE (Lytton—ALP) (6.31 pm): I live in a beautiful part of the world with absolutely beautiful people who are committed to my community. I want to speak about a few of the events that are coming up in the coming weeks. This weekend is the launch of the Celebrate for a Cause 2023. This is a fantastic organisation that started in 2018 with a group of four friends getting together deciding to raise some money and it raised about \$650 for Share the Dignity. Since that time, each year it has hosted an event that is getting bigger and bigger each year—so much so that, to date, this organisation has raised over \$198,000. The beneficiaries have included: Rural Aid, which got \$20,000 in 2019; the Black Dog Institute, which got \$45,300; BABI, which is our youth and family services organisation, got \$74,000 in 2021; and last year the Forgotten Women project, which builds houses and accommodation for women over 50, and the Bayside Community Fund shared \$58,000. It was started by four friends—Tracey Lucock, Kara Vallins, Denise Rowell and Anna Stokes Zerner—and Kirrily Page and Louise Hazelton have joined the board. These four women are an amazing example of just some of the wonderful people in our community. They will be announcing the date of the upcoming event and I particularly want to thank the wonderful sponsors, Sorrentino. Sorrentino is the platinum sponsor and has stood by it year after year. Sorrentino does amazing community work.

Of course we also have the Anzac Day celebrations coming up next week. I particularly want to acknowledge all of the hardworking veterans groups in my area. There is the Wynnum RSL, the Manly-Lota RSL and the bayside National Servicemen's Association. We will all be getting together for the dawn service on Anzac Day as well as the following parades. There is a parade in Wynnum. If anyone is interested, they can come down to the Wynnum parade from nine o'clock. On 4 May I am hosting my annual domestic and family violence candlelight vigil at Pandanus Beach at 5.30 and Betty Taylor from the Red Rose Foundation is our guest speaker.

21 May is a really big day with many wonderful events. Starting at 8 am we have Bayside Community Fund in conjunction with the Guide Dogs hosting Pups in the Park, which will be an opportunity for people to come down with their dogs to the Bugs's home fields at Wynnum North. At 9 am we have a walk from Bayside Park for Prader-Willi syndrome. Prader-Willi syndrome is a devastating genetic disorder that impacts families with obesity, intellectual disability and shortness in height. It also is a life-limiting condition. At 10 am we have the Ampol Rotary Family Fun Day which raises awareness of domestic and family violence. It is all happening in the Wynnum-Manly area. Come on down!

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: How could you stay away?

The House adjourned at 6.34 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Head, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Katter, 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, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting