



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

### Thursday, 11 May 2023

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## THURSDAY, 11 MAY 2023

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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


#### Photograph

 **Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Honourable members, do not get too comfortable. To mark this historic regional parliament we will now take a photo. I would like to invite the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition to join me down near the bars and all other members to stand in their place and face the back of the chamber. While I am away from the microphone, I would ask for the highest levels of decorum.

#### Absence of Mr Speaker

 **Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have received notification from Mr Speaker as to his absence from this week's sitting of the House. Mr Speaker's notification complies with standing order 263A.

### Committee of the Legislative Assembly

 **Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Honourable members, Mr Speaker has prepared a statement to bring to the attention of the House three requests to government for amendments to legislation relating to the administration of the parliament that have been made by the Speaker, either as Speaker or as chairperson of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly, in recent times. Mr Speaker has requested that in his absence I seek leave to incorporate the Speaker's statement circulated in his name.

Leave granted.

#### SPEAKER'S STATEMENT—CLA REQUESTS FOR AMENDMENT TO PARLIAMENTARY LEGISLATION

Honourable members,

I wish to bring to the attention of the House three requests to government for amendments to legislation relating to the administration of the Parliament that have been made by myself either as Speaker or as Chairperson of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly in recent times.


The requests suggest changes to *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* and the *Parliamentary Service Act 1988* to:

- a) refine the process by which a member of the Legislative Assembly in a state of ill health has their request for a proxy vote notified to the Assembly;
- b) clarify that since 23 April 1998, members of parliamentary committees have been able to participate in committee meetings by telephone, video or other electronic means; and
- c) rectify an oversight from 1995, and provide that for the purposes of the PS Act, the Assembly chamber and its galleries are considered to be part of the parliamentary precinct when the Assembly is sitting thus allowing persons accused of disturbing the Assembly to be pursued by way of summary offence under the Justices Act 1886.

I understand that the Government is considering bringing forward amendments in response to these requests in the near future.

### SPEAKER'S RULINGS

#### Planning (Inclusionary Zoning Strategy) Amendment Bill

 **Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Honourable members, Mr Speaker has considered the Planning (Inclusionary Zoning Strategy) Amendment Bill and whether it is a revenue bill or otherwise offends the law and practice of the Assembly. Mr Speaker has concluded there is no current procedural impediment to the bill proceeding. Mr Speaker has requested that in his absence I seek leave to incorporate the Speaker's ruling circulated in his name.

Leave granted.

#### SPEAKER'S RULING—PLANNING (INCLUSIONARY ZONING STRATEGY) AMENDMENT BILL—REVENUE BILL

On 19 April 2023, the Member for South Brisbane introduced the *Planning (Inclusionary Zoning Strategy) Amendment Bill*. Clause 3 of the Bill seeks to include a new Part D into the Planning Act 2016.

That Part includes a proposed new section 275ZJ which states that the 'Minister must, within 2 months after the relevant date, introduce a Bill in the Legislative Assembly that achieves the objectives mentioned in sections 275ZK and 275ZL'.

The identified sections 275ZK and 275ZL, amongst other things, require all new developments (residential construction projects and residential subdivision projects) to set aside at least 25% of the dwellings constructed for the project to be reserved for transfer to the State for providing public housing.

Despite the innocuous short title of the bill, what the bill seeks to do is facilitate a process to compulsorily acquire private property without compensation. The explanatory notes describe the 25% of projects being set aside as being 'gifted to the state'. The reality is that these set-asides and transfers are not a scheme for gifts to the State, but a compulsory acquisition scheme for no consideration.

#### ***Is a bill for compulsory acquisition without compensation a revenue bill?***

On 17 November 2021, I ruled out of order and discharged from the Notice Paper the Member for South Brisbane's *Big Bank Levy (COVID-19 Health Response) Bill* (ROP pp 3553-3554) because the Bill sought to impose revenue and breached the fundamental constitutional convention of the financial imperative of the Crown. A dissent to that ruling was rejected by the Assembly on 1 December 2021. By rejecting the dissent motion, the House upheld the principle of the fundamental constitutional convention of the financial imperative of the Crown. The House has held that a private member's bill which seeks to increase or impose revenue would breach that convention and is out of order.

On 26 October 2022, I ruled out of order and discharged from the Notice Paper the Member for South Brisbane's *Land Tax and Other Legislation (Empty Homes Levy) Amendment Bill 2022* (ROP pp 3040-3041) on the same basis.

On 30 November 2022, the Member for South Brisbane sought to introduce the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) (Royalties and Cost of Living Relief) Amendment Bill*, which was both a revenue and appropriation bill. The Member had no Message from the Governor to accompany the appropriation as required by s.68 of the *Constitution Act 2001*. I ruled the bill out of order based on it being both a revenue and appropriation bill.

The first issue for consideration is whether a bill to compulsorily acquire private property without compensation is a revenue bill. As explained in my ruling of 17 November 2021, the constitutional principle is that 'no public charge' can be incurred except on the initiative of the Executive Government.

Erskine May (25th edition, 2019), online at 36.2 provides explanation about what a charge upon the people means:

*Matters which are covered by the term 'charges upon the people' may be briefly summarized as (a) the imposition of taxation, including the increase in rate, or extension in incidence, of existing taxation; (b) the repeal or reduction of existing alleviations of taxation, such as exemptions or drawbacks; (c) the delegation of taxing powers; and (d) the imposition of levies, charges or fees which are akin to taxation in their effect and characteristics. Other matters, while not 'charges upon the people' in a direct sense, relate to the raising of revenue and so come within the scope of Ways and Means. These matters are (e) the granting of borrowing powers to the Crown; and (f) provision for the payment into the Consolidated Fund or the National Loans Fund of receipts which do not arise from taxation.*

...

*Although impositions are not generally charges on the people unless the proceeds are payable into the Consolidated Fund, the absence of a requirement for payment into the Consolidated Fund is not by itself conclusive indication that a charge upon the people has been avoided. If, for example, money raised by a statutory imposition is not to be channelled through the Consolidated Fund but is nonetheless to be used for the benefit of the public at large or for purposes which might otherwise have required to be financed from the Consolidated Fund, that imposition is likely to need authorisation by a Ways and Means resolution.*

I have little difficulty in finding that a bill which compulsorily acquires private property without compensation to be used for the benefit of the public at large is a species of tax, impost or, in the wider sense, a charge upon the people and thus revenue.

However, as stated above, it is apparent that the bill does not itself seek to compulsorily acquire property without compensation, but rather impose an obligation on the Minister to introduce a bill in the Legislative Assembly that achieves those objectives. So, the bill is not itself a revenue bill.

#### ***Is a bill that requires a statutory obligation on a Minister to introduce legislation to implement a specific, particularised policy in order?***

The next question that arises is whether a bill that seeks to impose an obligation on the Minister to introduce a bill in the Legislative Assembly to achieve a policy stated in the Bill is in order.

It is common for bills to place various obligations on Ministers to discharge, often within strict time limits. For example: to prepare a multicultural policy within a year;<sup>1</sup> to recommend to the Governor in Council people for appointment within 6 months;<sup>2</sup> to give reasons for a decision to interested persons within 10 business days after making the decision;<sup>3</sup> to make a decision, within 20 business days after receiving an application;<sup>4</sup> within 30 business days after receiving an application to review a decision (the original decision) and make a decision (the review decision);<sup>5</sup> to table in the Assembly a regulation within 14 sitting days after a regulation is notified;<sup>6</sup> within 14 days after an instrument purporting to dissolve a local government is made to table a copy of the instrument in the Legislative Assembly.<sup>7</sup>

The House also regularly delegates legislation making powers to Ministers and/or the Governor-in-Council.

The *Disability Services Bill (2005)* (later the *Disability Services Act (2006)*) acknowledged the right of people with a disability and promoted a scheme to ensure that disability services funded by the department were safe, accountable and met the needs of people with a disability. The Bill set out the human rights principles in regards to disability and subsequent 'service delivery principles'. To ensure that these principles were reflected in the services that Queenslanders with a disability received, the Bill proposed that the Minister create a 'disability service standards' that all service providers were required to meet. The bill stated that the Minister may make disability service standards (the service standards) for improving the quality of disability services provided by funded service providers. A standard made by the Minister was stated to be a statutory instrument within the meaning of the *Statutory Instruments Act 1992*.

The key differences between the Member for South Brisbane's Bill and the *Disability Services Bill (2005)* is that the latter bill was (a) directed to creating subordinate legislation and (b) ministerial discretion (ie the Minister 'may' make disability standards) was retained.

The Clerks at the Table have been unable to identify any precedent in Queensland to compel a Minister, by legislation, to introduce a bill to implement a policy stated in the originating bill. There are examples in the colonial Legislative Assembly (pre-1900) for members to give notice of or move motions that the House make an address to the Crown praying for a message recommending a bill for a stated purpose or the inclusion of matters in annual or supplementary estimates (Votes and Proceedings 1886, p.248; Votes and Proceedings 1874, p.75). But the distinction here is that an Address to the Crown is a resolution, not an order, and does not have the force of law, but is merely a humble request. (As to the differences between an order and resolution see: Report No. 15 Members' Ethics and Privileges Committee—*Report on a matter of privilege: Alleged Contempt by the Attorney-General for failing to resign his Ministerial Office following a vote of no confidence in him by the Legislative Assembly—Matter referred to the committee on 2 September 1997.*)

Liaison with other State/Territory Parliaments across Australia failed to discern any precedent of a similar bill.

The device being used by the Member for South Brisbane has been previously employed in the Senate. For example, on 12 March 2013 Senator Madigan introduced the *Citizenship Initiated Referendum Bill 2013* in which clause 12 provided that 'within 4 months after a proposal for a referendum is verified under section 11, the Minister must cause a proposed law that will alter the Constitution in accordance with the proposal to be introduced into the Parliament.'

More recently, on 8 August 2022, Senator McKim introduced the *Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Amendment (Increased Financial Transparency) Bill 2022*. Schedule 1, item 1, inserted 2 new provisions stating in each case 'The Minister must before 30 September 2022, cause to be introduced into the Parliament a Bill for an Act to' (a) include in the definition of designated services a list of stated professions to reduce money laundering; and (b) to establish a register containing information about ultimate beneficial ownership.

I am troubled by the ramifications of a bill such as this being passed as it appears to transgress upon the rights or discretion of a Minister, compelling them to introduce legislation in accordance with a specific, particularised policy. It could theoretically place the Minister in conflict with their collective responsibilities as a Member of the Cabinet—a Westminster convention now recognised in s.42 of the Constitution of Queensland 2001. It is certainly not within the wider concepts of mutual respect between the executive and legislative arms of government. However, it is not for the Speaker to protect the rights of a Member in their capacity as a Minister. A breach of cabinet rights is also not a matter of privilege (see *Report No. 16 Members' Ethics and Privileges Committee—Report on a matter of privilege—Matter of privilege referred to the committee on 3 March 1998 concerning the tabling of a document from a former cabinet*).

The misleading nature of the explanatory notes

The explanatory notes to the bill also trouble me. The *Legislative Standards Act 1992* places an obligation on a member to circulate an explanatory note for a bill they introduce (s.22). Explanatory notes are an important part of the legislative process as they are designed to inform members about the bill and its effect to generally inform debate in the Assembly and assist effective parliamentary scrutiny of a bill. If the bill is passed, they also assist in the interpretation of legislation. In this instance the explanatory notes, rather flippantly, refer to the compulsory acquisition of property without compensation as projects being 'gifted to the state'. A gift is something given willingly to someone without payment; it is not being forced to do something by weight of law. It is as misleading as Charles I describing effective taxation without parliamentary consent as loans, when those who did not pay the loans were imprisoned (so called "forced loans").

Explanatory notes are also required to contain a brief assessment of the consistency of the bill with fundamental legislative principles and, if it is inconsistent with fundamental legislative principles, the reasons for the inconsistency (s.23(f)). These are serious issues. Section 4(3) of the *Legislative Standards Act 1992* states that whether legislation has sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals depends on whether, for example, the legislation (i) provides for the compulsory acquisition of property only with fair compensation.

To this issue, the explanatory notes simply state:

*Requiring the development industry, which makes huge windfall profits based on state land zoning decisions, to transfer a portion of the dwellings it creates should be viewed as a condition of doing business in Queensland rather than a compulsory acquisition.*

This does not appear to discharge the obligation in s.22(f) of the Act.

However, the committee scrutinising this bill is best placed to make judgements about the explanatory notes.

## Conclusion

Despite my many misgivings expressed above, there is no current procedural impediment to the bill proceeding. It is appropriate that the committee scrutinise the bill and report to the House and then the House determine whether this bill should pass or fail.

**Notes**

- 1 Multicultural Recognition Act 2016
- 2 University of the Sunshine Coast Act 1998 s85
- 3 State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971 s76EA
- 4 North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability Act 2011 s19
- 5 Biodiscovery Act 2004 s97
- 6 Biosecurity Act 2014 s106
- 7 Constitution of Queensland 2001 s73

**Same Question Rule**

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Honourable members, Mr Speaker has considered the application of the same question rule with respect to the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation (Rent Freeze) Amendment Bill 2022. Clauses 4 and 5 seek to implement alternative or inconsistent schemes or policies on the same subject matter as that contained in the amendments agreed to by the House in the passage of an act in this session of the parliament. This enlivens the same question rule contrary to standing order 87.

Clause 6 proposes to omit a provision of an act already amended by another act passed in the same session of parliament. This is contrary to standing order 87 and therefore enlivens the same question rule. Most of the remaining clauses in the bill are consequential to clauses 4, 5 and 6, which enliven the same question rule contrary to standing order 87.

The private member's bill, when viewed in its entirety, is essentially seeking to implement an alternative or inconsistent scheme or policy to that contained within amendments agreed to by the House in the passage of an act in the same session of parliament. Accordingly, the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation (Rent Freeze) Amendment Bill cannot proceed and is discharged from the *Notice Paper*. Mr Speaker has requested that in his absence I seek leave to incorporate his ruling in the *Record of Proceedings*.

Leave granted.

**SPEAKER'S RULING—APPLICATION OF SAME QUESTION RULE TO THE RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES AND ROOMING ACCOMMODATION (RENT FREEZE) AMENDMENT BILL**

I have considered the application of the same question rule with respect to the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation (Rent Freeze) Amendment Bill 2022, the Housing Legislation Amendment Act 2021 and the Local Government Electoral and Other Legislation (Expenditure Caps) Amendment Act 2023.

On 31 August 2022, the member for South Brisbane introduced the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation (Rent Freeze) Amendment Bill 2022.

Standing order 87(1) provides that, once the House has resolved a matter in the affirmative or negative, the same question shall not again be proposed in the same session. Similarly, standing order 150 provides for the application of the same question rule in relation to inconsistent amendments, new clauses or schedules of a bill.

As previous Speakers have noted, the matters do not have to be identical, merely the same in substance as the previous matter—in other words, it is a question of substance, not form; there is no rule preventing the introduction of two bills on the same subject, or indeed opposite intent. However, if a decision of the House has already been taken on one bill (usually that the bill be read a second time), the other is not to be proceeded upon; and an amendment cannot be moved to a bill that is inconsistent with one already agreed to; has already been moved to another bill and defeated; or is substantially the same as a bill that has been defeated.

Clause 4 of the private member's bill seeks to insert a new scheme or policy into the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008 to enact a two-year freeze on residential rents in Queensland; cap rental increases, after the two-year rent freeze, at no greater than two per cent every two years; and require the Residential Tenancies Authority to maintain a register of rents applicable to corresponding properties, as informed by the rental bond lodgement form it already administers. Clause 5 seeks to restrict rent increases during the two-year rent freeze period or in contravention of restrictions on rent increases after that period as set out in proposed new section 82C inserted by Clause 4.

Clauses 4 and 5 seek to implement alternative or inconsistent schemes or policies on the same subject matter as that contained in amendments agreed to by the House in the passage of the Local Government Electoral and Other Legislation (Expenditure Caps) Amendment Act 2023. This enlivens the same question rule, contrary to standing order 87.

Clause 6 of the private member's bill proposes to omit section 92 of the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008. That section was amended in this session of parliament by the Housing Legislation Amendment Act 2021. To omit a provision already amended this session is contrary to standing order 87 and therefore enlivens the same question rule.


Clauses 4, 5 and 6 are accordingly out of order pursuant to standing order 87. Most of the remaining clauses in the bill are consequential to clauses 4, 5 and 6 which enliven the same question rule contrary to standing order 87.



The private member's bill when viewed in its entirety is essentially seeking to implement an alternative or inconsistent scheme or policy to that contained within amendments agreed to by the House in the passage of an Act in the same session of parliament. Accordingly, the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation (Rent Freeze) Amendment Bill cannot proceed and is discharged from the Notice Paper.

## ACTING SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS


### Regional Sitzings of Parliament, Education Program

 **Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Honourable members, at this week's sitting schoolchildren have participated in an activity where they wrote down what they would do if they were a member of the Queensland parliament. I thought I would share with the House some of the interesting and insightful contributions collected by the parliamentary education team. 'I would raise the issue of global warming and why we are selling fuel cars instead of electric.' 'I would make a law that once a month we could bring video games to school.' I think this could be a council issue: 'I would like to make public toilets clean.' 'I would buy a ham sandwich.' 'I would make a law that kids can be members of parliament, too.' I think this last one is very important for us all: 'I would make friends.'

**Mr Bleijie:** No chance!

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order, member for Kawana. I will not take that interjection; it would not go into *Hansard*.

### Regional Sitzings of Parliament, Cairns

 **Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Honourable members, as we would all agree, this regional sitting has been historic for many reasons. It is only the sixth time the Queensland parliament has met outside of Brisbane in its 163-year history and only the second time parliament has assembled in Far North Queensland.

Today Her Excellency the Governor will visit the temporary parliamentary precinct to meet with the visiting school students and members of the public and will also attend this evening's parliamentary reception being held on the City Terrace at 5 pm. I would encourage all members to attend if they are able.

## PETITION

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

### Third-Party Insurance, Allianz Australia

845 petitioners, requesting the House to remove Allianz Australia as a compulsory third party insurer under the Motor Accident Insurance Commission insurer option for vehicle registration [\[618\]](#).

Petition received.

## TABLED PAPERS

### TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

#### ACTING SPEAKER'S PAPER

The following Acting Speaker's paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Acting Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (Mr Kelly)—

[619](#) Oath for appointment as Acting Integrity Commissioner of Queensland of Mr Mark Glen, dated 10 May 2022

#### MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. D'Ath)—

[620](#) Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 1/2022, made by the Ministerial Council under section 245 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law as applied by the law of the States and Territories

[621](#) Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 1/2022, made by the Ministerial Council under section 245 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law as applied by the law of the States and Territories, explanatory notes

- [622](#) Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 1/2022, made by the Ministerial Council under section 245 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law as applied by the law of the States and Territories, human rights certificate
- [623](#) Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Amendment (Paramedicine Qualification) Regulation 2022, made by the Ministerial Council under section 245 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law as applied by the law of the States and Territories
- [624](#) Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Amendment (Paramedicine Qualification) Regulation 2022, made by the Ministerial Council under section 245 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law as applied by the law of the States and Territories, explanatory notes
- [625](#) Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Amendment (Paramedicine Qualification) Regulation 2022, made by the Ministerial Council under section 245 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law as applied by the law of the States and Territories, human rights certificate

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Path to Treaty



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.38 am): Two hundred years ago, British philosopher Jeremy Bentham wrote of his concern over the settlement of the colony of New South Wales. Doing it without negotiation with Aboriginal peoples was, he said, a ‘flaw’ and ‘an incurable one’. A treaty with the First Nations people of North America had existed for 150 years prior to our settlement, yet it was never established here. Even then, Governor Bligh was warned by his predecessor that he considered Aboriginal peoples ‘the real proprietors of the soil’. Others noted at the time that the linked problems of property and sovereignty would create a whispering in the hearts that would echo across generations. Yesterday, those whispering hearts were finally listened to. We have passed the legislation that will lead us to a treaty with Queensland’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This morning we hosted a Path to Treaty breakfast to celebrate this historic moment.

As I have said, a treaty begins to right wrongs that have existed for centuries. It is wisely said that those who forget the mistakes of the past are doomed to repeat them. The mistakes of our past have been whitewashed and hidden. We cannot close a gap with people who have been rendered invisible. We cannot heal wounds without knowing how deep they are. That is what treaty seeks to do. It explains for all time how our communities have come to be what they are. Only by knowing where we have come from can we know where we are going.

On 22 May 1860, almost 163 years ago to the day, the first Queensland parliament sat, and its first order of business was the murderous clashes between settlers and Aboriginal peoples. It was described as ‘indiscriminate slaughter’, but those stories, passed into the pages of history, have never been taught to our children. For healing to begin, these truths and others must be told.

The legislation that we passed yesterday enables the process to begin. At long last, Queensland will have its fresh start. The Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry will uncover these truths. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures predate the pyramids by around 60,000 years. They continue to this day as the oldest continuous cultures on the planet. That is cause for celebration. It is the gift given to every Australian. These are the opportunities presented to us as we empower our First Nations communities and as we stop doing things ‘to them’ and start doing things ‘with them’. A brighter future for all of Queensland is underway.

### First Nations Cultural Centre



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.41 am): Cairns is an important gateway to Far North Queensland and the Torres Strait Islands. It is a region that is well known as a destination for cultural tourism. Following the historic Path to Treaty Bill, which passed yesterday, today I am pleased to announce that we are looking into building a First Nations cultural centre right here in Cairns. This dedicated centre would showcase and celebrate the rich history, unique stories, traditions and cultures of the region’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and build on our government’s commitment to elevate First Nations arts. I thank Minister Enoch for guiding us on this journey.

The centre would respectfully share the truth of the past and enable healing as part of our commitment to Path to Treaty. A First Nations cultural centre in Cairns would act as a hub, along with a centre in Brisbane—connecting First Nations communities across the state, including the network of Indigenous art centres and other significant sites and locations. It will bring communities and cultures together and foster long-term social and economic benefits, including training and job opportunities for First Nations people.


We will engage a First Nations person to lead the development of the centre's business case and to consult with traditional owners and Indigenous arts and cultural stakeholders. The business case will explore how we can best provide authentic educational and cultural experiences that engage Queenslanders and visitors to our state and provide a deeper view of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures of the Far North Queensland region. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultures are central to our Queensland cultural identity, and I look forward to sharing more detail on this as it develops.

I know that there is evidence of treaties and demands for treaties from both the Australian Colonies and the British Colonial Office which are held under lock and key at the British Library in London. This morning I also learned from First Nations elder Gudju Gudju Fourmile that he has seen firsthand a wealth of artefacts which are held in the basement of the British Museum. These priceless artefacts would be better on display here at our cultural centre, where they belong. As I said this morning at the breakfast, I am happy to go to London to get these artefacts back with our First Nations people.


**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** It is actually a very important issue. It is not a laughing matter. It is a very important issue for our First Nations people.

### **Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula, Aeromedical Service**


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.43 am): I have great news for the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula. The region's geography and distances can make it challenging to deliver health care. I can announce today that Babcock Mission Critical Services Australasia has been selected to deliver a new high-tech helicopter aeromedical service to these regions. This \$288 million partnership with our government will see the delivery of two new state-of-the-art helicopters. This is great news for the people of the Torres Strait and the Northern Cape York Peninsula region. It will mean 100 per cent emergency helicopter availability to some of the most remote areas of our state. These new helicopters will be based out of Horn Island. I am pleased to confirm that our investment will fund major upgrades to the current helicopter base as well. I thank the member for Cook for her strong advocacy on this. She is once again delivering for her region. The health minister will have more to say on this soon.

### **Youth Crime, Early Intervention Programs**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.44 am): A couple of nights ago I had the opportunity to talk to some of the people involved with one of our youth crime early intervention programs. Under the Cairns Safer Streets initiative, along with the police minister, the youth justice minister, the sports minister, the Police Commissioner, the acting deputy commissioner, the member for Cairns and some of our local basketball players, I attended the basketball centre in Cairns. This is an amazing program which on the weekend attracts up to 200 kids who otherwise might be roaming the streets. I had the opportunity to speak with the organisers. This is just one part of the early intervention programs we are successfully running. It is a popular initiative involving Cairns basketball and local police to keep young people off the street through participation in sport. It lets kids get together in a safe space, helps keep them out of mischief, gives them access to positive role models and lets them play basketball with high-profile players, who give up their time to make these kids' lives better. It builds trust and relationships outside the justice system.

Today I can announce \$4 million in funding to expand youth diversionary projects across the state—just like Cairns Safer Streets and Moonlight Hoops and other projects like Project Booyah, a police youth mentoring program which operates across the state using adventure activities to teach resilience, decision-making and leadership skills. This new funding will support the continuation and development of new youth mentoring programs for at-risk youths which will involve sport and adventure-based activities. We want to empower our youth, help them to develop critical life skills, make them feel connected and get them on the straight and narrow while making our community safer.

### **Kenrick Park Master Plan; Trinity Beach Active Space**

 **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) (9.46 am): As the Premier always says, we work best when we work together. I am proud to be part of a government that is partnering with councils across Queensland to make our communities even better. Together, we are improving livability in our towns and cities, making them even more attractive places to work, play and raise a family.

Right here in Cairns, we are working with the Cairns Regional Council to help deliver the Kenrick Park master plan for the Gordonvale community, just south of where we are today. The region is experiencing significant population growth. That is why we are investing \$3 million, matched by Cairns Regional Council, to deliver stage 1 of the Kenrick Park master plan. It will be designed to provide significant health and wellbeing benefits as well as improved connectivity for the community. Right now the park is underdeveloped, the skate park is outdated, the BMX track is dirt and the basketball court is in desperate need of an upgrade. Through stage 1 of the master plan, the new car park, seats and barbecues, cycle and walking paths, playground, pump track, dog park and basketball court will make an enormous and immediate impact for the 9,000 locals and many visitors to the area.

It does not stop there. Ten thousand people are expected to flock to Trinity Beach in the next 15 years, and I am sure all members would agree, after nearly a week in this beautiful part of the world, that it is not hard to see why. For the past 40 years or so, the current Trinity Beach Community Centre has been an important venue for local activities, hosting more than 470 events last year. For a range of community groups it is the space for everything from a charity shop to a playgroup space and a place for locals to go and perform martial arts, exercise and learn art. The current community centre will not be able to keep up with the significant population growth.

Today I announce that we are investing nearly \$1 million in a new Trinity Beach active space. I know that the member for Barron River is particularly excited about this. Thanks to our \$935,000 investment, the new Trinity Beach activity space will be a fit-for-purpose facility around twice the size of the existing centre. The space will be delivered in a fifty-fifty funding arrangement with the Cairns Regional Council and will be in the same location, adjacent to the Trinity Beach kindergarten and Northern Beaches Youth Activity Space. Our government is investing not only in big things like the Cairns Marine Precinct that will create thousands of jobs but also in local infrastructure that protects and enhances our great Queensland lifestyle, especially here in Far North Queensland.

### Aviation Industry



**Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.49 am): Queensland was the birthplace and is now the home of aviation in Australia. We are the 'Q' in Qantas and the home to Virgin, Alliance and Bonza. Aviation is vital to Australia's most decentralised state. The aviation industry provides jobs, particularly for young people, brings tourists and jets our exports across the globe. The aviation industry connects businesses and families, from Coolangatta to the cape and from Cairns to Cloncurry. That is why our government supports the aviation industry in Queensland, to ensure it remains robust and prosperous.

I want to acknowledge the Premier's announcement today that the member for Cairns, the Assistant Minister for Tourism Industry Development, will lead a delegation to Hong Kong to get Cathay back to Cairns. The economic benefit of renewed flights to Hong Kong for the state's tourism and export industries would be enormous. There was more good news for Queensland's aviation industry yesterday.

**Ms Palaszczuk:** Tell us more, Treasurer.


**Mr DICK:** I will, Premier. According to media reports this morning, investors in Virgin Australia will be able to get back all of their equity investment in cash, even before any float has taken place—and those investors include the people of Queensland. Our \$200 million investment in Virgin during the pandemic was not universally supported—in fact, it was criticised by many—but I can tell you this: it was the right decision for Queensland. That decision has paid off, because Virgin flights now crisscross our state and Virgin employees still call Queensland home.

When we make investment decisions big or small, we make them carefully and we make them for the long term. In 2017 our government also invested in the \$4½ million expansion of Jet Aviation here in Cairns. This investment doubled the size of the company's hangar, allowing it to compete on a global scale. It now employs 150 full-time aviation maintenance workers less than seven kilometres from where we are today. That increase in hangar capacity allowed Jet Aviation to attract maintenance jobs for turboprop and jet aircraft. Without our decision to invest, the maintenance jobs at Jet Aviation would almost certainly have gone to Asia or Europe.

Jet Aviation has recently announced its involvement in an Australian-first training program for licensed aircraft maintenance engineers. Isn't it wonderful that the young people who join us here today can aspire to a job in aviation in their home community? That program is supported by our government's aviation strategy. With a growing demand for workers in this field, the program is accelerating cadets

into skilled specialist roles. The demand is growing because the industry is growing, and the industry is growing because of our government's ongoing support. Under the Palaszczuk Labor government, the aviation industry in Cairns and across Queensland will continue to thrive and to prosper.

### Path to Treaty

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.53 am): This morning we celebrated yesterday's historic passing of the treaty bill at the treaty breakfast. The students in the gallery will notice that beside me, where the parliamentary mace sits, is a broken spear—a gift from the Guugu Yimithirr people of the Cooktown region—which has sat on the table here today in a very significant and symbolic gesture towards that important bill that we passed.


**A government member** interjected.

**Mr CRAWFORD:** I am sorry, it was here all week; you are correct. Already we are looking towards the next steps on Queensland's path to treaty. Passing the bill now allows us to establish the Treaty Institute and the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry. Our next job is to prepare the terms of reference for the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry. On those terms of reference I will consult with the Interim Truth and Treaty Body and any person I consider has the skills, knowledge and experience relevant to the functions of the inquiry. It is expected that the terms of reference will be approved in 2023, following advice from the ITTB, and inquiry member and institute council member recruitment is expected to commence straightaway. I certainly encourage any member of the Queensland community who has the skill set that we require for either the council position or the inquiry to consider their role in stepping forward.

For the inquiry, in appointing the five members I will ensure that the inquiry reflects the gender diversity of Queensland and that the majority of the five members are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people—at least one member who is an Aboriginal person and at least one member who is a Torres Strait Islander person. I will also ensure that one member is a lawyer of five years standing who I consider has the experience relevant to the functions of the inquiry. In appointing the members of the Treaty Institute Council, I will ensure that all 10 members are of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent.

We will commence these next steps immediately, and I encourage all Queenslanders who have the relevant skill set or know of someone with a relevant skill set to step forward and have a conversation with government.

### Kindergarten

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.55 am): The Palaszczuk government's kindy-for-all program is delivering free or cheaper kindy for more than 40,000 Queensland families, delivering real cost-of-living relief and removing cost as a barrier for enrolment in early education.

Across Cairns and the Far North, families are benefiting. For example, at Boopa Werem Community Kindergarten and Preschool in Cairns, 45 families now have access to free kindergarten in 2023, saving these families up to \$3,700 this year, and another three families are getting reduced fees. At Kuranda Community Kindergarten, 12 families now have access to free kindergarten, saving these families up to \$4,500 this year—that is \$112 per week—and another five families are getting reduced fees. At Malanda Community Kindergarten, 17 families have access to free kindy, saving these families up to \$4,440 this year—that is \$110 per week—and another 27 families are getting reduced fees. These savings are making a real difference in the lives of these families. For example, Summer Daley—her child is Avery—at Malanda says—

If she wasn't getting free kindy, she wouldn't be there. They are absolutely wonderful at kindy and Avery just loves the whole thing.

Raylene Lawson—her son is Demani—at Kuranda says—

Kindy has been good. He's learnt a lot and the cost of kindy is ridiculous so free kindy meant that Demani can go. He loves it. He's met new friends and he comes home singing songs like the ABCs. Free kindy is good.

Tamara-Lee Stone, also at Kuranda—her child is Loki—says—

It's been the best thing. It's expanded his friends. Free kindy has helped as we've had financial stress so it made it easier.


Maryanne Stephens—her child is Maria—at Boopa Werem says—

Free kindy is good for family. My child would not be able to attend if we didn't have free kindy.

Another great initiative under kindy for all is our Kindy uplift program to support vulnerable and disadvantaged children. Kindy uplift has been rolled out to around 80 early childhood services across Cairns and the Far North, with more than \$1.6 million in funding allocated this year. We have some great examples of how services in this region have used Kindy uplift funding to support their children. Butterflies Early Learning & Childcare in Mooroolool and Modern Family in Westcourt, both in Cairns, have used Kindy uplift to support children with language delays. Goodstart Forest Gardens at Mount Sheridan are undertaking professional learning to help foster mental health and wellbeing in their services.

Kindy really is for all children in Queensland, no matter their location, with 95 per cent currently enrolled. That is what kindy for all is all about—delivering cost-of-living relief for Queensland families, early education and support. We are delivering the jobs, infrastructure and services that all Queensland preschool children deserve.

### **Torres Strait and Cape York Peninsula, Aeromedical Service; International Nurses Day**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.59 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to delivering free, world-class health care to every Queenslanders, no matter where they live. In a decentralised and dispersed state like ours, that means investing in greater aeromedical capabilities—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mrs D'ATH:** It is amazing how those opposite find this hilarious.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mrs D'ATH:** In a decentralised and dispersed state like ours, that means investing in greater aeromedical capabilities to ensure that people can be reached quickly and safely in their time of need. That is why, as the Premier said this morning, we are excited to announce that Babcock Mission Critical Services Australasia has been selected to deliver a new high-tech helicopter aeromedical service to the Torres Strait and northern Cape York Peninsula through a \$288 million partnership with the Queensland government. This partnership will see the delivery of two new Leonardo AW139 helicopters. These helicopters are state of the art, with the cabin being modified right here in Cairns to include roll-on roll-off stretchers as used by the Queensland Ambulance Service.

The Queensland Ambulance Service and the Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service will provide 24/7 coverage of a doctor and paramedic dedicated to the aircraft, with Babcock providing pilots, aircrew and aircraft engineers. For the people of the Torres Strait and northern Cape York Peninsula region, this will mean 100 per cent emergency helicopter availability, and I know that the member for Cook is very excited about that. These new helicopters will be based out of Horn Island and I am pleased to confirm that our investment will fund major upgrades to the current helicopter base, including onsite accommodation for staff and a patient holding facility. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the clinicians, pilots, crew and engineers who help deliver aeromedical services in our state. They do an incredible life-saving job each and every day.

Last Friday we celebrated the International Day of the Midwife and tomorrow we will celebrate International Nurses Day. Our nurses and midwives play a crucial and trusted role in the delivery of health care in this state. That is why we have delivered more than 10,000 new nurses and midwives since we came to government. Not only do we employ more nurses; we provide nation-leading wages and conditions and our recent enterprise bargaining agreement delivered the largest wage increases in Australia and the Palaszczuk government proudly introduced nurse-to-patient ratios, which were opposed by those opposite.

We are fortunate to have a group of nurses and midwives in the gallery here today, and I welcome them, along with Acting Secretary of the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union, Kate Veach. Welcome. The nurses and midwives here today work across the public, private and aged-care sectors. Mr Acting Speaker, if you would allow me some indulgence from standing orders, I would like to direct my words directly to the nurses and midwives here. I want to thank you and all of your colleagues for the work that you do each and every day. You have led our state through the pandemic and you continue to be essential in delivering high-quality health care each and every day, not just in our public hospital system but across this state. From the Palaszczuk government, we say thank you.

**Government members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr Bleijie:** Sorry you have a dud health minister!

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr Perrett** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order, members! I, too, acknowledge—

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Acting Speaker, I take personal offence and ask that the member withdraw.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order! The House will come to order! Member, that language was unparliamentary and the minister has taken offence. I would ask you to withdraw.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I withdraw.

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Acting Speaker, I believe the member for Gympie used unparliamentary language in referring to those in the gallery as a rent-a-crowd, and he should apologise.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** I will just take—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order!


**Ms Palaszcuk** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order, Premier! The House will come to order! I will just take some advice. Member for Gympie, just resume your seat until I have—

**Mr PERRETT:** I withdraw.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you. He has withdrawn. I was going to also extend an acknowledgement to my professional colleagues in the gallery.

### **Far North Queensland, Water Infrastructure**

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (10.03 am): The Palaszcuk Labor government has invested \$4.5 billion in water infrastructure since 2015, creating some 2,940 construction jobs. This investment drives water security, it helps councils deliver vital water projects in their communities and it also helps drive economic growth right across Queensland.

Cairns is a growing community and I know that the council is working hard to deliver that infrastructure, and the Palaszcuk Labor government will be with the council every step of the way under that program. We have committed \$107.5 million for the Cairns Regional Council's water security, and so has the federal government. That is right: in Tuesday night's federal budget, the federal funding for the Cairns Water Security project was locked in. We are backing urban water security and we are supporting our irrigators in Queensland too. On the Tablelands, which is such an important food bowl, we all know how vital water is for the ag sector.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Minister, I would ask you to pause there. Members of the opposition, the minister is giving a factual ministerial statement and is not being provocative. I would ask you to hear the statement in silence. There will be plenty of opportunities during question time and later today to hold the government to account.

**Mr BUTCHER:** It is great to see that the \$32.5 million investment in the Mareeba-Dimbulah water efficiency program has now finished. This has been a great partnership, with funding from SunWater, the federal government and the Queensland state government. This is a game-changing project that will save more than 8,300 megalitres of high-priority valued water. This project will also modernise that infrastructure and improve the reliability to Tablelands growers.

The Palaszcuk Labor government wants to see the agriculture sector continue to grow on the Tablelands and right across Far North Queensland. We have invested a total of \$9 million in regional water assessments in the Bundaberg-Burnett, the southern Darling Downs and up here in the Tablelands. The ag sector is a major economic driver in the Far North and employs around 8,800 people. The Tablelands Regional Water Assessment is about those long-term projects which will unlock more jobs and investment over a longer term. Once complete, this assessment will be a road map that sets out how existing infrastructure, new infrastructure and non-infrastructure solutions can be used to maximise water supply and drive economic growth.

On the topic of the Tablelands, I am pleased to announce that the latest round of the Building our Regions funding for the Tablelands Regional Council will deliver a demand management plan as well as the Ravenshoe Water Quality Improvement Plan. The Cairns and Far North Queensland community can always count on the Palaszczuk Labor government to continue to deliver water infrastructure for its communities.

### Great Barrier Reef, Protection



**Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (10.07 am): Ambitious, rapid and sustained: these are the words UNSECO's World Heritage Centre 2022 monitoring report used to describe the action needed to protect one of Queensland's greatest natural assets, the Great Barrier Reef, and that is exactly what we are doing, because the reef is not just the world's largest coral reef system; it is a sea country for First Nations Australians—more than 70 traditional owner groups—whose connections to the marine environment date back more than 60,000 years. Here in Cairns it is the cornerstone of a \$1.5 billion tourism economy, supporting thousands of jobs and more than five million international visitor nights before COVID hit.

We have taken ambitious action on climate change with an Energy and Jobs Plan that will generate cleaner, cheaper energy right at the reef's doorstep. We have committed \$270 million to continue our Queensland Reef Water Quality Program to address water pollution, taking our total spend since 2015 to over \$1 billion. We are scaling up land restoration, supporting farmers to improve run-off, banning more single-use plastics and protecting more threatened species habitat, both on land and at sea.

Today I am announcing that the government has purchased the leases for two key islands within the Great Barrier Reef—St Bees Island, 35 kilometres north-east of Mackay, and Long Island Broad Sound in the southern Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The purchase of the Long Island Broad Sound rolling term lease will add more than 3,500 hectares of the island's unique natural habitat and a known rookery for the vulnerable flatback turtle to Queensland's protected area. Combined with the recent acquisition of Wild Duck Island, it will significantly add to the conservation of critical rookeries for flatback turtles. The St Bees Island lease includes 4.2 hectares of land that fronts onto Homestead Bay and consolidates the South Cumberland Islands National Park and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

The purchase of these leases means that the unique and critical ecosystems of the Great Barrier Reef will be protected into the future and the entirety of the St Bees Island and Long Island Broad Sound will become national parks and flatback turtles will be able to lay their clutches on those pristine isolated beaches.

These new acquisitions and policies complement our strong tree clearing laws we introduced in 2018, as well as reef regulations we introduced to address land-based sources of water pollution into the reef—both measures those opposite opposed. It all goes together to protect the reef for biodiversity, for the economy and for future generations.

### Far North Queensland, Social Housing



**Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algerst—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (10.10 am): The Palaszczuk government is making a significant investment in social and affordable housing in Cairns and Far North Queensland. Right across Australia housing affordability is a significant issue and regional Queensland is not immune from the challenges that are being faced so our government is taking decisive action. Every day we are adding more homes to Queensland's social housing stock and with a \$3.9 billion investment in social and affordable housing, the largest concentrated investment in Queensland's history, we are making sure Far North Queensland benefits through a pipeline of work in the region. This includes projects like the 23-unit complex in Earlville that the member for Cairns and I recently announced, which is a \$9.5 million development of one- and two-bedroom apartments to be delivered in early 2025 in partnership with community housing provider Access Community Housing.

Projects like this are building on our government's existing investment in social and affordable housing for the region. For example, last week I joined the member for Cairns in Westcourt to visit seven new social housing units which are nearing completion. Our government is investing \$2.7 million in that complex which has been designed to a Livable Housing Design gold standard, meaning it is suitable for people with disability and for seniors. We are also investing in remote Indigenous housing



in Far North Queensland and are working alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander councils to deliver local housing action plans and we have been building. For example, in Yarrabah, since July 2015 our government has invested \$12.8 million in housing, building 30 new homes, and we will continue to invest in delivering new housing outcomes in partnership with the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council.

Our support for vulnerable people living in the Far North also extends beyond housing. Last week the member for Cairns and I were able to announce the delivery of our government's election commitment to expand and refurbish the Lyons Street Diversionary Centre. That \$4.35 million project increases the centre's capacity from 36 to 50 beds and means the centre now includes a new women's wellbeing space as well as upgrades to facilities. In addition, we have committed an additional \$6 million to increase the delivery of public intoxication support services in Cairns, including the expansion of night patrols. The Palaszczuk government has also allocated \$800,000 to commence scoping upgrade works to reopen the former crisis accommodation centre on Quigley Street. The property will be upgraded to provide up to six units of supported accommodation for some of the most vulnerable people in our community. Last weekend the member for Cairns and I also announced that a former Department of Transport and Main Roads property at Manoora will be upgraded to become a 24/7 temporary accommodation site with a specialist homelessness service supporting tenants around the clock.

We are committed to supporting vulnerable Queenslanders through this work and, of course, by boosting social housing supply with 13,000 new social and affordable housing commencements by mid-2027 here in Cairns and right across the state.

## MOTION

### Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.13 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders—

1. The Premier be permitted to move at 12.30 pm today the notice of motion standing in her name with the following time limits to apply to the debate:
  - (a) Premier, Deputy Premier, Leader of the Opposition (or nominee), Deputy Leader of the Opposition (or nominee) and one crossbench member—5 minutes each; and
  - (b) total time for debate 30 minutes.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.14 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 23 May 2023 at Parliament House, Brisbane.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### Far North Queensland, Service Delivery



**Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.14 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House notes the failure of local Far North Queensland Labor MPs to listen to their communities, overseeing a deterioration of service delivery in the Far North.


**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order! There will be plenty of time to debate the motion this evening.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Question time will conclude today at 11.15 am.

### Cairns Hospital, Mental Health Unit

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.15 am): My question is to the Premier. The opposition has obtained a leaked report from within the Cairns Hospital Mental Health Unit which uncovers systemic issues, including staff afraid of speaking out for fear of retribution and 'very high levels of workplace bullying and violence'. After almost a decade in power, how has the Premier allowed the culture of Queensland Health to reach this point?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I will ask the health minister to—

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Premier, I will ask you to resume your seat. There is a point of order. Member for Capalaba, what is your point of order?

**Mr BROWN:** Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There were a number of points of order yesterday about verifying the question. I ask that the Leader of the Opposition verify the report.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, I would ask you to verify the report.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Yes, I can. We have a copy of the report.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Dr MILES:** Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. For the member to verify it, I move—

That the document be tabled.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order! The House will come to order as I take some advice from the Clerk. Can I clarify, as per standing order 30, that you are moving that this document be tabled?

**Dr MILES:** I am, Mr Acting Speaker.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I table the document that the Deputy Premier said was 'making stuff up' titled 'Insights into workplace culture'.

*Tabled paper:* Project Insight—2021/22 report commissioned by Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service, dated 25 August 2022, titled 'Insights into workplace culture: Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service: Mental Health, Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Service' [\[626\]](#).

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order! The House will come to order. Leader of the Opposition, you used some unparliamentary language there. I would ask you to withdraw.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I withdraw.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. It is about a 60-page—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Premier, please resume your seat. I have attempted multiple times to gain control of this chamber. Leader of the Opposition, Deputy Premier, member for Kawana and member for McConnel, you are all warned.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** This is about a 70-page document.

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Mudgeeraba, you can join the warning list as well. The Premier has not even begun to respond to the question after a considerable period of time dealing with points of order.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The Leader of the Opposition has tabled a document. I do not know the date of that document. I am going to ask the health minister to investigate that. From time to time, agencies actually do investigations to improve workplace culture and it is a good thing for an organisation to do that. It is this government that is investing in mental health in this state.

**Mr Nicholls:** Where is the *Working for Queensland* report?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am so glad that the member for Clayfield interjected and I am glad we have nurses in the gallery. We thank them for the work that they do. The member for Clayfield took great delight in sacking over 4,000 healthcare workers in this state, including 430 frontline health workers in Far North Queensland. I thank the member for Clayfield for interjecting because it reminds students and members of the public who are here of the damage that his government did. We are expanding the Mental Health Unit. We have massively invested in mental health. I understand that mental health is a big issue in communities right across Queensland.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I take deep offence at the interjection of the member for Nanango and I ask her to withdraw. That was disgraceful.

**Mr POWELL:** Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. From what I heard, the comments by the member for Nanango were not directed personally at the Premier.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** I shall take some advice. Member for Nanango, neither the Clerk nor I heard the comments but I ask you to withdraw in the interests of the orderly operation of the House.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I withdraw.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We are investing \$70 million in upgrading the Mental Health Unit here in Cairns. I am glad that nurses are in the gallery today because I can remind them that it was the member for Mudgeeraba who called our regional frontline health workers 'duds'. That is what the member for Mudgeeraba did.

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Premier, please resume your seat. Member for Mudgeeraba, you are on a warning. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Mudgeeraba withdrew from the chamber at 10.22 am.*

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is what the member for Mudgeeraba did to men and women of our state who work hard every day. We know that the member for Clayfield took a wrecking ball to the health workforce in this state. We have rebuilt the numbers of doctors, nurses and allied health workers. It is why we are investing \$9 billion in the hospital and health services.

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** The member for Miller will cease quarrelling across the chamber.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** It is why we announced the \$250 million health expansion. We value our health workers.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Before I call the Leader of the Opposition for the next question, member for Miller, you can join the warning list. I attempted several times to gain your attention. You are on a warning.

### **Cairns Hospital, Mental Health Unit**

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** My question is to the Minister for Health. The leaked report of the Cairns Hospital mental health service reveals unqualified staff being recruited to the unit and staff being asked to do tasks they were not trained for. Can the minister guarantee patient safety at the Cairns Mental Health Unit has not been compromised because of those failures?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for his question. I am happy to have a look at the document that has been provided and ask the hospital and health service to respond to any of those allegations. As the health minister, I have made it clear that we need to improve the culture across our health system. We need to make sure our staff are listened to and that there is a proper reporting mechanism so that if staff believe that they are not being heard directly by their immediate supervisors and leadership team then they can escalate it within the hospital and health service to the board, the department and, of course, other regulatory bodies if need be.

I do not know what the LNP and the Leader of the Opposition think happens to the morale of staff when, each and every day, they are bagging our health system and calling our regional health workers 'duds'. What do the opposition think sacking 4,400 health workers did? What do they think would happen if they were in government right now and there were 5,035 fewer health workers? What sort of pressure do they think having 5,000 fewer health workers would put on the health system?

It is the Palaszczuk government that is investing over \$1.6 billion in mental health. It is this government that recently changed the hospital and health boards legislation to embed in the objects of that act the health and wellbeing of our staff. In order to look after the community's health we have to look after the health of our staff. It is the job of every hospital and health service to look after the health and wellbeing of their staff because we cannot look after the community if we do not look after our workers. The Palaszczuk government is making the biggest capital investment ever to supply beds and take pressure off the health system and that takes pressure off the health workforce. We are actually investing in our workforce itself.

We offer the best wages and conditions in the country right now. We know that people value Queensland and actually think that the state is running very well because they are flocking to live in Queensland. They all want to come here to live and work and raise their children because they know we have a good health system and a good education system, that we are investing in housing and that we are building the roads and the infrastructure that we need. They also know that if we had an LNP government then all of that would be cut away.

### Far North Queensland, Health Services

**Ms LUI:** My question is of the Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Will the Premier please update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is investing in health care across Far North Queensland and is the Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Cook for that question. The member for Cook is a great advocate for her electorate and has achieved so much in her time here and she will continue to deliver for the people of her community. Today we are pleased to announced two new high-tech helicopters to deliver aeromedical services to the Torres Strait and the northern cape peninsula. We know how remote Queensland communities can be. As I have said, I am determined to ensure that Queenslanders have access to good quality health care. When you live in the most remote parts of the state you need those helicopters to do emergency transfers as quickly and as safely as possible. Of course, that also means investing in doctors, paramedics, pilots and aircrew as well as major upgrades to the helicopter base. Today's announcement is a great outcome for the people of the Torres Strait and the northern peninsula.

We have invested \$46 million in the Thursday Island Hospital. The member, the Minister for Health and I visited Thursday Island to see those upgrades that will open shortly, meaning new wards and a new operating theatre, a roof replacement, 31 inpatient beds, seven emergency department spaces, a birthing suite and five outpatient suites. We are also investing \$17 million in upgrades to healthcare centres on the islands of the Torres Strait. Once again, our government is listening and delivering, including improved staff accommodation. We know that, compared to the LNP's last budget, we have delivered a 61 per cent increase in the overall investment in the Torres and Cape HHS, with \$277 million this financial year. I repeat: a 61 per cent increase—not cuts; an increase. We know that under those opposite there were massive cuts. From the Torres and Cape HHS they sacked 96 health staff, including 22 nurses.

I find it ironic that those opposite even talk about health in this House when their awful record still stands and the fact that we still have shadow ministers on that side of the House who served in the LNP cabinet that took a wrecking ball to Queensland Health: the member for Clayfield, the then treasurer, the architect; the member for Kawana and the member for Broadwater.

**Mr POWELL:** Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Based on your ruling regarding the member for Nanango and references to previous governments, I take personal offence and ask the Premier to withdraw.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** I will take some advice in relation to that. Manager of Opposition Business, that could almost be considered a reflection on the chair. That clearly was not the ruling that I gave. When you review *Hansard*, you will clearly see the ruling that I gave in relation to the member for Nanango. There is no point of order. I call the Premier.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** On this side of the House we value our health workers. We are building the hospitals. We value the workers. On that side of the House—

*(Time expired)*

### Health System

**Mr BLEIJIE:** My question is to the Minister for Health. On 16 December the minister said, 'It is very concerning that not only are staff not willing to speak up but staff are scared to speak up in some areas of Queensland Health.' Damning reviews from hospitals in Caboolture, Mackay, Bundaberg and

now an internal report from Cairns have revealed deep cultural issues. After more than eight years and multiple reviews, how can staff trust the Palaszczuk government to let the sunshine in and fix the broken culture in Queensland Health?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for his question. Talk about shining a light! They hid everything. If they did not sack them, they certainly hid them. Actually they hid the member for Kawana for six months because he was so damaging to them in government.

In relation to the report that has been tabled, this is an insights report. It was provided by the chief executive last month. The hospital chief executive has signed off on all of the recommendations to implement. These recommendations are with the service leadership team and being oversighted by the health service. The recommendations do go to cultural behaviour. It was not a clinical service report.

I welcome the fact that we have HHSs doing these cultural behaviour reviews so that they can identify areas for improvement, unlike those opposite who, quite honestly, did not shine a light on anything in health. They and the Leader of the Opposition when he lived in North Queensland believed that it was a good thing to sack workers: it is what was needed to be done—tough love to sack 4,400 health workers including here in Cairns and across Far North Queensland. We do not sack health workers; we employ health workers.

We pay them decent wages and conditions and now we are incentivising more to come and work in this state to take pressure off our health system and to take pressure off our health workers who are doing a tireless job in our health system dealing with the ever-increasing demand of people flowing into our public hospital system because of a failure in the primary care system. We have a federal Labor government that is now listening.

We have invested in the Cairns Hospital—\$15 million to acquire the land for the transition to a university hospital. We are investing in breast care nurses in rural, remote health locations across Far North Queensland, the youth alcohol and other drug centre, mental health and renal dialysis spaces. It is this government that is investing.

When those opposite get up and talk about health, when they have called them 'duds' in the regions, when they have made false claims about services being shut down and put fear into communities, when they shut the Barrett Adolescent Centre—they have the nerve to come in here and try to claim that they are on the side of health workers. No health worker should ever trust a word that comes out of the mouth of the Leader of the Opposition and his team because we know part of that team has already said they are going to make \$2 billion worth of cuts that they have already identified, and I am sure there is more to come.

### Cost of Living

**Mr WALKER:** My question is of the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure. Could the Deputy Premier advise the House what the Palaszczuk government is doing to help Queenslanders with the cost of living, including delivering more housing, and are there any other approaches?

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for his question. It is a very important one. The Palaszczuk government, which the member is a member of, understands the impact that cost of living is having on Queensland families. Many of the factors driving that increased cost of living are global and national. The inflation surge and the RBA's decisions to increase interest rates are outside the control of any one state. The Queensland government is doing what we can to help Queensland families.

We have increased concessions by 10 per cent this financial year, bringing them to a total of \$6.8 billion. We are helping to reduce the cost of everyday necessities. The biggest one that we have an element of control over is power bills. That is where we have delivered a \$175 rebate to every Queensland family's electricity bill—a \$385 dividend for them, bringing the total dividend to Queensland households for owning their assets to \$1.185 billion. We can only do that because we own those assets. We can only do that because Queensland families voted to keep ownership of their energy assets. As the Premier has been very clear, there will be even more in the next budget because the Palaszczuk government understands the impact of cost of living on Queensland families.

The member asks if I know of any other approaches. Do you know what, Mr Acting Speaker? It turns out I do. We are often critical of those opposite for not having any plans, but today I found one! On the LNP's Facebook page they have released their plan to address cost of living. The ad says, 'Stand up to the pressure. Go to the Pressure Relief Fund today.'

*Tabled paper:* Extract from the Liberal National Party social media, undated, regarding the Pressure Release Fund [\[627\]](#).

Where do donations to the Pressure Relief Fund go? Is it the Salvos or the Red Cross? When you donate to the Pressure Relief Fund, you get an email which says, 'Thank you for your generous donation to the LNP's campaign.' I table that.

*Tabled paper:* Correspondence and tax invoice, dated 11 May 2023, relating to a donation to the Liberal National Party of Queensland (Central Campaign) [628].

The only person who could be so obsessed with themselves and with fundraising that his answer to the cost-of-living pressure is to give him money! Mr Acting Speaker, do you want to know what is worse? Ads for the Leader of the Opposition's Pressure Relief Fund are targeted at older Queenslanders 65 and over. I table that as well.

*Tabled paper:* Graph, undated, titled 'Impressions' [629].

The Leader of the Opposition's only answer for older Queenslanders—retirees and pensioners—struggling with the cost of living is for them to give money to him. We will keep giving money to them through our energy rebates because we own our power companies.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order, members! I remind all members of the House that documents are not to be waved around as a prop. They are to be read from or tabled. They are the options.

### Workforce Data; Working for Queensland Survey

**Mr LAST:** My question is to the Premier. Given another damning report into another Palaszcuk government department, will the Premier finally explain why she has not released the long overdue workforce data and Working for Queensland survey?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** It gives me the opportunity to confirm to the House that I have appointed longstanding, highly respected director-general David Mackie to be the new Public Service Commissioner. Mr Mackie wants to authenticate and ensure that the accuracy of the data being collected across our agencies is indeed that: accurate. That will be tabled as soon as it is completed.

I will come back to what the Deputy Premier was saying. On this side of the House we understand that the cost of living is a big issue. Today I find it mind-blowing that those opposite would be targeting pensioners across Queensland to donate not to the Foodbank or to give to the Salvation Army and other NGOs, but to the LNP. They should give that money back.

**Ms Fentiman:** Give the money back!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Give the money back to the pensioners!

**Mr POWELL:** Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance, standing order 118(b). The question was about workforce data and the Working for Queensland survey. If the Premier feels that she has answered that question, then she should sit down.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Manager of Opposition Business, I do not need your assistance in understanding the implications of the rulings that I will give. Premier, I would ask you to come back to the substance of the question.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** When Mr Mackie does release that data we will also table the data from the first budget of the LNP, which shows very clearly that they cut Public Service numbers and we increased Public Service numbers. The LNP cuts and we increase. They devalue and call health workers duds. We value them and thank them for their work. I think it might be timely for the Attorney-General to ask her office to investigate this alleged scam. Give the money back to the pensioners. You were happy to take money away from seniors when you were in power. I want to see more about this because I think this is a shameful act.

### Aviation Industry

**Mr HEALY:** My question is of the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. Will the Treasurer update the House on the importance of having a competitive airline market in Queensland, and is the Treasurer aware of any alternative approaches?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Cairns for the question. As everyone knows, the member for Cairns is about to depart for Hong Kong to fight to get Cathay back.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** What an extraordinary thing for a member of our government to go overseas to try and get an airline to fly to our state to support its economy and its people. It is condemned by those members opposite. If there is one person who can talk up Cairns and its charms, it is the member for Cairns. We wish him well.

During the pandemic we kept airlines going within Queensland because we got on with our lives when people in New South Wales and Victoria were subject to crushing lockdowns. Everyone in regional Queensland remembers the dark days when Ansett disappeared from the skies of Queensland and what that meant for communities like Cairns. It nearly happened again when Virgin Airlines was almost crushed by the pandemic. We are pleased to see Virgin jets above the skies of Cairns and other regional cities in Queensland because the Palaszczuk Labor government stepped in to help save that airline. We invested \$200 million in an airline during the pandemic. That was not an easy decision, but it was the right decision. We are going to get our money back for the people of Queensland.

We should never forget that the Palaszczuk Labor government's decision to save Virgin was opposed every step of the way by the Leader of the Opposition as the shadow tourism minister. When Virgin was in its hour of need the Leader of the Opposition said, 'Go away.' Day after day the Leader of the Opposition, as the shadow tourism minister, sent out frontbenchers to attack our decision to save Virgin. Worst of all, through the member for Everton and the member for Nanango the Leader of the Opposition even wanted to tear up our contract with Virgin, treating our investment partners with contempt and costing our state millions of dollars. Those are the sort of cuts the Leader of the Opposition would inflict on Queensland.

We know that he wants to give up billions of dollars in progressive coal royalties to the mining lobby. He wants to give up \$600 million in revenue to indexed thresholds of the 0.7 per cent—that is seven tenths of one per cent of the population of Queensland—who pay land tax. He wants to change that. Mr Acting Speaker, \$600 million would have paid for Virgin three times over. We will not just lose airlines like Virgin. Under the cuts of the Leader of the Opposition we would lose 1,500 nurses and midwives; we would lose 135 police from Far North Queensland; Cairns hospital upgrades would be cut; the Townsville Hospital upgrade would be cut; and the new Moranbah Hospital would be cut. There would be cuts up and down the east coast of Queensland and all throughout our state because every one of those cuts would be written and authorised by the Leader of the Opposition.

### Care4Qld Strategy

**Dr ROWAN:** My question is to the Minister for Health. Today marks two years since the government announced the \$100 million Care4Qld strategy to fix ambulance ramping. Since then ramping has worsened, the number of people waiting 24 hours or more in an emergency department has surged, and nearly a quarter of all patients presenting to an ED are not seen in the clinically recommended time frame. Has Care4Qld failed?

**An honourable member:** There is that folder.

**Mrs D'ATH:** Yes, pointing out the obvious: I do have a folder. I have all of the dirt on the LNP—the cuts, the sacking, the selling. There is a lot that has been cut.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mrs D'ATH:** The good thing is that every time the LNP stands up they add to that list. I wonder how the Leader of the Opposition feels every time one of his people stand up and go, 'Just letting you know, we've got our own cuts list. We're going to cut at least \$2 billion out of the system', including ambulance services and satellite hospitals, including investment right here in Far North Queensland.

**Mr POWELL:** Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Under the standing orders, I ask that the health minister table the document she is referring to.

**Mrs D'ATH:** Your cuts list? Okay.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** I will just take some advice.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have made it very clear that I will take advice in silence. I shall take some advice. You need to make a formal motion under the standing orders.

**Mr POWELL:** Under standing order 30, I move—

That the document be tabled.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** The question is that the motion be agreed to.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion negatived.

**Mrs D'ATH:** We know how many reports they did not release when they were in government, how many clinical reviews they did not release. Whenever the LNP comes to the dispatch box or goes out and does a press conference and starts quoting stats about our health system they are very selective, because this is what they are not saying to the public. According to Australian data, the Report on Government Services shows that Queensland has the second-best performing emergency departments in the country, with 68 per cent of patients seen on time. In New South Wales it is 77 per cent. However, based on the most recently quarterly data, Queensland is now in the lead with the best performing emergency departments in the country despite the largest growth happening in our presentations. We have also seen that Queensland is treating 84.5 per cent of elective surgery patients within the recommended time. This is the best in the country.

Our median emergency department wait time is 16 minutes. What was it under the Newman government? It was 19 minutes. Despite having a 100 per cent increase in category 1 and 2 presentations in our EDs, we still have a shorter median wait time in our EDs than when they were in government—and they did not even have a global pandemic to deal with. They are very selective when they quote statistics. They do not go out there saying, 'If you had voted for us, we would have given you 5,035 less health workers. How good are we?' They do not talk about the 4,400 health workers they sacked. When they quote figures they cannot be trusted.

*(Time expired)*

### **Great Barrier Reef, Education**

**Mrs GILBERT:** My question is to the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Can the minister advise what the Palaszczuk government is doing to get our schoolchildren engaged with reef education, and is she aware of any alternative approaches?

**Ms GRACE:** I thank the member for Mackay for the question. As an ex-teacher, she knows that education is key for our students and for the protection of our reef. I acknowledge all the students and teachers in the gallery. It is great to have you all here. As the education minister, I also acknowledge our hardworking nurses, teachers and teacher aides who may be in the gallery, and all the hardworking public servants who did such a fantastic job during our three atypical years of COVID.

We know the Palaszczuk government is committed to protecting the Great Barrier Reef, and I am proud to be part of it. As a young teenager, I took my first trip to Cairns and I will never forget the trip out to the reef. It was awesome. I learned about it in school and I could only imagine what it would look like in real life, and then I was able to come to this fantastic city. I was very jealous of my husband Michael yesterday as he went out to Fitzroy Island for the day while we worked all day here in the parliament. I remember going out there years ago when it first opened to the public. It was a beautiful, amazing spot. We have to do all we can as a government and we are committed to doing that. We need to ensure that we educate students on the Great Barrier Reef and how it works and how it can be protected through learning and career pathways.

A great example is Woree State High School. They are partnering with Shoreline Foundation to support First Nations students to learn skills in marine and related industries, which also helps employers find great new entry-level employees. Le Shai, a student who came through the training provided by Shoreline, said—

Being out on the reef boats as a young Year 11 Indigenous student has allowed me to connect with the cultural side of tourism and has opened many opportunities for me.

We know that you are the guardians and the custodians of the reef going forward. We have got education programs in schools right throughout, including Mossman state high and Cooktown State School. The program encourages teachers and students to take actions to help protect the Great Barrier Reef and its connected ecosystems.

I say to all of those present that there are three big threats to the reef—climate change, water pollution and those opposite. While they were in government federally they did nothing for the reef, and when they were in government here for three short years, they dismantled everything that was in place to assist the reef. You cannot risk those opposite.

*(Time expired)*



### Gladstone Hospital, Maternity Services

**Ms CAMM:** My question is to the Premier. Last week marked 300 days since Gladstone Hospital went on maternity bypass. To mark the sad anniversary, locals organised a community event of impacted mothers. Can the Premier explain what was more important than attending this event?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** As everyone knows, Queensland is a very big state. I have ministers who go across the length and breadth of this state, and I also have local members.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Members of the opposition, the Premier is being directly responsive to your question and has only just started. I would ask you to hear the response in silence.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The health minister has informed me that she is prepared to meet with the people in Gladstone. On my next visit that I am there, I am more than happy to meet with them as well.

### Health System, Workforce

**Mr HARPER:** My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Can the minister advise the House how the Palaszczuk government is supporting our hardworking, dedicated and professional nurses and midwives, and is the minister aware of any other approaches?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for Thuringowa for his question. I know how dedicated he is to supporting our health workforce, having been part of that workforce himself for many years as a paramedic. It is a proud day to be acknowledging our wonderful nurses and midwives, including those in the gallery and those who are not here today but are at work providing high-quality health care to each and every Queenslanders across this state. Whether you work in the public hospital system, the private hospital system, aged care, disability or community services, we thank you for the great work that you do.

As I said earlier, we have employed more than 10,000 nurses and midwives since coming into government and we are providing nation-leading wages and conditions. We have delivered the nurse-to-patient ratios, making hospitals safer for staff and patients. We are investing in nurse practitioners and nurse navigators and we know that they are making a difference. We have seen the evidence of what the nurse-to-patient ratio is doing and what the nurse navigator model does. It is saving lives. It is not just saving dollars; it is saving lives, and we thank you for that. We are so grateful for that incredible work that you are doing.

**Mr Head** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Callide, you are warned.

**Mrs D'ATH:** We are significantly increasing the graduate intakes, and yesterday we announced new measures to attract nurses and midwives into our state to work in our public health system. In comparison, those opposite sacked 1,800 nurses and midwives when they were in government—48 nurses in Cairns and 22 nurses in the Torres Strait. They wanted to employ 5,000 fewer health workers if they had been elected only two years ago. That included 3,270 fewer nurses. Imagine if we had 3,270 fewer nurses in our system today. They have refused to back our wages increases and have indicated that they have a plan to prune billions of dollars out of the public health system. I do think they should go public—

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I hear 'rubbish'. Let me quote the member for Chatsworth: 'Well, we know at the moment that if you look at the budget we've got areas that we've already identified a couple of billion dollars worth of savings. At the moment, there are a range of areas that we know already that we could prune things back.'

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Miller, you are on a warning. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Miller withdrew from the chamber at 10.57 am.*

**Mrs D'ATH:** This is who the Leader of the Opposition actually is. When he was the member for Mundingburra, the member for Thuringowa was threatened with the sack for speaking out about them getting rid of the baby capsule fitter. He was told by an assistant commissioner, 'Crisafulli wants your head on a platter.' That is who he is.

*(Time expired)*

### Child Death Review Board

**Mr NICHOLLS:** My question is to the Attorney-General. Yesterday the disability royal commission heard evidence that in 2020 then attorney-general D'Ath refused to refer the Kaleb and Jonathon case to the Child Death Review Board. Will the current Attorney-General commit to referring this matter to the Child Death Review Board to ensure that full access to documents is granted and people can have confidence in the system?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I thank the member for the question. I welcome the important work of the disability royal commission who are conducting its final hearings in Brisbane this week and examining a case study relating to two severely disabled boys. On 20 August 2021, I tabled a summary report titled *Keeping school-aged children with disability safe*. Obviously the former attorney had referred the matter to the then QFCC before the Child Death Review Board had been established in legislation. Further, I referred the report from the QFCC to the disability royal commission so that they could also properly investigate the matter. The Child Death Review Board looks at systemic issues and does not focus on individual cases. The children, one of whom of course at the time was an adult, are both alive, and it is then more appropriate for the disability royal commission to look at this matter.

The summary report that I tabled did not make specific recommendations, but there were three issues that required further review: meeting vulnerable children's needs during COVID; helping families to access the NDIS; and overseeing the use of funded disability supports to better meet the needs of children whose parents may be unable or unwilling to access NDIS supports. I am advised as of 31 March, 3,650 children and young people have now been referred to the NDIS for the supports that they need. Some 3,069 of them now have approved NDIS plans. I am also advised that the child safety minister's department has employed an additional 29 staff to help young people with complex needs, including disability, mental health issues and trauma.

Again, we will await the findings and the recommendations from the disability royal commission. This was investigated by the QFCC, and all of the relevant material has been provided to the disability royal commission.

### Seniors, Cost of Living

**Ms KING:** My question is of the Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. Can the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is supporting Queensland's seniors facing cost-of-living pressures?

**Mr CRAWFORD:** I thank the member for Pumicestone for the question. In 2021, our Seniors Expos kicked off with the first one in her electorate. Members will remember that a couple of years ago the Premier attended that; it was the first one that we held. We have held many more since then across the state, including yesterday right here in the Convention Centre behind the curtains behind you, Acting Speaker, where around 100 Far North Queensland seniors came in. The expos provide a platform for seniors to learn more about being safe in the community, online, connecting with frontline services that can help them, and they showcased the wonderful work being done in community by older people.

The member for Scenic Rim will be interested to know that the next Seniors Expo will be in his electorate in Beaudesert. I understand that it is already sold out. Scenic Rim seniors will learn about concessions, rebates and discounts, police will talk to them about safety, stall holders will have information about health and transport, smoke detectors, fire safety, and the list goes on.

As I said yesterday in the House, almost 900,000 people aged 65 years and older live in Queensland. I also reported that the statistics show that the number one concern for our seniors is cost of living. The Palaszczuk government is committed to support seniors in this state, particularly with their cost of living. That is why we have a range of support available to them.

For the students in the gallery, I am sure you know many people who are aged 65 years and older. They may be mum and dad or could be grandparents, neighbours, aunts, uncles—they might even be your teachers. It is important to help them out. Sit them down and help them understand that they can possibly get a discount on their rates, on gas, on car rego, on power and on a range of other things. They might not be really good at getting on a computer, but I am sure you will be able to help them with that as well. Get them connected. Make sure they get their discounts because they paid a lot of tax during their time, right? To the students up there, this is your job: help them get connected and help them save some money.

There is more. The federal Labor government announced in the budget this week some direct benefits like power relief, GP bulk-billing for pensioners and healthcare card holders, and making it easier to get to a GP. Between our federal government and the state government, we are committed to looking after our seniors. Whilst the LNP is scamming money from our seniors to a fake donation page, the Palaszczuk government is putting more dollars back into their pockets.

### Kurrimine Beach Boat Ramp

**Mr KNUTH:** My question without notice was to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, but he has been kicked out, so my question is to the Premier. There has been four years of extensive consultation for a new modern boat ramp at Kurrimine Beach to reduce safety concerns and meet increased demand. With the design completed and council agreeing to fund the foreshore development, will the Premier commit funds in the upcoming budget to finally construct the Kurrimine Beach boat ramp?

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** I think the technical term is 'asked to withdraw under the standing orders'.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am absolutely delighted to get this question from the member for Hill, a very strong advocate for his local community. What he is stating sounds very plausible and very reasonable. I am quite sure that in our upcoming state budget we will see a contribution towards that boat ramp.

**Mr DICK:** Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. No, I am only joking.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order! Treasurer, I do not appreciate frivolous points of order. The House will return to order.

### Women

**Ms LAUGA:** My question is of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Can the Attorney-General please inform the House on how the Palaszczuk government is delivering for the women of Queensland, and is she aware of any other approaches?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I thank the member for Keppel for her question. What a fantastic role model we have for young women from regional Queensland. For all those young women in the gallery, the member for Keppel is a fantastic role model and member of our government. I am so proud to be part of a government that delivers better outcomes for women. We were the first state in this country to deliver paid domestic and family violence leave, something that has now been taken up by our federal Labor government. Wasn't it refreshing to see a budget being delivered federally that delivered for women? Some \$1.9 billion to expand payments for single parents, 91 per cent of whom are women; delivering cheaper child care so that women do not have to choose between work and family; a 15 per cent pay rise for aged-care workers—that is what our federal Labor government does for women, not the LNP government here in Queensland that are scamming them to donate, it would appear.

This is in stark contrast to what we saw from the previous LNP government federally under Scott Morrison. Who can forget Scott Morrison's legacy of failing to deliver for women, including telling women we were lucky not to be shot in the street when we were protesting about implementing the *Respect@work* report?

I am glad that we finally have a wonderful Labor government. They are even investing in getting women into leadership positions, something that Scott Morrison failed to do. It is not just Scott Morrison. We have seen time and time again the Leader of the Opposition here in Queensland fail to get more women into leadership positions and fail to get more women into this parliament. Despite having only six women MPs in his parliament, just 17 per cent, he still refused to preselect a woman in the seat of Callide and in the Stretton by-election. He is not interested. Now it seems that because of this inaction, Queensland has become a national disgrace.

**Mr Head** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Callide, you are under a warning. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Callide withdrew from the chamber at 11.09 am.*

**Ms FENTIMAN:** The ABC has reported this week that Queensland has the lowest percentage of women MPs in the entire country. We are doing our bit. We have a woman Premier, we have women cabinet ministers. We have 21 women members of parliament compared to the LNP, which has just six women MPs. How can they hope to govern for a modern Queensland, to govern for young women here in Cairns when they cannot put women into the parliament?

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** The House will come to order, including the member for Southern Downs. It never ceases to amaze me how many ways you can bring Emu Swamp Dam into a debate! You have excelled yourself this week.

### **Victims of Crime, One-Stop Shop Strategy and Implementation Office**

**Ms BOLTON:** My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Given that in 2017 the Department of Justice and Attorney-General initiated a victims of crime One-Stop Shop Strategy and Implementation Office, can the Attorney-General explain why a much needed victims of crime one-stop shop support service was not progressed for Queensland at that time or since?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I thank the member for Noosa for her question—another wonderful role model for women in Queensland who is doing excellent work as part of the parliamentary inquiry led by the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee hearing from victims of crime. I look forward to receiving the recommendations for that strategy. We know that victims do get lost in our systems and we need to better support them at all points through the criminal justice system. We will consider all those recommendations that come from the committee.

I am advised that the One-Stop Shop Strategy and Implementation Office was a unit within the former department of science, information technology and innovation, but of course worked in partnership with my department. The aim was to work together to improve victims' experiences through the criminal justice system.

That work is still underway, but of course it will now also be informed by the recommendations we have seen that have come from the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce. Do not forget that the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce heard from hundreds and hundreds of women across this state. I think the key recommendation is for Queensland to establish a victims commission and a victims commissioner. Having paid attention to the submissions from victims through the public hearings, I think it is very clear that Queensland absolutely needs and deserves a victims commissioner.

There is a lot of work underway in terms of consultation on the model for a victims commissioner. The victims commissioner advocates at system-wide level for victims of crime. Just a few months ago I was delighted to host Dame Vera Baird, the first ever Victims Commissioner in the UK, to come to parliament to talk to members about her experiences as a victims commissioner, how we could learn from the experiences in the UK and how we can give victims a voice at that service level. The department is currently consulting with interstate victims commissioners and key Queensland government agencies and service providers to identify the best model for Queensland. I am sure that the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, having heard from many more victims, may have something to say about that.

In determining the best model for Queensland, we will also work with all of our key stakeholders. The consultation is ongoing and I look forward to introducing legislation next year to establish the victims commissioner. I look forward to working with all members of parliament to continue to listen to and place victims' experiences at the centre of everything we do, particularly in the criminal justice system, so we have a trauma informed system that believes victims and supports them when they seek help.

### **Water Infrastructure**

**Mr SMITH:** Good morning to all of the teachers in the gallery. My question is to the Minister for Water. Can the minister please give an update on how the Palaszczuk government is investing in and delivering water infrastructure projects, and are there any alternatives?

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Minister, you have one minute.

**Mr BUTCHER:** One minute will be plenty of time. I thank the member for the question, because we know how passionate he is about water security. To finish off the sitting in North Queensland with a question about water is an absolute pleasure.

Those opposite who were listening and watching the federal budget the other night would now realise that out of the national water grid investment, 42 per cent of that funding is coming to guess where? Queensland! Those opposite can continue to tell us that we do not invest in Queensland. However, there is \$4.5 billion of water investment in this state, particularly up here in North Queensland. We just keep dishing out money for Rookwood Weir, we dish out money for Mount Morgan pipeline, we dish out money for the Fitzroy to Gladstone pipeline, we dish out money for the Haughton pipeline. We keep dishing out money for regional Queensland and those opposite hate it. They cannot stand that we deliver water infrastructure for Queensland and funding that we continue to deliver.

*(Time expired)*


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

## MONITORING OF PLACES OF DETENTION (OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE) BILL

### Second Reading


Resumed from 10 May (see p. 1352), on motion of Ms Fentiman—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (11.15 am), continuing: I rise to pick up where I left off last night on the monitoring of places of detention bill. As I was saying last night, I also want to acknowledge the work of Sisters Inside in advocating for women prisoners not only in Queensland but nationally. Sisters Inside have over 30 years experience in systemic and individual advocacy for female prisoners, which regrettably is one of the faster growing prison cohorts not just in Queensland but nationally. This is something that concerns me a lot and it is something that, based on conversations I have had with the Attorney-General, is also on our radar as a government.

During their verbal submission, Sisters Inside suggested to the committee that we ought to give further consideration to clause 19(6) of the bill relating to reprisal action, particularly the nuances of how reprisal action or even the threat of reprisal action against prisoners for speaking to advocates can manifest in female prisons. Again, I am pleased this has been given further consideration, and I support the Attorney-General's proposed amendments to clause 19(6) to expand the examples of detriment within the legislation. This expansion will include other forms of reprisals such as: injury, damage or loss; an onerous change to the conditions of a person's detention; intimidation or harassment; or to do any act that is, or is likely to be, to the detriment of the person. This amendment does not change the substance of the reprisal provisions but provides greater guidance to what could be a detriment to another person, particularly within a detention setting.

The progress of the bill today represents an important step in Queensland's commitment to work in good faith towards implementing OPCAT here in Queensland. Along with the Inspector of Detention Services Act 2022 passed earlier this year, it demonstrates our ongoing commitment to human rights and ensures that fair and equitable treatment of individuals in places of detention is upheld. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (11.17 am): I rise to make a few comments about this bill before us today, the Monitoring of Places of Detention (Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture) Bill of 2022. In doing so, I want to reflect on the committee process that led to the report, which I have a copy of in my hand, and the fact that our committee, the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, had adequate time to consider this bill. We were able to hold public hearings as well as public briefings. There was also sufficient time to take all that on board and construct a report. That can be contrasted with the inquiry before the committee at the moment in relation to the victims of crime, which is being compressed into only six weeks. That has not allowed the committee to travel as much as we should or to reach out into the community as much as we should in relation to such a broad issue: victims of crime and the victims of crime assistance process. In this bill before the House there was adequate time, even though it is a much smaller topic than the other one we are dealing with.

The bill before us is about implementing the optional protocol against torture. It is basically an implementation of a treaty that Australia signed up to some years ago and then ratified in 2017. The subcommittee in relation to torture is established under article 2 of OPCAT. It has a mandate to visit places of detention and also to make recommendations to state parties. The subcommittee that can

undertake these inspections is very interesting. Its membership includes representatives from many different countries around the world and I should also say countries that have varying standards of detention centres, varying standards of what would be considered acceptable in their society for the treatment of prisoners and other people who are detained for whatever reasons.

There are representatives from Nigeria, Greece, Italy, Denmark, Argentina, Spain, Poland, Senegal, Mauritius, Tunisia, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Lebanon, Georgia, Austria, the Maldives, South Africa, Morocco, Montenegro, Panama, Latvia, Croatia, Peru, Moldova and Germany. I note that until very recently, and during the inquiry process, there was a representative from the Russian Federation on the committee. I think they were actually a part of the subcommittee at the time when they were not able to visit places of detention here in Queensland.

**Mrs Gerber** interjected.

**Mr KRAUSE:** And China. I take that interjection from the member for Currumbin. Thank you for reminding me, because it seems that those parties are not part of the subcommittee anymore—and rightly so, given some of the opprobrium that has been dished out to Russia and China for their human rights violations over the years. What happens in the People's Republic of China in relation to human rights has been well documented and evidenced—also in Russia. Certainly the way their country has been conducting itself in the Ukraine-Russia conflict does not reflect well on the representatives of that nation who were a part of this subcommittee.

There was a lot of discussion in the committee process about the scope of 'places of detention' and what should and should not be included, and various submissions were made about that. I note that the member for Currumbin yesterday spoke about one of her constituents who was detained by police for a number of days after inadvertently crossing the road in Coolangatta. That process—being detained under quarantine laws—does not fit into this bill and is not considered to be a place of detention under the bill. We have all heard stories like that, I am sure. I have a constituent, whom I know very well, who was detained during 2020. She had a horrific time during that process. Her mother died during that time and she was unable to be with any of her family to process that and to grieve properly. In fact, there was considerable fear for her mental health during that time. None of that is included in this bill.

I note that OPCAT deals not only with periodic visits by the subcommittee to places of detention but also with nominating a domestic body to regularly inspect and monitor the treatment of persons in detention across the country. We had the passage through parliament of the Inspector of Detention Services Act last year, but where is the Inspector of Detention Services? We are still waiting to see how that is going to be established and when. Perhaps the Attorney-General can enlighten us on when that will come about.

**Ms Fentiman:** 1 July, my friend.

**Mr KRAUSE:** I will not take personal offence at being the Attorney-General's 'friend', but I thank her for clarifying that. It might be the kiss of death!

I have one further point to make in relation to this. I mentioned the submissions. The majority of the submissions discussed clause 4 of the bill and recommended that the clause be amended to replace the definition of 'place of detention' with the definition used in OPCAT. This bill is all about implementing Australia's international obligations. Rightly or wrongly, Australia signed that convention. Some people will disagree with it; some people will agree with it. Ultimately, we need to be the ones making laws for Australia and for Queensland but, rightly or wrongly, Australia signed up to this convention. Having done so, the view is—it is a solid view—that we should implement it the way it is meant to be implemented. A majority of submitters said that we should be putting the definition of 'place of detention' in as it is set out in the convention, but the bill does not do that. I think the government needs to explain why it has decided not to comply with Australia's international obligations. There are other arguments about whether we should be a part of the convention or not but, having signed up to it, we should implement it or else withdraw. I will leave my comments at that.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (11.25 am): I rise to support the bill. This government is committed to the humane containment, supervision and rehabilitation of prisoners and offenders. This is a commitment shared by the Queensland Police Commissioner and the Queensland Corrective Services Commissioner and wholeheartedly supported by their departments.

In 2017, the then Commonwealth government ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, otherwise called OPCAT. It was ratified with very limited consultation with states and territories. In fact, it was almost a surprise to states and territories that the then federal government took this action. Nonetheless, it now finds its way into the statute books of Queensland.

This bill facilitates the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture mandate by providing a mechanism for the subcommittee to visit places of detention, access relevant confidential information and interview detainees and others. The bill before the House includes provisions for the United Nations subcommittee to access prisons, work camps and community corrections centres as well as police watch houses and holding cells. This bill demonstrates our government's commitment to the principles of OPCAT and removes the legislative barriers that would restrict the subcommittee from physically accessing all places of detention within Queensland. The bill also provides necessary safeguards to enable detaining authorities to preserve privacy, security, good order, welfare and safety in places of detention during visits by the subcommittee.

During a visit, Queensland authorities retain the right to temporarily prohibit or restrict the United Nations subcommittee's delegations access to certain parts of the facility in certain circumstances. This is to maintain security and good order or to conduct essential operations at those facilities. The bill also contains provisions to ensure these powers are used appropriately, and I note that the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee was satisfied that care has been taken to include a number of safeguards to limit the use of the proposed power to temporarily prevent the visit. If a visit is suspended or restricted, a written record of the reasons for the restriction and the date, time and duration of the prohibition is required and copies must be provided to the United Nations subcommittee and the relevant minister.

The bill grants the United Nations subcommittee authority to privately interview any person at a place of detention during a visit either in person or electronically; however, the bill also contains safeguards to protect the rights of detained people by requiring the subcommittee to obtain consent from that person or their legal guardian before that person can be interviewed. The person also has the right to request a support person for the interview. Safeguards in the bill will ensure a person is not subject to punishment or any detriment for providing information to the United Nations subcommittee. A person who takes a reprisal commits an offence under the bill. It also ensures persons are not subject to any civil or criminal liability for giving information or making a disclosure to the subcommittee if done so under the OPCAT protocols.

I am confident that the agencies responsible for Queensland's places of detention are committed to providing humane containment, supervision and rehabilitation of prisoners and offenders. Queensland welcomes the oversight by the United Nations, but this is not the case in every jurisdiction in the world. By introducing this legislation and fully committing to the United Nations subcommittee's program of inspections, we make it harder for other jurisdictions to oppose the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. By opposing this bill, we would be making it easier for those less reputable jurisdictions to opt out and to point the finger and say, 'Why should we let the United Nations visit our prisons when you won't?'


As I said, Queensland supports the oversight of its places of detention by the United Nations. One reason is that we know that our staff and officers who are responsible for those places of detention are professional, are committed to safety and are committed to the rehabilitation of offenders. Whether they are Queensland Police Service officers, watch house keepers or other staff, those staff are professional and committed to community safety. They are widely regarded as well trained. I take this opportunity to acknowledge those members of the Queensland Police Service who are responsible for the custody of offenders and prisoners. They do incredible work every single day—so do Queensland Corrective Services staff. They are professional. They are committed to community safety. Our custodial officers here in Queensland are widely regarded as the best trained in the Southern Hemisphere.

We are also building a major new correctional facility in the Lockyer Valley, near Gatton. This facility—Southern Queensland Correctional Centre stage 2—will be the most modern in the country and the best example of its kind. Southern Queensland Correctional Centre will be based on a therapeutic model, with extensive rehabilitation services and programs targeting mental health, addictions and substance abuse challenges. The evidence shows that this approach has the best chance of reducing the chances of an individual going on to further offend upon release from detention and improving the chances of that individual going on to lead a productive life. That also promotes community safety. Southern Queensland Correctional Centre is a 1,500-bed-capacity facility that will support around 700 permanent jobs.

We have already taken other measures to promote enhanced safety for both prisoners and staff within correctional facilities. In fact, in a first for the nation—I cannot point to any other example around the world—the Queensland government successfully transitioned, at the same time, two major correctional facilities from private operation to public operation. This means that there are no longer privately operated prisons in Queensland. They are all publicly operated, and that is in the interests of everyone and community safety. This was an historic process, and it significantly enhanced the safety of those centres as well as the community. Under public operation, Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre and Southern Queensland Correctional Centre stage 1 are now better staffed, providing enhanced safety and support services for those detained in these centres and for the staff who work there.

Queensland Corrective Services manages around 10,000 prisoners inside correctional facilities at any given time. Those prisoners represent the most challenging and complex cohort of offenders in Queensland. It is difficult and challenging work, but corrections staff go about that daily work with professionalism and integrity. I take the opportunity to thank all staff in correctional facilities, as well as community corrections and specialist services, and the support staff within Queensland Corrective Services for the incredible efforts they make every day on the front line and also acknowledge their professionalism and dedication to their fellow Queenslanders and to community safety.

As I said, Queensland supports oversight by the United Nations subcommittee. This bill balances providing the legislative powers to ensure independent scrutiny of Queensland's places of detention with enacting provisions to ensure that any United Nations visit does not compromise the security, safety or essential operations of any place of detention. I commend the bill to the House and encourage all members to support it.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (11.33 am): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Monitoring of Places of Detention (Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture) Bill 2022. On 1 December 2022, the Queensland Attorney-General and Minister for Justice introduced this legislation into the Queensland parliament. It was subsequently referred to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee for its examination and consideration.

As outlined in the explanatory notes, the purpose of this legislation is to formally facilitate visits by the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture to places of detention in Queensland. This subcommittee has the ability to conduct visits to Australia under the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture, otherwise known as OPCAT. The purpose of OPCAT is to prevent torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and this is achieved by the establishment of a two-part system of regular visits to places where persons are deprived of their liberty. Accordingly, OPCAT requires ratifying state parties to, firstly, accept periodic visits by the United Nations subcommittee to places of detention and, secondly, establish a domestic national preventive mechanism to conduct regular visits to places of detention. At this point I wish to acknowledge that it was the former federal Liberal National Party government which ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture in 2017.

So that the United Nations subcommittee can fulfil its mandate, it is accepted that the subcommittee, on ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture, will be provided with the following: unrestricted access to all places of detention and their installations and facilities, subject to particular grounds for objecting to a visit; unrestricted access to all information concerning the number of persons deprived of their liberty in places of detention and the number and location of places of detention; unrestricted access to all information referring to the treatment of those persons and conditions of detention; the ability to privately interview persons deprived of their liberty and any other person the subcommittee believes may supply relevant information; and the liberty to choose the places it will visit and the persons the subcommittee may wish to interview.

I note that the legislation will provide for a consistent framework enabling the subcommittee access to places of detention in Queensland and information to assist the subcommittee to fulfil its mandate under OPCAT. Importantly, I note that this legislation will also remove legislative barriers that restrict physical access to inpatient units of authorised mental health services under the Mental Health Act 2016 and forensic services under the Forensic Disability Act 2011. This is a significant inclusion and one which I will expand upon shortly.

As articulated by the Liberal National Party's shadow Attorney and shadow minister for justice at the start of this debate, the Liberal National Party opposition will not be opposing this legislation; however, there are a number of issues which have been raised that warrant further attention and consideration by the state Labor government.



I note that through the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee's inquiry, while stakeholders were broadly supportive of the policy objectives of the legislation, various concerns were raised. A number of stakeholders raised concerns in relation to the provision allowing the responsible minister to object to the United Nations subcommittee's visit on an urgent and compelling basis. The legislation states that this objection can be made on the grounds of national defence, public safety, natural disaster and any serious disorder in the place of detention. Stakeholders have argued that this provides an overly broad and vague basis for restricting the United Nations subcommittee's access, with some advocating for the provision to be narrowed to specify the circumstances under which the responsible minister can object. I note that the Queensland Human Rights Commission and the Australian Human Rights Commission have both suggested that the provision be amended to specify the reasons for which a visit can be prohibited and/or restricted.

Another issue raised by stakeholders was the bill's access-to-information provisions, with some arguing this could be used to gather personal information without the consent of the person concerned. The Office of the Information Commissioner submitted that personal information should only be disclosed with the consent of the person concerned, along with the Australian Human Rights Commission, which raised concerns that the provision could limit the effectiveness of the subcommittee's visit.

Stakeholders raised concerns about the penalties for reprisals against those who provide or may provide information to the subcommittee. While some submissions argued that the maximum penalty of 100 penalty points was too low, others argued that it should include imprisonment. I note that the Commonwealth Ombudsman in its submission drew to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee's attention other state and territory jurisdictions where such penalties also include imprisonment.


I wish to acknowledge the many submissions received which explicitly referred to clause 4 of the legislation and specifically in relation to the definition of 'place of detention' in the legislation. Clause 4 provides for the places of detention to which this legislation applies, and these include community corrections centres, prisons, work camps, youth detention centres, inpatient units of an authorised mental health service, the Forensic Disability Service, court cells or watch houses, holding cells and other places in a police station where a person is detained, and any other place where a person is detained, other than a private residence, prescribed by regulation as a place of detention. The genuine issues that have been raised in relation to this definition certainly warrant additional consideration and stakeholder engagement by the Palaszczuk state Labor government. Notwithstanding that this has been a serious matter of contention, given the Labor government's delay in implementing the legislation, it is important that the bill is passed as soon as possible so that it may commence.

Before I conclude my contribution I want to note the support provided by the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union for the inclusion of inpatient units of authorised mental health services and the Forensic Disability Service in the scope of the legislation and to remove legislative barriers that prevent physical access to these facilities. This is an incredibly important inclusion, particularly given the troubling and problematic history of the Forensic Disability Service under the responsibility and management of the current state Labor government.

As the former Liberal National Party shadow minister for disability services, I have previously spoken about the Queensland Ombudsman's report into the detention of people at the Forensic Disability Service which was a then indictment of the Palaszczuk state Labor government. The Ombudsman's 2019 report found the patients of the Forensic Disability Service had been held in solitary confinement, often for years on end, with one patient at the time, known as 'Adrian', kept in seclusion for 99 per cent of the time with the repeated use of police dogs to control his behaviour. Not surprisingly, the Ombudsman found that the management of 'Adrian' was contrary to law, unreasonable, oppressive and improperly discriminatory.

Under questioning by the Liberal National Party during that year's budget estimates committee hearings, further evidence of the mismanagement, chaos and dysfunction of the Forensic Disability Service under the government was uncovered, including a high number of referrals for corrupt conduct and misconduct by some staff. Offenders must receive appropriate punishment for the offence of which they are found guilty. The penalties they receive, however, must also be met with a commitment to be treated humanely. This is particularly important where a person's liberty is removed or limited. Sadly, there have been a number of high-profile examples of the unacceptable treatment of persons in detention and in Forensic Service facilities under the current Queensland government. It is therefore most appropriate that the Forensic Disability Service is included in the definition as a place of detention.

In concluding my contribution, it is important that Queensland and Australia uphold and enhance our reputation as a society where human rights are protected, and this legislation will certainly improve accountability and transparency. I conclude by acknowledging all of our corrections officers staff. They do some very important work in Queensland. They certainly deserve our support and respect because it can be very difficult and challenging at times for them. I join with other members in this House in acknowledging their important contributions.

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (11.41 am): I rise to speak in support of the Monitoring of Places of Detention (Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture) Bill 2022. I want to thank the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee for its examination of the bill and its recommendation that the bill be passed. I also thank those who made submissions and appeared as witnesses as part of the committee's inquiry. I note that the committee made a number of comments on the bill, including the provisions around temporarily restricting access to places of detention and access to information, which my colleague the Attorney-General has addressed in her speech.

In December 2017 the Australian government ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture, known as OPCAT. OPCAT is an international treaty which supplements the 1984 United Nations convention against torture. Its overarching aim is to protect persons deprived of their liberty against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. OPCAT establishes the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, the UN subcommittee. Parties to OPCAT must grant UN subcommittee delegates unrestricted access to all places of detention, the liberty to choose the places of detention they wish to visit and persons to interview, the opportunity to privately interview persons in detention and other persons with relevant information, and unrestricted access to certain information about persons in detention and their treatment.

The purpose of the bill is to facilitate visits by the UN subcommittee to places of detention in Queensland. This would include the three youth detention centres in Queensland currently which my department operates—the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre, the West Moreton Youth Detention Centre and the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre in Townsville. The bill also applies to community corrections centres, prisons or work camps; inpatient units of an authorised mental health service; the Forensic Disability Service; court cells or watch houses; holding cells and other places in a police station where a person is detained; and any other place where a person is detained, other than a private residence, prescribed by regulation. The objective of the bill is to provide the UN subcommittee with a consistent framework to access all places of detention across Queensland and obtain information to fulfil its mandate and produce reports of its visits.

The bill provides that the responsible minister and the detaining authority for a place of detention must ensure the UN subcommittee is permitted to enter and visit places of detention and has unrestricted access. The responsible minister may object to a visit but only if there is an urgent and compelling reason to do so on the limited grounds of national defence, public safety, natural disaster or serious disorder in the place of detention. The bill provides that the detaining authority may temporarily prohibit or restrict access to a place of detention or a part of a place of detention on limited grounds, including, for example, where access to part of a detention centre may prevent the maintenance of security, good order of the centre or impact on the health and safety of a young person in detention.

Provisions are made in the bill for the UN subcommittee to access information relevant to the purpose of the visit, for example information about the number of detainees in the place of detention and treatment of detainees and to conduct interviews with detainees and other persons, with their consent. The bill also provides that a person must not cause, or attempt or conspire to cause, detriment to another person because they have provided information or assisted the UN subcommittee. We already have robust oversight of our detention centres in Queensland, including from the Public Guardian and the Ombudsman, our own internal but independent Youth Detention Inspectorate and, from 1 July 2023, the new Inspector of Detention Services. However, the government unreservedly welcomes the additional oversight and scrutiny and international perspectives that visits from the UN subcommittee to youth detention centres will provide.

The recommendations and reports of international experts will help us ensure that we meet our international obligations, that our youth detention centres comply with international standards and that young people in detention are held in safe and appropriate environments. I anticipate that the UN subcommittee will communicate with our Queensland oversight entities prior to any visit to help ensure

the best possible use of time and resources. Visits by the UN subcommittee will therefore complement and enhance our existing oversight mechanisms, consistent with the government's commitment to transparency and accountability.


I will now turn to the specific provisions in the bill which make consequential amendments to the Youth Justice Act 1992 to facilitate the UN subcommittee's access to youth detention centres. The bill amends section 263A of the Youth Justice Act to provide that body worn cameras may not be used to record the actions of a member of the subcommittee or a person assisting the subcommittee, for example a UN expert or interpreter. This provision will help ensure that the activities of UN subcommittee members remain private and confidential and their access to youth detention centres is unrestricted to the greatest extent possible. The bill also amends section 272 of the Youth Justice Act to provide that the rules relating to ordinary visitors to youth detention centres, for example refusing entry in certain circumstances and requiring names, addresses and proof of identity, do not apply to UN subcommittee members or persons assisting them. This provision supports the bill's purpose of providing UN subcommittee members with unrestricted access to places of detention.

I reiterate my thanks to committee members and the secretariat for their hard work in considering this bill. Equally, I take this opportunity to acknowledge the frontline youth detention workers, youth justice staff and support staff who work in the challenging environments in these three youth detention centres. Roughly 280 young people are detained in our youth detention centres on any given day and they often exhibit very challenging behaviours. We appreciate that that is why these young people are being held in detention, but it is an incredibly challenging environment for these youth detention workers to go to work every day and to deal with. I acknowledge their service to keeping the community safe which is not as recognised sometimes as that of the more visible frontline staff. Our police do an extraordinary job, as do—and I know the minister for police acknowledged them too—our corrections staff and our youth detention workers. They often receive negative coverage and commentary such as comments like detention centres being a holiday camp which are deeply offensive to the complexity of their work. I put on record, as I always do, that it is offensive to them and I thank them for their service to community safety.

I also want to address commentary from the opposition spokesperson for justice and the member for Currumbin with regard to some media commentary recently about young people alleging that they had been in solitary confinement—a term we do not use—for at least 45 days. There are a number of different cases they reference so I will speak generally. While I have addressed these issues in regard to public reports, I do want to put on record that while I am aware of these allegations, and they are deeply concerning and I absolutely take responsibility on behalf of my agency, the recording processes that they use need to be upgraded. They need to use a more detailed recording process rather than the manual one they are using now so that we can better provide the courts with information, often in very short time frames, about the supports and movements of young people.

The advice I received from my department is that those allegations, as I mentioned, are not true and the young people referred to, while held and subject to periodic separation, were moving outside of their rooms and partaking in the usual programs and access to engage with other young people. Where separation is required the following supports and services continue to be provided to young people: health services; education; specialist services, such as dental; multidisciplinary support such as case workers, psychologists, speech and language pathologists and program delivery staff, cultural liaison officers; and cultural visits. Young people are provided with equitable time out of rooms, access to phone calls, personal and professional and, as I said, medical assessment or treatment.

There are strict protocols and controls around the use of separations in our youth detention centres and it is my and my government's expectations that those controls are complied with. The department is currently reviewing the systems and protocols to allow for the greater detail I spoke about—young people's movements to be provided to the courts within the short time frames they often require—and we will also ensure that the court is given a full view of the supports provided to young people during separation as is appropriate for transparency. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr DAMELTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (11.51 am): I rise to give my contribution to the Monitoring of Places of Detention (Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture) Bill 2022. The KAP will not be opposing this bill. It is mainly procedural in operation. It gives the UN subcommittee the ability to conduct visits to places of detention in Australia under the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture to make sure that our prisoners are being looked after and housed in a standard that aligns with the UN. The bill will remove legislative barriers that were encountered the last time the UN subcommittee tried to visit Australia.

The Commonwealth government ratified OPCAT in 21 December 2017. We believe that the Commonwealth government signing up to these UN protocols are affecting the way Queensland and Australia is run. People are asking why the UN is getting a chance to dictate how Queensland is run. It is detention centres in this bill, but the scope is quite broad. It is everything from environmental policy through to the way that we treat our First Nations people. It should be Australians making Australian laws and Queenslanders making Queensland laws, not the Commonwealth signing up to some faceless people in the UN who tell us in Queensland and Australia how to run our state and our country. There is a growing concern from Queenslanders about that. Australia was one of the founding members of the UN. We have been part of that institution for 70 years. We are the 11th largest contributor to the UN's budget. Each year Australia contributes around \$61 million to the UN. A lot of Queenslanders and Australians ask where that money is going and if it could be better spent here in Australia.

To enable the subcommittee to fulfil its mandate, state parties that ratify OPCAT undertake to provide the subcommittee with unrestricted access to all places of detention and their installations and facilities subject to particular grounds for objecting to a visit; unrestricted access to all information concerning the number of persons deprived of their liberty in places of detention, and the number and location of places of detention; and unrestricted access to all information referring to the treatment of those persons and conditions of detention. Basically the subcommittee will be provided with an open book on what we are doing here in Australia. That might seem good when one is looking at other places around the world that are signed up to the UN, but the reality is that here in Australia we look after our prisoners pretty well. We look after our youth detention attendees very well.

The minister said a little earlier that some people are offended when people call our detention centres a holiday camp. From the list of things that those young detainees have access to that the minister did rattle off, it sounds pretty good to me. There are a couple of places around Queensland where these young people live that do not have the cultural studies or the dental and health services they can access in detention. Although I want to make sure our prisoners are being looked after, our prisoners are looked after pretty well compared to around the world. For the UN to be using its powers to shine a light on us when there are other places around the world that are doing a lot worse job I think is a bit hypocritical.

Clause 4 of the bill outlines the places of detention to which the bill applies, which are community corrections centres, prisons, work camps, youth detention centres, inpatient units of authorised mental health services, the Forensic Disability Service, police watch houses, police holding cells and other places in a police station where a person is detained, court holding cells, and any other place.

Once again, the KAP will not be opposing this bill. I want to put on the record that there are some people concerned about the oversight that the UN has in Australia and the amount of power it has when it comes to creating legislation in this state. As I said, that ranges all the way from environmental policy through to our prisons. I commend the bill to the House.



**Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (11.56 am): The purpose of this bill is to facilitate visits by the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture to places of detention in Queensland. The subcommittee has the ability to conduct visits to Australia under the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture, OPCAT. The Commonwealth government ratified OPCAT on 21 December 2017 and the subcommittee is established under article 2 of OPCAT and has made a mandate to visit places of detention and make recommendations to state parties concerning the protection of persons deprived of their liberty against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The bill provides a consistent framework to provide the subcommittee with access to places of detention in Queensland and information to assist the subcommittee to fulfil its mandate under OPCAT.

Adjacent to my electorate of Keppel we have one of the largest places of detention in Queensland, the Capricornia Correctional Centre. I am pleased that this bill will give the United Nations subcommittee the ability to visit the Capricornia Correctional Centre and to make an assessment of the way in which that centre works.

The bill will also remove legislative barriers that restrict physical access to inpatient units of authorised mental health services under the Mental Health Act 2016 or to the Forensic Disability Service under the Forensic Disability Act 2011. OPCAT is an international treaty that supplements the 1984 United Nations Convention Against Torture. OPCAT aims to prevent the torture and other ill-treatment of persons in places where people are deprived of liberty. It also establishes an international inspection system for places of detention.

OPCAT was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in New York on 18 December 2002 and it entered into force on 22 June 2006. Australia signed OPCAT on 19 May 2009 and ratified it on 21 December 2017. In broad terms, Australia's obligation of monitoring places of detention is separated into two components: firstly, periodic visits by the subcommittee to places of detention under Australia's jurisdictional control for the purpose of making recommendations to prevent torture and other ill-treatment of persons who are detained and, secondly, the nomination of a domestic body or bodies to act as an NPM to regularly inspect and monitor the treatment of persons in places of detention across the country.

The bill focuses on the first of these and will bring greater transparency and public confidence by establishing a standalone legislative framework to facilitate a consistent approach to UN subcommittee visits to places of detention in Queensland. There is no torture at Queensland prisons. The custodial correctional officers and people who work in our prisons right across the state do a fantastic job of maintaining safety and security and running a really tight operation.

I think one of the great benefits of this bill is that the United Nations will be scouring through Queensland prisons and looking at the way they are operated and that will show the United Nations just how well Queenslanders operate our places of detention. Our prisons and other places of detention are publicly owned, they are unionised and they have very high safety standards. The policies and governance structures in place to support our prisons are tight. The technology that we use in our prisons is the best in the world. Our prison system operates on a restorative justice model with a focus not only on retribution as places of punishment where people are detained as a result of committing crime; they also use a restorative justice model. In Queensland we take very seriously the role of prisons in the rehabilitation of people who commit crimes. The health of prisoners and the people who work in prisons is taken very seriously.

Therefore, I am looking forward to the United Nations entering Queensland's places of detention and seeing firsthand just how well Queensland manages and runs its prisons and places of detention. This will actually help create best practice around the world. This will shine a light on how best to run places of detention and perhaps provide an opportunity for other countries to see just how well Queensland does it and also how they could improve their own systems. This will help provide to the rest of the world evidence of how things should be done in their own countries.

While I rise to speak about places of detention, I want to make particular mention of how proud I was to witness the swearing in of eight custodial correctional officers last week at the Walter Reid Cultural Centre in Rockhampton. They are very excited to be starting their careers as CCOs at the Capricornia Correctional Centre, which is a wonderful centre. It is one of the safest in Queensland. It has a large staff of CCOs and cultural liaison officers who not only do a fantastic job of keeping the community safe but also have a very strong focus on the rehabilitation of offenders at the centre. I acknowledge Phil Alley, Ryan Basham, Carmen Baxter, Adam Hudson, Aklesh Kumar, Megan Myers, Meghan Roberts—we had a conversation about the 'H' in her name—Kelly Ryan and Matthew Solace who were all sworn in last week at the custodial correctional officer graduation in Rockhampton.

I also acknowledge the manager of operational training, John Stencil, for the fantastic work that he does at the centre in training the new CCOs; the co-ep training coordinator Darren Clarke; the senior training officers and custodial operations manager, John Bobbledeck and Christopher Davies; and all of the supporting trainers whom I would like to mention today in this place: Sarah Harvey, Renee Resin, Brook Atkinson, Hudson Zilke, Matthew Christensen, Gerard Lawson, Shane Roberts, Jerome Granfel, Tod Martin, Brad Richards, Kurt Madement, Geoff Bird, Marcus McIver, Geoff O'Brien, Melissa Abbott, Darren Bartlem, Selwyn Toby, Blair Toby, Joe Abud, Alannah Irwin, Katrina Adams, Eden Stanton, Andrew Cross, Alex Bullay, Rebecca Clifford, Katherine Keeler, Leanne Smith, Paula Goslin and Morgan Chisolm. All of those people play a fanatic role in passing on their expert knowledge and experience to the new officers who have undertaken the intensive training program. I know that the trainers put their hearts and souls into passing on their knowledge and experience. They also take great pride in the graduates on their graduating day. They are incredibly proud to see officers graduate from their program and as they take their first shifts at the Capricornia Correctional Centre.

This bill will shine a light on Queensland's ability to run effective and safe prisons. It will shine a light on the fact that we do this very well. Other countries around the world will be able to see exactly how well Queensland does this following the passing of this bill and the entry of the United Nations into our prison systems. I commend the bill to the House.



**Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (12.04 pm): I rise to speak on the Monitoring of Places of Detention (Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture) Bill. Hello, Grace. We are close, aren't we? It is lovely to be so close to the shadow Attorney-General too. All my friends are together!

The bill seeks to facilitate visits by the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture to places of detention in Queensland. As we have heard from other members, the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture has a mandate to visit places of detention and make recommendations to state parties concerning the protection of persons deprived of their liberty against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The bill provides a consistent framework to provide the subcommittee with access to places of detention in Queensland, provide information to assist the subcommittee to fulfil its mandate under OPCAT and remove legislative barriers restricting physical access to inpatient units of mental health services.

OPCAT is an international treaty that supplements the 1984 United Nations Convention Against Torture. OPCAT aims to prevent the torture and other ill treatment of persons in places where people are deprived of liberty. As my friend and colleague the member for Clayfield and shadow Attorney-General has said, the opposition will not oppose the bill, but it should be noted that stakeholders have raised issues with the definition of 'place of detention'. Currently, the bill defines a place of detention as a community corrections centre, prison or work camp; a detention centre; an inpatient unit of an authorised mental health service; a court cell; a watch house; and a holding cell or other place in a police station. Stakeholders have expressed the view that the definition should be broadened to include residential aged-care facilities and secure dementia units, along with disability and aged-care settings where restrictive practices are used.

I make my contribution specifically as the shadow minister for disability services. I note the comments of my predecessor as shadow disability services minister, the member for Moggill. In his contribution he commented on the Forensic Disability Service, which I have also followed up on at estimates hearings. I have been privileged to visit the service at Wacol to see the work that the people there are doing and the challenging circumstances in which they work. There has been an Ombudsman's report into the work at the FDS. I know that significant work has been done, because I have asked about it at estimates, to address the issues raised there. There are ongoing issues with staff separations that I have noted in answers to questions on notice and I am still following up on those things.

The Queensland Law Society said that the definition of 'place of detention' should include disability group homes, hospital emergency rooms, locked wards and immigration detention facilities. As shadow minister for disability service, I bring to the attention of the House an ABC news article dated 10 March 2023, titled 'Detainees with disabilities in spiral of hopelessness after cancelled United Nations visit to Australia'. I note that the shadow Attorney-General made reference to this visit in his contribution on the second reading debate. The article highlights the decision by the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, SPT, to suspend a 12-day visit to Australia after inspectors were denied access to several detention facilities by the Queensland government as they would not provide 'unrestricted access' to their detention settings. I table a copy of that article.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the ABC News online, dated 10 March 2023, titled 'Detainees with disabilities in "spiral of hopelessness" after cancelled United Nations visit to Australia' [\[630\]](#).


Dana Levitt of law firm Levitt Robinson said that Australia had failed to meet its international obligations and disabled detainees, including many young Indigenous people, were in a spiral of hopelessness. Ms Levitt said—

They do not have any visibility and they can't really effectively advocate or generate awareness of their plight, we're locking them up and throwing away the key ... their behaviour is misinterpreted as wilful defiance or criminal intention but it's often just the product of their disability.

It should be noted that, aside from Australia, the only country to have an inspection visit cancelled by the UN body is Rwanda.

Legal Aid Queensland argued that, whilst the explanatory notes provide there will be ability for other locations to be visited, further clarity is required within the legislation so there is no impediment to the subcommittee visiting a place of detention. Whilst the recently created Inspector of Detention Services will go some way towards conducting the national preventive mechanism, NPM, the Public Guardian noted the creation of this office is not sufficient for Queensland to fully comply with OPCAT due to significant limitations placed on where inspections will happen.

The opposition wants to ensure that offenders receive appropriate punishment for their offences but are treated humanely as they serve those penalties. Australia committed to OPCAT and should honour that commitment.

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (12.10 pm): I rise to speak in support of the OPCAT bill. As a human rights jurisdiction, the Queensland government shares the United Nations subcommittee's commitment to ensuring people in detention are treated with dignity. The Palaszczuk government has now introduced legislation that seeks to facilitate access by the United Nations subcommittee to places of detention including the Forensic Disability Service. The Legal Affairs and Safety Committee delivered its report on 24 February this year and I was pleased to see it make the recommendation that the bill be passed.

The Monitoring of Places of Detention (Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture) Bill 2022, or OPCAT bill, was introduced to the Assembly by the Attorney-General, the Hon. Shannon Fentiman, and referred to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee on 1 December last year. The Forensic Disability Service, which comes under the responsibility of my department, was a place of interest to the subcommittee during their visit in 2022. The Forensic Disability Service is a small, specialist, medium-security residential rehabilitation facility for up to 10 clients with cognitive impairment or intellectual disability. The service was established in 2011 to provide a suitable and secure option for the support and rehabilitation of people with intellectual or cognitive disability for whom a forensic order of disability is in force.

As at 2 May 2023, there were five clients residing at the service, with ongoing treatment, care, support and protection provided to support clients to achieve successful transition to the community. Two clients transferred from the service in 2022. Clients are placed on forensic orders of disability by the Mental Health Court or tribunal if they are alleged to have committed serious criminal offences and considered to pose an unacceptable risk to the community.

All clients have been appointed a specialist support coordinator and all clients have been connected with a disability service provider who will support them to meet their needs in the community. This is a group of individuals who have unique and tailored support needs. The therapeutic model of the Forensic Disability Service is intended to have all clients on a trajectory that means they transition once they have completed all relevant programs or are no longer benefiting from their detainment in that environment.

As I mentioned earlier, the Forensic Disability Service was a place of interest to the subcommittee during their visit in 2022. My department engaged with the subcommittee as much as possible within the bounds of our current legislation. I am aware that the UN subcommittee suspended its visit to Australia in 2022. While the subcommittee was unable to visit the Forensic Disability Service, they were advised that they could interview staff and access client information with consent of the client or their guardian.

On 23 October 2022 the subcommittee arrived at the Forensic Disability Service. They were denied entry in line with the credentials provided in advance. The credentials provided that the subcommittee could speak with staff of the FDS at a site other than the FDS and access FDS client information, noting consent would be required from the client or their guardian. This did not occur. It is noted that the subcommittee attempted to visit two acute mental health services at the Princess Alexandra and Royal Brisbane hospitals and were similarly denied access.

On 23 October 2022, part way through the subcommittee's planned visit, a press release from the United Nations was issued noting that the visit had been suspended, citing a limited understanding of the subcommittee's mandate and lack of cooperation, especially with respect to Queensland and New South Wales, as the reason for suspending the visit. On 20 February 2023, a press release from the United Nations announced that the subcommittee had decided to cease its visit to Australia as the issue of unrestricted access to all places of detention had as yet not been resolved in two states.

The subcommittee's visit to Australia and the positions of various jurisdictions including Queensland has been the subject of media articles, including concern that appropriate legislative amendments have not yet been made to support visits. It is important to keep in mind that the Forensic Disability Service is currently subject to considerable oversight including from the Queensland Ombudsman, the Public Guardian and the Director of Forensic Disability.


The main objectives of this bill facilitate visits by the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture to places of detention in Queensland. The subcommittee has the ability to conduct visits to Australia under the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture, or OPCAT. OPCAT aims to

prevent torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment by establishing a two-part system of regular visits to places where persons are deprived of their liberty. OPCAT requires ratifying state parties to accept periodic visits by the subcommittee to places of detention and establish a domestic national preventive mechanism to conduct regular visits to places of detention.

The subcommittee is established under article 2 of OPCAT and has a mandate to visit places of detention and make recommendations to state parties concerning the protection of persons deprived of their liberty against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The effect of the bill will enable the subcommittee to fulfil its mandate. This includes: unrestricted access to all places of detention and their installations and facilities, subject to particular grounds for objecting to a visit; unrestricted access to all information concerning the number of persons deprived of their liberty in places of detention and the number and location of places of detention; unrestricted access to all information referring to the treatment of those persons and conditions of detention; the ability to privately interview persons deprived of their liberty and any other person the subcommittee believes may supply relevant information; and the liberty to choose the places it wants to visit and persons it wants to interview.

The bill provides a consistent framework to provide the subcommittee with access to places of detention in Queensland and information to assist the subcommittee to fulfil its mandate under OPCAT. The bill will also remove legislative barriers that restrict physical access to inpatient units of authorised mental health services under the Mental Health Act 2016 or to the Forensic Disability Service under the Forensic Disability Act 2021.

If passed, the bill will provide the subcommittee with access to the Forensic Disability Service. It will allow the subcommittee to interview persons and it will allow the subcommittee to access information. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (12.17 pm): I rise to contribute to the Monitoring of Places of Detention (Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture) Bill 2022. Previous speakers on this side of the House have spoken of the importance of ensuring that offenders receive appropriate punishment whilst being treated humanely. I note that unrestricted access to all places of detention is a fundamental component of this particular bill.

Speakers on this side of the House have also spoken about the importance of honouring commitments made at a national level and this government's record when it comes to detention. In recent days, we have seen yet another example where a member of the judiciary has expressed concerns regarding the operation of our youth detention centres.

During my brief contribution I want to highlight another failing when it comes to detention and, sadly, it is a failing that has been raised before and, like many others, is one that rests at the feet of this current government. I refer of course to the men and women who, every day, serve our community through their work in these centres. Whether they work in our prisons, community correctional centres, work camps, youth detention centres or police watch houses, these staff play a key role in keeping our communities safe.

Just like we saw in the Inspector of Detention Services Bill, the safety and rights of these workers has come under scrutiny in recent months. While the rights of the person being detained is pushed to the forefront, we should not lose sight of the fact that we have workers in these centres being seriously assaulted and in some cases left with lifelong injuries.

The committee process itself made several references to staff shortages in detention centres. However, despite these concerns being raised year after year, this government has been very slow to act. Nothing highlighted this government's ignorance of the staff shortages in detention centres more than the admission that only an additional nine staff were funded in last year's budget and that none of them were for custodial corrections officer positions.


WorkCover data shows that more staff in centres of detention are being injured and that they are off work for longer due to the severity of their injuries—but still we are talking about the rights of the offender. A quick look through the budget documents shows that for years now we have seen centres in Queensland overcrowded because there has been a lack of planning. You have to wonder why this planning has not happened when many of these issues have been raised directly with the relevant minister and even by witnesses to parliamentary committees.



For example, the Inspector of Detention Services Bill was passed in August last year. Back in November 2021 during the committee process for that legislation there were concerns raised about the matters covered under this bill. Michael Thomas of Together Queensland said that the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture was the lowest common denominator and raised several issues relating to staff safety and how addressing those issues would also be beneficial for people in detention and the wider community. He spoke of toxic chemicals being used in industry workshops. He spoke of prisoners having access to picks and hedging equipment during a riot as well as petrol that was used to make Molotov cocktails. He spoke about a lack of body scanners which would help address the introduction of drugs into correctional facilities. Importantly, he also said that addressing issues like these would help prisoners 'to engage in activity that is likely to benefit them'.

It is a sad fact that today prison-made weapons are still being found in Queensland correctional centres. Across the Ditch in New Zealand correctional officers have been provided with stab-resistant vests since 2015. Eight years later here in Queensland staff do not have access to stab-resistant vests in our correctional centres. Queenslanders would be right to ask if we need to see some sort of horrific event take place before this government acts, just like we have seen in the youth justice space.

I will not be opposing this bill because the overwhelming majority of men and women who work in these centres also recognise the importance of ensuring offenders receive appropriate punishment whilst being treated humanely. I call on this government to treat those staff with the respect they deserve and to address these issues as a matter of urgency. It is the least they deserve.

 **Mr WALKER** (Mundingburra—ALP) (12.21 pm): I rise to speak in support of the monitoring of places of detention bill 2022. I refer to the policy objectives and the reasons for them. The purpose of this bill is to facilitate visits by the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture to places of detention in Queensland. The subcommittee has the ability to conduct visits to Australia under the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture, OPCAT. The Commonwealth government ratified OPCAT on 21 December 2017. OPCAT aims to prevent torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment by establishing a two-part system of regular visits to places where persons are deprived of their liberty. OPCAT requires ratifying state parties to: accept periodic visits by the subcommittee to places of detention; and establish a domestic national preventative mechanism to conduct regular visits to places of detention.

The subcommittee is established under article 2 of OPCAT and has a mandate to visit places of detention and make recommendations to state parties concerning the protection of persons deprived of their liberty against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. To enable the subcommittee to fulfil this mandate, state parties that ratify OPCAT undertake to provide the subcommittee with: unrestricted access to all places of detention and their installations and facilities subject to particular grounds to objecting to a visit; unrestricted access to all information concerning the number of persons deprived of their liberty in places of detention and the number and location of places of detention; unrestricted access to all information referring to the treatment of those persons and conditions of detention; the ability to properly interview persons deprived of their liberty and any other person the subcommittee believes may supply relevant information; and the liberty to choose the places it wants to visit and the persons it wants to interview.

The bill demonstrates Queensland's support for the principles of OPCAT and provides a consistent framework to provide the subcommittee with access to places of detention in Queensland and information to assist the subcommittee to fulfil its mandates under OPCAT. The bill will also remove legislative barriers that restrict digital access to inpatient units of authorised mental health services under the Mental Health Act 2016 or to forensic disability services under the Forensic Disability Act 2011.

As a former corrective services officer at the Townsville Correctional Centre with five years experience and former youth detention centre member at Cleveland Youth Detention Centre with 18 years experience, I can confirm we had official visitors and inspectors at these facilities on a regular basis. In fact, in 2011 in my role as unit leader at Cleveland Youth Detention Centre I first met Mr Mick Gooda during a centre inspection. Mr Gooda at the time was the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner. It was a real pleasure to meet Mr Gooda and show him all of the areas of the youth detention facility in Townsville. I allowed him full access to the young detainees and service providers. Mr Gooda's feedback at the time was incredibly positive in relation to both the facility and those who work there. It is only when you allow outside agencies to physically visit detention centres or correctional centres for accountability purposes that you have a more accountable workforce and better outcomes for detainees and the broader community. I find these types of visits to be a huge benefit to our professional teams at these types of facilities. On this particular occasion we had an excellent

opportunity to share the amazing work that was being conducted by the different programs and service providers within Cleveland Youth Detention Centre. It is these types of inspections that are a positive for our highly trained and professional staff in all of our Queensland correctional facilities and youth detention centres.

One of the most destructive things to recruitment and staff morale and the transparency of a correctional facility or detention centre is the constant rumours and innuendo spread by social media and others, especially those on the other side of the House. It is only when you have independent inspections or outside visitors to these facilities that the broader community has more trust and understanding that they are being managed professionally, transparently and with more accountability. Furthermore, there are better outcomes when it comes to the rehabilitation of offenders.

Yesterday the member for Clayfield referred to a case involving a young person held in a detention centre in recent times. That was dealt with by the courts. The Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs also addressed that earlier today. I must remind the member for Clayfield of the poor history of the LNP when it comes to human rights breaches and one of the biggest learnings for this state from the dark days of Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen. The member for Clayfield may remember the 'black hole' of Boggo Road Gaol. In 1984 it was closed as a result of public pressure due to the inhuman treatment of prisoners. That is right; these were profoundly serious human rights breaches. In late 1987 the Bjelke-Petersen conservative state government made a controversial decision to re-open the cells in order to contain Aboriginal protesters who were felt to be a threat to World Expo 88. This sparked major riots across Boggo Road Gaol, putting prison officers' and others' safety at risk. These punishment cells, better known as the 'black hole', were closed by the state government in 1989 as they were in breach of United Nations regulations regarding the treatment of prisoners. All of this happened during the Fitzgerald inquiry; the rest is history.

In May 1988 the Kennedy report recommended the closure of Boggo Road Gaol as well as a new focus on rehabilitation rather than retribution. In July 1992 corrective services Labor minister Glen Milner closed the gates of No. 1 division of the Brisbane correctional centre better known as Boggo Road Gaol, officially ending the era of Boggo Road, Australia's most notorious prison. It is only the Labor Party that has invested ever since to build more prisons and detention centres right across the state of Queensland. Those opposite have failed the people of Queensland when it comes to building professional, world-class prisons and detention centres in this state. I support this important bill to make sure we do not go back to the dark days of the LNP and the serious human rights breaches that occurred under their watch. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Walker, adjourned.

## MOTION

### Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla, Address of Congratulations



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (12.30 pm): I move—

That the following address be presented to Her Excellency the Governor for forwarding to His Majesty King Charles the Third—

"We, the members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Queensland, congratulate His Majesty King Charles the Third and Her Majesty Queen Camilla, upon their recent Coronation.

We wish Their Majesties a long and happy reign, distinguished by peace and prosperity throughout the Commonwealth."

As Premier of Queensland, I congratulate His Majesty King Charles III and Her Majesty Queen Camilla upon their recent coronation. His Majesty has been a frequent visitor to our state and has a longstanding affection for it and its people. His first visit was almost 57 years ago to the day. On 12 May 1966, a 17-year-old Prince Charles came to Cairns, and 700 people packed the airport to greet him. This was during His Majesty's time attending school at Timbertop in Victoria, and Cairns was chosen as a place to stay with friends on school holidays. While in Cairns, the Prince did what just about every tourist does—he swam at Fitzroy Island, went waterskiing and did some fishing. An even bigger reception was waiting in Gayndah, where 2,000 people welcomed him. The *Courier-Mail* reported that the town came to a standstill and all the pubs were deserted, which was a rarity it was said. He would go on to visit us a further seven times, including while serving in the Royal Navy on HMS *Jupiter*.

It was my honour to host Their Majesties on their last visit in 2018. They came to open the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games and stopped for a public reception in the Brisbane Botanic Gardens. I can remember speaking with them both at the time, and they said to me how much they enjoyed the

Gold Coast and how much they enjoyed the Commonwealth Games. It was wonderful that they were able to come to Queensland. There, in the Botanic Gardens, hundreds came to greet them. Even rain could not stop the wellwishers. The Duke and Duchess of Cornwall, as they were then, also visited the Queensland Children's Hospital.


On that same trip His Majesty also visited Bundaberg, which was recovering from recent floods. He spoke glowingly of the resilience of Queenslanders and the strength of our emergency services and volunteers. I also mention to the House that it was at his request that he went to Bundaberg. He has a deep affection for the people of Bundaberg, and it was wonderful that he did go there. I remember sitting next to him and he was amazed at how so many people had actually come out to see him. They were expecting a couple of hundred people, but I think around 5,000 people came out that day to welcome him to Bundaberg. He said at the time—

... I do know the Australian spirit and character is such that you are unbelievably resilient and somehow you manage regardless of what happens—

We sent him home with a gift of his own blend of rum. He very much enjoyed his tour of the Bundaberg Rum Distillery, which I think is compulsory to anyone visiting Bundaberg. That rum was to help him carry the warmth of Queensland and especially Bundaberg back to England.

His Majesty's stand on environmental causes is both well-known and longstanding. In many ways, he was among the first to speak out about global warming, organics and the need to protect our planet. In Bundaberg he made the point of visiting the Low Glow Project, which is protecting hatchling turtles by reducing artificial light. It is fitting that His Majesty's last port of call on his last visit to Queensland was where it all began, in Cairns. He visited service men and women, including HMAS *Cairns*. He conducted a meeting on coral resilience and a round table on the future of the Daintree Rainforest.

We are fortunate to have a King with a long and close association with our beautiful state of Queensland. He has travelled widely throughout it. In many ways, he has grown up with us and us with him. Their Majesties will always be welcome in Queensland. There are many, many more of us now than there were in 1966. We are a different state, more confident, more accomplished, proud but not boastful and hungry for the future, but I believe the King will always find in Queenslanders the same warm handshakes, broad smiles and wellwishers that greeted him as a teenager all those years ago. I commend the motion to the House.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (12.34 pm): The opposition is honoured to support this motion. The crowning of a new monarch is something relatively few Queenslanders have experienced until the events of Saturday, 6 May. Indeed, throughout the course of the state of Queensland's 164 years only five coronations have been held—those of Edward VII, George V, George VI, Elizabeth II and Charles III. The coronation of His Majesty King Charles III, while not an essential part of the process of accession, is an important symbol of the role played by the monarch. The coronation itself was a combination of the traditional—drawing on ceremonies, language and symbols that were first used in the coronation of Anglo-Saxon King Edgar—and the modern, including 12 new commissions of music and the involvement of the representatives of a range of religious denominations. The melding of the old and the new points to the enduring strength of the monarchy and its capacity to evolve to meet changing circumstances and new challenges.

Institutions have no right to exist in their own right. They must reflect the changing views, aspirations and beliefs of the community they serve. Central to this is the notion of service—something that His Majesty, drawing on the example of his late mother, has acknowledged on many occasions. Indeed, the coronation commenced with His Majesty proclaiming to those in Westminster Abbey and those watching throughout the world, 'I come not to be served but to serve.'

From the time of his investiture as Prince of Wales in 1969 he pursued interests and causes that he regarded as central to the future of his people. Although he faced varying degrees of indifference, scepticism and even hostility, he stayed the course and is now acknowledged as a champion of causes that now fall well within the mainstream. His son, the current Prince of Wales, summarised these during the post-coronation celebrations when he said—


Take the natural world. He warned us of the risks to our planet's health long before it was an everyday issue.

Or the Prince's Trust. It has supported over a million young people, many from disadvantaged backgrounds, to realise their ambitions.

And, perhaps most importantly of all, my father has always understood that people of all faiths, all backgrounds, and all communities, deserve to be celebrated and supported.


His Majesty has fulfilled his destiny, a destiny he has faced since the day of his birth in 1948. Few monarchs have been better prepared to assume the responsibility that His Majesty now faces. The examples of his grandfather George VI, who led the United Kingdom and the Empire through its greatest challenges in the Second World War, and his mother, Elizabeth II, who led the Commonwealth through 70 years of post-war change, provide firm foundations upon which to build a successful reign.

Following the 1953 coronation and between November 1953 and May 1954, Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh visited 13 countries in the West Indies, Australasia, Asia and Africa, covering more than 64,000 kilometres by land, sea and air. This is an example many Australians will wish to see repeated over the next 12 months. His Majesty's fondness for Australia, Australians and Queensland is well recorded, beginning with times he spent back here in the sixties. His Majesty has also visited Queensland on at least seven occasions, and it is our wish that the King and Queen will soon visit our state. We wish Their Majesties a long reign. We are confident that the King will continue to serve his people with dedication, understanding and commitment, and we look forward to the day when we can all welcome King Charles and Queen Camilla to Queensland.

 **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) (12.38 pm): I rise to congratulate King Charles III on his coronation over the weekend. Regardless of the diversity of views in this House on the topic of the monarchy, I think I speak on behalf of all members when I wish the new King the very best. His predecessor leaves a significant legacy of duty and service to the Commonwealth, including to Queensland. Queenslanders will remember the Queen's support for our state over her lengthy reign, and I am sure that we can look forward to the King leaving a similar legacy. The passing of the crown to King Charles is an opportunity for renewal and reflection. King Charles has spoken about the need to listen to Indigenous voices, to heed their wisdom and to recognise historic wrongs. It is fitting then that, as we commemorate his coronation, this week we also passed a law to set Queensland on a path to treaty.

Queensland has a lot to offer and few know that better than the newly crowned King Charles III. The new King has a long and proud association with Queensland, first visiting in 1966 as a student studying in Victoria. It is fitting that we are holding regional parliament here in Cairns just days after his coronation, given his first visit to Queensland was to Cairns. Like all visitors to Cairns and Far North Queensland, he swam and fished off the Great Barrier Reef and enjoyed the best the Far North has to offer. Speaking then of the people that he met here, he described Queenslanders as 'direct, friendly, straightforward and often blunt with an incredibly good sense of humour', all traits that Queenslanders can be rightly proud of. It is those traits of Queenslanders as well as our great lifestyle and stunning natural environment that continues to attract international tourists here all the way to the now King. Since then he has visited our great state seven more times, most recently for the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in 2018 where he also came back to Cairns.

The King has long been a proud supporter of the Royal Flying Doctor Service, serving as the patron of the RFDS Friends in the UK, raising funds for the incredible work that the Flying Doctors do. I look forward to seeing the King's continued support for philanthropy and services in Queensland and his ongoing support for environmental conservation, including protecting the Great Barrier Reef. I support the motion to the House.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12.41 pm): On 6 May 2023, the world witnessed an event that has not been seen for 70 years: the coronation of a new monarch at Westminster Abbey. On behalf of His Majesty's most loyal opposition, I wish to place on record our hearty congratulations to His Majesty the King on his coronation. I also wish to pass on our congratulations to Her Majesty the Queen.

Though King since 8 September 2022 with the death of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, King Charles III, accompanied by Queen Camilla, was crowned before nearly 2,300 guests and in the glare of the world's television screens. Westminster Abbey has been the setting for every coronation since 1066 beginning with the Christmas Day coronation of William the Conqueror, the Duke of Normandy. His Majesty was the 40th sovereign to be crowned at the Abbey.

The ancient ceremony is one steeped in tradition, though its contemporary form dates from the coronation of Edward VII, the King's great-great-grandfather, in 1902. The original 14th century order of service descends directly from that of King Edgar in 973, and it has provided the basis of every coronation since. The King was crowned in St Edward's Chair, made in 1300 for Edward I and used at every coronation since. St Edward's Crown, made in 1661 for the coronation of Charles II, was placed

on the King's head during the service. The King was anointed with oil from the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, underlining the religious nature of the ceremony, the anointing done with the Coronation Spoon used at every coronation since 1349.


Much has changed in the 70 years since Queen Elizabeth II was crowned, yet the fundamentals of the coronation remain the same. The sovereign took the Coronation Oath as a prelude to the crowning by the Archbishop of Canterbury, drawing a direct link between the sovereign, the realms, the Commonwealth and his people. The coronation of our King marks the beginning of a new era and links the notion of continuity and change.

I am a proud member of the Australian Monarchist League. We held many events across Australia. I understand my shadow assistant minister, the member for Lockyer, also attended many events and wishes to be associated with my remarks here today. The Monarchist League is now the leader and go-to organisation on all things constitutional monarchy. The league fights to protect our constitutional monarchy, thus ensuring the stability, the checks and balances it brings to our nation. It is easy in this age of globalisation to spurn tradition as being an unnecessary encumbrance from the past, but in fact tradition reveals the past as an integral aspect of living now and in the future. It is the glue which holds the three ages of life together—the past, the present, the future—in a constant forward momentum. We are all products of our past, whether we wish it or not, and our system of governance, with its attendant traditions, becomes a timeless reminder for us all.

Our monarch is crowned in a ceremony which looks back to the Byzantine Empire. The notion of the crown, the orb and the sceptre are all manifestations of previous ages and are still potent symbols today. Without tradition, we lose our collective identity.

I want to congratulate the young LNP who held a watch party at Red Hill Cinemas, which I attended. I always wish to strengthen the ties between our monarchy and Queensland, and I would wish that future governments may look to inviting the Prince of Wales to be a future governor of Queensland. I am on record also, once upon a time, recommending another prince be governor. That tweet did not age well and I recant my remarks with respect to Prince Harry when I said he would make a fantastic governor of Queensland, but alas, I believe Prince William would make a wonderful governor of Queensland by a future government.

I look forward to the visits of the King and Queen and other members of the Royal Family. I have met Their Majesties on two occasions in Queensland, once in Longreach and once in Brisbane. Their Majesties love regional and outback Queensland. It was great to see in the corridors of the regional parliament His Majesty's representative, the Governor, visiting regional parliament and she said what a wonderful coronation service it was that she attended. Their Majesties will always be welcome in Queensland, and we look forward to welcoming them and other members of the Royal Family on their next visit. God save the King and long may he reign!

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (12.46 pm): I rise to speak on behalf of the crossbench members to support the motion moved by the Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympics that we the members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Queensland congratulate His Majesty King Charles III and Her Majesty Queen Camilla upon their recent coronation. We wish Their Majesties a long and happy reign, distinguished by peace and prosperity throughout the Commonwealth.

The coronation of His Majesty at the weekend was an historic event with close to 19 million people watching and peaking at over 20 million when His Majesty was crowned. The last coronation was 70 years ago when Queen Elizabeth was crowned in 1953. Queen Elizabeth II was without doubt one of the most respected leaders in history. Because of her leadership, the monarchy is highly revered and is an institution that is woven into the very fabric of every nation under the Commonwealth. In fact, we should be extremely proud to be part of the Commonwealth.


I enjoyed the pure majesty of the coronation at the weekend. If I am being perfectly honest, I would rather see William on the throne, but Charles was next in line and he did have to wait till kingdom come, so he deserves to finally wear the crown.

The Australian Constitution is supreme law in Australia. It established Australia as a federation under a constitutional monarchy and outlines the structures and powers of the Australian government's three constituent parts—the executive, the legislature and the judiciary. We have to remember that our Australian Constitution is based on over 1,000 years of British monarchy and was developed from blood, sweat and tears of the British people. Those who want to change it would be removing our constitutional rights and everything our forefathers fought for. There is an old saying: 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it.' Some may not like the monarchy, but our history, foundations and many of our freedoms originated from England.

The monarchy is still as relevant today as it was back in 1999 when we had the republic debate and referendum. Only one state, Victoria, supported a republic, but every other state voted against it. I would say that should the same referendum be held today it would have much the same results.

To the Brits, the monarchy is a vital part and promotes the nation on the world stage. The UK government has called the monarchy a unique soft power and diplomatic asset which has promoted British interests and values, increased tourism and promotes charities worldwide. When members of the Royal Family visit Australia, they are always treated like rockstars. Streets are lined with tens of thousands of people and the worldwide media are focused on the nation for the entire visit. To be part of the Commonwealth certainly puts our nation on the world stage and no doubt increases our profile and standing amongst the leading nations on the planet.

On behalf of the crossbench, I thank the House for allowing me to speak today and fully support the motion. Queen Elizabeth II will continue to be forever present in our memories, however long live His Majesty King Charles III.

 **Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Honourable members, without entering the debate, I did want to contribute a few words. The Office of the Speaker in its role in the Westminster parliamentary system of government and its values align with the motion. I had the great privilege recently of attending the Commonwealth Day service at Westminster Abbey where at that stage the uncrowned King Charles gave an address. It was a very impressive address. One of the things that really stuck with me was his enthusiasm for the youth of the Commonwealth, and it is great to see so many young people in the gallery here today. He expressed quite clearly the view that we need to ensure that all of our parliamentary democracies around the world are doing all they can to encourage and engage young people in the parliamentary process. He also noted his strong support for the Commonwealth and appreciation of all of the realms of the Commonwealth, and I assume that includes Queensland.

I have been personally impressed by the King. I think his humble visit to Northern Ireland was very important. I think it demonstrates a maturing of the institution, and I think that was reciprocated when Michelle O'Neill, the Vice-President of Sinn Féin, attended the coronation ceremony, an incredible step forward in that issue.


There will be many views in this chamber and beyond around the institution of the monarchy, but I think there would be very few people who would not admire deeply the service to the community of the late Queen and King Charles over a very significant period of time.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## ACTING SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

### Gift to Parliament


 **Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Honourable members, as you would be aware, the Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships has presented a gift of a broken spear to the parliament, which is a strong symbol of reconciliation. Following this regional sitting, during which the spear has been displayed in the chamber, it will be transported to Parliament House in Brisbane for appropriate display. I thank the minister for making this important presentation to the parliament.

## MONITORING OF PLACES OF DETENTION (OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE) BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from p. 1414, on motion of Ms Fentiman—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (12.53 pm): I rise to speak on the Monitoring of Places of Detention (Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture) Bill 2022. The purpose of the bill is to facilitate visits by the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture to places of detention in Queensland. The Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment—OPCAT—was ratified by Australia in 2017. OPCAT's main function is to protect the fundamental human rights of people detained in places such as prisons, immigration detention centres, hospitals and mental health facilities.

Rather than investigating cases after people have been subjected to torture or ill-treatment, OPCAT takes a preventative approach in attempting to identify and address problems at an early stage. For this purpose, the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture—SPT—was set up under OPCAT and given almost unrestricted authority to perform its role of inspecting and monitoring places of detention. The subcommittee, therefore, has a mandate to visit any place where the people are deprived of their liberty and to make recommendations to state parties concerning the protection of those people.

To help fulfil this mandate, state parties like Australia have undertaken to provide the subcommittee with: (a) unrestricted access to all places of detention, their installations and facilities; (b) unrestricted access to all information concerning the number of persons deprived of their liberty and the number and location of places of detention; (c) unrestricted access to all information referring to the treatment of those persons and the conditions of their detention; (d) the ability to privately interview persons deprived of their liberty and any other person the subcommittee believes may supply relevant information; and (e) the liberty to choose the places it wants to visit and the people it wishes to interview.

Last year, however, the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture was forced to suspend its visit to Australia after authorities in Queensland prevented the committee from accessing certain sites. According to the Queensland government, this was due to the state laws preventing access to people held in mental health inpatient settings. This was concerning to say the least. I am, therefore, strongly supportive of the bill's objective to facilitate visits by the subcommittee to all Queensland places of detention.

In particular, I welcome the removal of legislative barriers restricting the subcommittee from physical access to inpatient units of authorised mental health units under the Mental Health Act 2016 and to the Forensic Disability Service under the Forensic Disability Act 2017. These and other changes will ensure the subcommittee is able to make unannounced visits and conduct private interviews with detainees. It also prohibits reprisals or sanctions from being carried out against anyone assisting the subcommittee in its functions through the inclusion of a 'protection from reprisals' clause. These are all welcome changes and are to be commended.

I do, however, have concerns about some of the bill's clauses. To fulfil Australia's obligations under OPCAT, any limitations imposed on the subcommittee's powers should be minimal, human rights focused and consistent with the subcommittee's authority contained in OPCAT. Clause 4 of the bill provides a definition for a 'place of detention'. As a part of this definition, the clause lists all the places the subcommittee is to be granted access to within Queensland. These include: a community corrections centre, prison or work camp, a youth detention centre, an inpatient unit of an authorised mental health service, a forensic disability service, a court cell, a watch house, a holding cell or other place in a police station where a person is detained, a place where a person is detained other than a private residence prescribed by regulation as a place of detention, and a vehicle primarily used or operated for the purpose of transporting a person who is detained to or from a place. The list is extensive, but it does not include all facilities where people are being deprived of their liberty in Queensland.

There are a number of other facilities where the use of restrictive practices amounts to the detention of individuals such as residential aged-care facilities and disability services settings. The definition in clause 4, therefore, needs to be expanded to capture such places. OPCAT offers guidance for a proper definition, saying it should encompass any place under the state party's jurisdiction and control and where persons are or may be deprived of their liberty. This accords with OPCAT's own description of places of detention as any place where an individual cannot leave of their own free will and where that place of detention is linked, either directly or indirectly, to a public authority.

I note that the bill's explanatory notes explain that the bill does not operate to prevent the subcommittee from visiting other places where a person may be deprived of their liberty. However, simply stating this in the notes is insufficient. The bill itself needs to expressly state that the subcommittee is free to visit any place under article 4 of the optional protocol that is subject to its jurisdiction and its control. The bill's definition of 'places of detention' contained in clause 4 should therefore be amended to ensure it is fully compliant with OPCAT.

Clause 9 of the bill allows the responsible minister to temporarily object to the subcommittee visiting a place on a number of urgent and compelling grounds including reasons of national defence, public safety, natural disaster or serious disorder in a place of detention. All of these grounds are considered with the grounds for exemption allowed in OPCAT. However, clause 10 of the bill goes further than this. Clause 10 will allow detaining authorities to restrict or prohibit access to facilities on grounds relating to the security, good order and management of the place of detention or for the

protection of the health and safety of the person in the place of detention. This provision should be omitted from the bill. Its terms are far too broad and open to misuse. It could be interpreted to mean anything from extended lockdowns of the facility to not having enough staff working that day. This far exceeds the generally accepted grounds for an exemption contained under article 14 of OPCAT.


As one of the submitters on the bill stated, there are real and significant risks to people deprived of their liberty during emergency events.

Debate, on motion of Mr Andrews, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### Kawana Electorate

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.30 pm): The Sunshine Coast is not immune to the crime crisis gripping Queensland. On Good Friday, Scott, who works at the NightOwl in Little Mountain in my electorate, was getting ready to close the shopfront for the night when an armed robber entered the store, jumped the counter and assaulted him with what looked like a metal baton. The offender escaped with cigarettes and cash. Scott was taken to hospital. I want to pay tribute to Scott today and to thank our local community for rallying around Scott and his family at this difficult time. I have seen the messages of support and the get-well flowers and chocolates delivered and left at the NightOwl in Little Mountain for Scott. He is a popular team member who always greets everyone with a smile.

I have also seen members of my community call for stronger consequences for actions to deal with the crime crisis and make sure victims' rights are put before the rights of offenders. When I last had a community crime forum in Meridan Plains, there was a call to establish a Neighbourhood Watch in the area. I am advised that when Queensland police contracted attendees who had expressed an interest in the Neighbourhood Watch they were unable to get enough people to constitute the board. I would like anyone in the Meridan Plains, Aroona and Little Mountain area who would like to be part of a Neighbourhood Watch that we will set up to please contact me.

2023 saw the second edition of the Nurture Festival, an entertainment packed, alcohol-free safe space for first-time festival goers and families in my electorate. The festival idea was the creation of two Sunshine Coast mental health organisation leaders, Mark Forbes of endED and Nathan Taylor of Comunite'z. Through their experience of working with young people and their families on the Sunshine Coast, Mark and Nathan recognised a growth in demand for youth mental health support services that is often not being met purely through the mainstream health system. I want to thank them for the second festival that was held on the weekend.


I congratulate Mooloolaba Rotary Club on their 50th anniversary. We had a fundraiser to celebrate, raising money for endED, Mark and Gaye Forbes's charity on the Sunshine Coast. It was a legend showcase. Of course, Mark Andrews was there as Elvis—and so was I. I did not want to upstage the professional, so I sat there stomping my feet. I did not want to distract from the real entertainer of the night, but I was there in my full Elvis regalia.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** If you mention Elvis, they are all on board!

Finally, I raise the issue of turtle nesting on the Sunshine Coast along Bokarina Beach and Buddina Beach. It is one of the largest stretches of turtle nesting in Queensland along our beachfront community in my electorate. The developer along the beachfront in Buddina has put in an application to council to remove three turtle lighting conditions. I implore people in the Buddina area to write to the Sunshine Coast Council and oppose that change. These conditions were deliberately put in place to make sure we have the world's best protected turtle nests, as we do now.

### Trinity Beach Community Activity Space

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.33 pm): Smithfield and Northern Beaches locals love to get together. One of the most popular community halls in the Barron River electorate is at Coast Watcher Park in Trinity Beach. The existing community space is incredibly




popular, hosting more than 470 events, with over 1,000 attendees, in 2022 alone. The Smithfield and Northern Beaches population is expected to grow by 25 per cent in the next 15 years to more than 52,000 people. That is why this year's state budget will include a \$935,000 investment in a new centre which will be a focal point for the local community. The new centre will help to strengthen social networks as the community grows. With the availability of a bigger and better space, the community will be able to enjoy even more gatherings and activities where they can socialise, share and learn. The Palaszczuk government is pleased to partner with the Cairns Regional Council to deliver this great project.

The new community activity space, CAS, will be delivered in partnership with Cairns Regional Council under a fifty-fifty funding arrangement. The facility is envisaged to be around twice the size of the existing facility currently in Coast Watcher Park. It will replace the outdated 40-year-old Trinity Beach Community Centre, which no longer meets the needs of a growing Smithfield and Northern Beaches community. The CAS will be adjacent to the Trinity Beach kindergarten and Northern Beaches Youth Activity Space. In its current state, the CAS is an unattractive building, with sections added over the years. The size of the main hall currently is inadequate, toilets do not meet Disability Discrimination Act requirements and the layout does not suit the primary purpose. The CAS is more than 40 years old, is no longer fit for purpose and has insufficient capacity to meet community demand.

A new community activity space will become a focal point for local residents to connect, gather, learn, share and play. Some of its current uses include story time and even kindy. Boot camps and martial arts, sewing art and singing classes also use the facility. It is used by Rotary and Alcoholics Anonymous as well. It hosts weddings, birthday parties and anniversaries—pretty much everything. The growing community of Smithfield and the Northern Beaches deserves a bigger and better space to meet and connect with local events. I want to thank the Cairns Regional Council for their advocacy. They have met with me a number of times, as have the members for Cairns, Cook and Mulgrave. There was a list of things that they brought to us in the lead-up to this sitting week. I acknowledge them for their outstanding work. Today, the Palaszczuk government has delivered.

### Small and Family Business

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (2.36 pm): Queensland's small and family businesses are suffering, but if you only read the state government media releases or if, God forbid, you only listened to ministerial statements, you could be forgiven for thinking that things have never been better. Whether it is skyrocketing electricity prices, a chronic shortage of labour, interest rates that are through the roof, crime, crumbling roads or the inadequate delivery of the most basic of government services, small and family businesses in Queensland have had enough.


A Cairns small business owner I recently met with observed that it is only governments that think they should be judged on the amount of money they spend rather than on the outcomes they deliver. She makes a pretty good point. Compare that approach with that of small and family business. At a time of record inflation, businesses know that every single dollar counts. In an environment of ever-increasing interest rates, small business owners scrutinise the allocation of every single dollar under a lens of efficiency, return on investment and timeliness.

This Palaszczuk Labor government likes to crow about record spends, but whether it is on health, crime or the delivery of government services, the truth is that performance is deteriorating. The facts are that, under Labor, Australia now has the highest level of core inflation of all advanced economies in the world. Electricity prices in Queensland have skyrocketed 32.5 per cent in the last quarter alone. Government members like to crow about the fact that they own the assets so they control the prices, but in both New South Wales and Victoria electricity prices dropped in the last quarter. How is that helping Queensland households, Queensland families and Queensland small and family businesses? The question has to be asked: why is Queensland failing on these most basic of measures?

At a time when supply chains are already straining under the load, Labor have increased the charges on heavy vehicle operators by 19 per cent. That is an increased cost that will be paid by families and small and family businesses in the form of more expensive food, more expensive fuel and more expensive goods. What have we heard from this state Labor government? Nothing. The cost of the Palaszczuk Labor government's crime epidemic lands with home owners and small business owners, who keep getting raided. When businesses are broken into, it is the owners who must close their doors, cancel shifts and replace stock. They pay for repairs; they pay for more expensive insurance premiums. That is the real cost of Labor's crime epidemic.

Queenslanders everywhere are paying the price for the Palaszczuk Labor government's inability to manage. Small businesses have told me that they are sick of the Palaszczuk Labor government ignoring them. They tell me that they are sick of this Palaszczuk Labor government being only interested in the photo op and forgetting about the follow-up. Queenslanders deserve better, and it is only an LNP government that will deliver for Queensland's small and family businesses.

### **Far North Queensland, Health Services**

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (2.39 pm): The Palaszczuk government is committed to providing quality health services particularly in regional areas. I note that we have increased the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service's operational funding by 77 per cent. Since 2015 in our region we have hired 243 more doctors, 695 more nurses and midwives, 61 more ambulance officers and 154 more allied health professionals. When the LNP was last in government it sacked 306 health staff in the Cairns and hinterland region, including 48 nurses. I echo the remarks of the nurses who visited here today. I took some time to thank them for the wonderful contribution they make to our community.


In March this year I was delighted, along with the minister, to announce that we have acquired land for a new 32-bed surgical centre to be located on the corner of Charles and Digger streets—the same site as the future Cairns Health and Innovation Centre. This new surgical centre will be adjacent to JCU's Tropical Enterprise Centre. That will form part of the Far North Queensland innovation precinct. This is a further commitment that we make. This is a step in the transition to a university hospital.

As I speak, work is going on at Cairns Hospital, where we are building a new \$70 million mental health unit. The new mental health facility will have more capacity to treat more patients and will provide a better environment to help patients who need help, hence the need for this facility. The whole building is designed to help people recover from mental illness. It will include a modern, culturally appropriate design and family-friendly spaces, naturally including the latest technology.

Our government's huge investment in Cairns Hospital includes \$250 million in the 2022-23 budget to deliver 96 additional beds and \$26.5 million for the expansion of our emergency department which is currently underway. I used to get calls from doctors when there were crowds and it was getting busy. I have not had a call for a while. I go down and touch base with them. This is what we needed. It is vitally important. I can say that the staff are very happy about it.

We are also leasing a 45-bed facility for offsite treatment of subacute patients in Edge Hill. This is working extremely well. I went and made that announcement not long ago. We are opening the \$1.5 million multidisciplinary preadmission clinic to allow patients needing elective surgery or related procedures to be assessed in a central location. This is what people in this part of the world need and this is what the Palaszczuk government is doing. We are delivering and ensuring the best future for the people of the regions.

### **Island Leases; Callide C Power Station; CopperString 2.0**

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (2.42 pm): Queensland's islands are the envy of the world. In our post-COVID economy we should be showcasing our unique island offerings and strengthening the critical tourism economy here in the Far North. It is therefore simply staggering that this Labor government is failing in overseeing island leasing arrangements, allowing these natural assets to fall into ruin and disrepair, starving our state of so much opportunity.


I have heard many stories of this government's failures to honour leasing conditions for the management of these islands. This is why the LNP fought for an inquiry into the management of the islands off the Queensland coast. The first recommendation that came from the inquiry was for the department to take immediate action to cancel tourism leases where lessees have been determined to be noncompliant with conditions. That was months ago.

There is no greater example of this government's failure in island management than just north of where we stand now, at the rundown and abandoned Double Island. Photographs provided show excess mould, plastic chairs scattered around and the once sparkling pool drained of water, except for some green sludge at the bottom. We welcomed the announcement of a notice for the lessee to show cause by 31 March that they were compliant with the terms of the lease, but that was over a month ago. I would ask: where are the local members on this? The member for Barron River is a minister in this government, and the member for Cairns is the assistant tourism minister. Why have they allowed this situation to fester? Locals have told me that the issues identified in the show cause notice have not been resolved, so why has the lease not been cancelled? The time for excuses for this leaseholder must end and the minister must act.

Another example of this government abandoning core service delivery is our electricity network. It has now been months since news broke of Genuity, Callide C's co-owner, going into voluntary administration. We still have not heard one word from the Premier, the energy minister or the Treasurer. Queenslanders and, importantly, Callide staff deserve to know when the offline generators at Callide will be restored. Queenslanders also deserve to know if the voluntary administration will further delay reliable and affordable electricity supply and if government funds are going to be used to purchase the half-share of Callide C.

In the time remaining to me, I would like to place on the record my concerns about the CopperString project. I read the federal budget papers in great anticipation of federal funding for this project, but CopperString was not mentioned. The Premier and her energy minister must explain why this project has been overlooked by the federal government. Does the federal government not support this project or does the state government's business case not stack up? Queenslanders deserve an answer.

### Path to Treaty

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (2.45 pm): 10 May 2023 is a date that will stay with me long after I have left this place—a truly historic day in our parliament, when we passed legislation to construct the institutions that will forge our path to treaty. I honour the giants of our history who paved the way for us to follow, who enabled us to come here and create this moment in history. They are too many to name. To all those ancestors who allowed us to seize this moment I express my deepest gratitude.

It seems to me that we are living in a moment that is rich in opportunity to take these steps. I want to put on the record my full support for a national Voice to Parliament. I want to acknowledge and commend the Albanese Labor government for its courage in making a bold commitment towards enshrining Voice in our nation's Constitution. Having a voice to parliament has been the aspiration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for a very long time. Voice is and will always be about achieving meaningful outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities. The time for change is now. Voice is an opportunity for all of us to pave a new path for a better future. The Uluru Statement from the Heart is a powerful drawing together of First Nations regional dialogues from all across our continent—from all points of the southern sky.


Yesterday in this place we saw the power of bipartisanship. I want to recognise and commend my parliamentary colleagues from across the chamber for perceiving this moment and committing to walk this path to treaty together with us. I have full faith in the goodwill and foresight of the Australian people. I look forward to the next watershed moment in our nation's history with a great deal of optimism. I would like to close my speech by drawing some words directly from the Uluru Statement from the Heart—

We seek constitutional reforms to empower our people and take *a rightful place* in our own country. When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country.

...

We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.

### Federal Budget, Local Government

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (2.47 pm): The Labor Albanese government has not met the expectations of Queensland's councils in this week's federal budget. The federal Labor government's budget shows that financial assistance grants reduced again to councils, from 0.52 per cent to 0.5 per cent of national taxation. Twenty years ago, the financial assistance grants were one per cent of national taxation. Queensland councils want the FA grants returned to one per cent of national taxation. For councils, the FA grants are the major funding source for critical services and infrastructure across the state.

We heard this morning how the state Labor government likes to partner with Queensland councils. Where is the state Labor government partnering with Queensland councils in their call for a fair share of funding from the Commonwealth government? Councils have had enough of reducing funding, and the state Labor government is doing nothing about it. The Palaszczuk government used to demand its fair share from Canberra. Now it is silent when councils lose out. We were told that a new era of intergovernmental cooperation was upon us. Clearly, that does not include fighting for Queensland councils' funding. I call on the Palaszczuk Labor government to listen to councils and to stand up to its federal colleagues and ask for Queensland councils' fair share.

These FA grants are the funds that Queensland councils use to put bitumen on local roads, repair the footpaths and extend and repair water and sewerage infrastructure. In Cairns there is some \$220 million worth of infrastructure needed for water supply to communities in this region. Water is critical for the health of these communities and closing the gap. Health services like kidney dialysis cannot happen when councils cannot provide potable water. The gap for Indigenous councils and their residents cannot be closed without clean drinking water. It should concern the Palaszczuk Labor government that this week I have learned of people at Yarrabah who have had to resort to bucketing water out of the creek because they do not have sufficient clean water supplies.

Alarmingly, funding for the critical Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program disappears in the 2026-27 federal budget. This follows the federal government's decision to exclude some councils from the latest round and to cut community infrastructure. What have we heard from the Palaszczuk Labor government in standing up to Canberra? Nothing. It cannot even pick up the phone. Councils are clear that these federal funding programs should continue for community infrastructure as well as roads and for all councils. This region deserves better from the Palaszczuk Labor government and its colleagues in Canberra and Queensland councils deserve better.

*(Time expired)*

### Rockhampton-Yeppoon Road, Upgrade



**Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.51 pm): I am incredibly pleased that the contract for the \$80 million Rockhampton-Yeppoon Road upgrade has now been awarded to Queensland company Civil Mining and Construction. The LNP and One Nation, though, need to stop trying to derail the \$80 million Rockhampton-Yeppoon Road upgrade and get behind the 11½ thousand drivers who use this road every day. The LNP shadow minister for local government, Ann Leahy, and One Nation's Stephen Andrew are stalling the delivery of this project because they do not agree with the engineer's designs for the Artillery Road-Dairy Inn Road intersection. The Palaszczuk government is delivering its seventh record transport and roads infrastructure program in a row and all the member for Warrego and the member for Mirani can do is what they always do—whinge and try to stop progress.

The overwhelming majority of people in Keppel are very happy with TMR's plan for the road and the benefits they will enjoy when it is all done. In fact, the majority of people say to me, 'Why hasn't it started yet?' I have to tell them, 'The LNP and One Nation are trying to stop this and are trying to halt it.' I am calling on the LNP and One Nation to get out of the way of this critical road upgrade and to stop criticising and hampering the delivery of this \$80 million upgrade—an upgrade which has been assessed and endorsed by RACQ engineers. The LNP and One Nation want to put traffic lights or a roundabout at this intersection which will only impact the travel time between Yeppoon and Rocky. Not only is the LNP trying to put a halt to this important road upgrade; the Leader of the Opposition went so far as to say—and I heard the shadow minister for transport and main roads say it just then—that I was making up stories.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Well, table your evidence.

**Ms LAUGA:** I am very happy to table the evidence, which I have right here. I have the letter which the shadow minister for local government has written to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads calling on the design to be changed and reconsidered which would ultimately halt the project.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 20 June 2022, from the member for Warrego, Ms Ann Leahy MP, to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Hon. Mark Bailey, in relation to upgrades to the Rockhampton Yeppoon Road [\[631\]](#).

The Leader of the Opposition's office told Seven News in Central Queensland that I was making up stories for Facebook and that he had no idea about his very own shadow minister's letter against the project. Clearly the Leader of the Opposition has no influence or control over his shadow cabinet. He has shadow ministers writing letters outside of their own portfolio area which the Leader of the Opposition does not even know about. Clearly the shadow minister does not know about them either and clearly the member for Nanango does not know about them either. Maybe they need to communicate internally a bit better.

I am asking for an apology from the Leader of the Opposition because clearly he did not have the whole story from the shadow ministers in his own team. I am proud that the contract for this project has been awarded this week and I look forward to the jobs flowing from it and traffic flowing efficiently as well.

### Gympie Electorate, Crime



**Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (2.54 pm): Gympie business owners are fed up with being increasingly targeted by criminals and with repeat offenders coming back time and again. Owners tell me that residents are saying that they are avoiding Mary Street where possible. Mary Street is Gympie's main street. Last week the Gympie Chamber of Commerce listed 16 businesses which were targeted, with more coming forward. On the weekend a business owner wrote to me, saying—

I had two full on fights outside my shop in recent days ... (there's) been ... increasing loitering, vandalism, public drinking, graffiti, public mischief, and begging. So much so that customers are telling us they try to avoid Mary Street ...

Another wrote that the costs to recover—

... have a significant negative impact to the profitability of our business ...

They then told me that another had been broken into five times in the last two weeks. Another wrote—

It seems that break and enter or stealing of any kind is too hard.

Another wrote—

... we have experienced multiple break-ins ... in the last two weeks we have been victims of crime again and not just once but multiple times in one night.

Another owner wrote—

... (they) smashed my front doors ... I have security cameras and alarm system and all they got away with was two cokes ... I told the police, but nothing has been done about it ... I'm on my last straw and cannot take much more ... I may have to close which would mean 7 staff out of work.

A business owner said that they reported suspicious behaviour to police several weeks before the crime. Police advised them to 'install a camera as the station was short-staffed and extra patrol duties were unavailable'. After the crime, they were told to report it via the Policelink phone at the station. They have had no feedback. They wrote—

... a business operator who has lost over \$200,000 since the 2022 flood, had to cope with heavily increasing costs against a background of subdued trading, particularly since the firebombing of the vape shop ... which burnt out two adjoining businesses, this is not insignificant. A neighbouring business ... had to close ... following three break-ins in two months. Chaos has descended on the main street of Gympie and police action seems totally ineffective.

Police are doing their best with limited manpower and resources. It is symptomatic of the problem that last month the Imbil Police Station was left with no frontline operational staff for a month. The minister has not even addressed the issue. It is unacceptable. The Gympie region needs more police. During question time on Tuesday the Premier said that the government is giving the police the resources they need to do their job. To honour that commitment, the Premier needs to give Gympie more police and the resources to give security back to our community.

### Workers' Memorial Day; May Day



**Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (2.56 pm): Recently we once again had our annual Workers' Memorial Day where we take time to pause, reflect and remember workers who have lost their lives at work and those who are injured and unable to return to work. This happens every year on 28 April. This year I was joined by my colleague, friend and neighbour Chris Whiting MP, the member for Bancroft. At the event we also remember those workers who have come down with and suffer from work related illnesses such as mesothelioma, asbestosis and black lung and workers who, due to workplace events, sadly find it all too much and take their own lives. It is also about the families who have to deal with the results of this death and injury.

Over 21 workers so far this year have sadly gone off to work and not made it home, and this number does not include work related suicides. The mighty trade union movement fights hard every day for workplace safety and conditions, yet sadly that is something that some opposite in this place just do not get. We do get it, and that is why we work with worker representative groups as well as businesses because we know that that is the only way to try to curb workplace incidents.

This year for the first time in my memory—I do not know if it has happened before—we were joined by the Police Union and police officers who have had, as we all know, a recent tragic event rock their world, and they were more than welcome and their pain was also felt.


As always, I encourage everyone in this place to take the time next year to attend Workers' Memorial Day so we can all hear the tragic stories from the families and friends of those who have died at work. I still hold hope for a day when we can have a celebration of no workplace deaths rather than a memorial. We must always remember the dead and fight like hell for the living.

Speaking of the trade union movement, we had a great day on Monday, 1 May at the annual May Day March where I marched with my union, the mighty Electrical Trades Union, known to many in this place who are very fond of it, like me. It still feels great to have May Day back in May. The LNP shifted this day and I feel great pride every year that we put it back where it belongs.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr KING:** I can hear some people opposite who do not support workers. I cannot see them, but I can hear them. It was great to be joined by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and I sincerely hope that he comes along as Prime Minister for many more years. The mighty Australian Labor Party was founded in the 1890s by workers who wanted better rights at work, and this day—May Day—is a celebration of what the Labor movement has achieved and why it has so much meaning to all of us on this side of the House. I do not have the time left to break into a stanza of *Solidarity Forever*, so I will leave it there.


### Federal Budget, Water Security

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.59 pm): Yesterday the Premier and her team proudly spruiked Labor's federal budget, a budget of broken promises and a budget that will only make life harder for all Australians. However, it was what the Premier did not say that is all we need to know, especially when it comes to water security in this great state. Yesterday in question time I asked the Premier if she had picked up the phone to the Prime Minister to express her disgust, given more Labor cuts have put Queensland's water security at risk. I was shocked that the Premier said she wants to thank the Prime Minister for cutting water projects. She actually thanked the Prime Minister for what he has apparently delivered for Queensland. How could the Premier of this state, whilst in Far North Queensland, be so out of touch? She seriously could not be any more out of touch with the people she claims to represent.

In the Premier's answer yesterday it was clear she did not want to talk about water security and all the other projects that the Labor government cut last year. Who could forget that last year the Premier had the support of her water minister when he actively advocated against federal investment in Queensland's water security assets such as Urannah Dam and Hells Gate Dam. Now, member for Southern Downs, Emu Swamp Dam has been cut and we know that the Hughenden Irrigation Scheme is on the back burner.

Queensland Labor is now backed by the federal Labor government which does not believe in water security. That equates to them not believing in regional development. It flows on to mean that they do not believe in manufacturing. No wonder the health system is in the toilet in this great state. It is absolutely incredible that the member for Mackay supports a project that was not backed by the federal government. Where is that project? It is absolutely dumbfounding to think that this government, which announced that it was going to do Bradfield in the middle of the election to get it off the table, now say that it has a report into it. The member opposite likes to throw that around, but it is clear he is completely clueless when it comes to water security in this great state. Where does the Labor government stand in relation to water security? It is all in their press releases and not in their budget. We know the Queensland budget cuts it, we now know the federal budget cuts it and, worst of all, we know the water minister actively lobbies the federal water minister to cut these projects.

### Health System

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (3.02 pm): I always love listening to the originator of the fake Bradfield scheme lecture us on water.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find the comments by the member personally offensive and I ask him to withdraw.


**Mr WHITING:** I withdraw. This week the people of Cairns have seen why Queensland is in safe hands under the Premier, they have seen why we need to keep these outstanding Cairns Labor MPs and they have seen that the LNP is woeful. I want to talk about our contrasting records on hospitals and health.

Under the Palaszczuk government we are seeing the largest uplift in health spending in Queensland's history. As part of this investment we will deliver over 2,500 extra beds. We are spending \$23 billion over four years on health infrastructure and services. That includes \$9.7 billion on new and expanded hospitals and health centres throughout Queensland. This is part of the biggest hospital building program in Queensland's history. It will mean three new hospitals in Bundaberg, Toowoomba and Coomera and the expansion of 11 hospitals around Queensland, including at Caboolture, Redcliffe, Rockhampton, Townsville and, of course, Cairns.

Today we have heard how the Palaszczuk government is creating an even better health system in Cairns. There will be a \$250 million Cairns Base Hospital expansion which will deliver an extra 96 beds and an emergency department upgrade. All in all that is an investment of \$346 million in the health system in Cairns.

Just as important is the investment in better health services and health staff throughout Queensland. We are on track to see an extra 9,475 staff in this term of government and we are seeing a massive investment in mental health services across Queensland. I congratulate the member for Cairns on the \$70 million expansion of mental health facilities in Cairns. We will see a \$1.6 billion investment in better mental health, alcohol and drug services. That comes from a payroll levy on our biggest businesses. This will provide more mental health, alcohol and drug treatment beds, more mental health staff, more dedicated child and adolescent support services and more crisis response and suicide prevention services. It would be very clear to the people of Cairns that Labor will better run our health services.

### Education; Health Protocols

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (3.06 pm): Queensland students, teachers and parents are suffering as a direct result of Labor's teacher workforce crisis. After budget estimates nearly a year ago the Labor Minister for Education tweeted, 'Here are the facts: since 2015 we have employed 6,000 new teachers as well as more than 1,500 teacher aides.' That is a figure of 7,500. However, last night the Premier stated that since 2015 the state government has appointed 7,105 new teachers and teacher aides in Queensland. This would indicate a net reduction of 395 teacher and teacher aide roles in just nine months. That would be deeply concerning and it needs urgent clarification by the Premier and Labor Minister for Education.


Information obtained this year by the Liberal National Party has also revealed the extent of the Palaszczuk state Labor government's growing safety crisis in our schools and serious and ongoing risks to the health and wellbeing of students and teachers. Last year alone there were 575 asbestos incidents in Queensland state schools that required immediate parental notification. These incidents were across 287 schools. They are very alarming figures and the government must assure Queenslanders that they have all been actioned in the appropriate way in accordance with workplace health and safety obligations.

Also in figures released to the Liberal National Party state opposition it can be revealed that the total WorkCover claims paid to Queensland teachers and staff has reached an all-time high under the Palaszczuk state government with more than \$67.2 million in claims paid during the last financial year. This represents a 94 per cent increase in total WorkCover payments made since the election of the Palaszczuk state Labor government in 2015, with total WorkCover payments made to teachers and staff who have suffered physical and psychological injury now exceeding \$347 million.

Whilst in Far North Queensland for the regional sitting of the Queensland parliament, I also wish to draw to the attention of the House the serious clinical outcome and quality of care questions that have been raised in relation to best practice and adherence to established protocols as part of the North Queensland Community Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot. Published information and reports evaluating relevant treatment guidelines, evidence of clinical protocol deviation and various findings contained within these reports is of significant concern.

Whilst access and availability of health professionals is of critical importance to all Queenslanders, it is incumbent on the state Labor government to have a clear and communicated plan to address these safety and quality concerns. Whilst there may be variance of views in relation to health professionals who should be undertaking different clinical services, these results and these findings require ongoing engagement with relevant stakeholders, including the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, the Australian Medical Association, the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine, the Department of Health and many others to ensure that there is good quality clinical outcomes for all Queenslanders and in particular here in North Queensland.

### Ipswich Electorate, Health Services

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (3.09 pm): This afternoon we are certainly hearing a lot of good news about health from this side of the House and I want to add to those stories. First, I congratulate the Cairns community on the announcements around health and all of the other fantastic announcements made this week. I commend the local members for their role in securing that funding.

I have long been a supporter and advocate for Ipswich getting its fair share of health funding. Ipswich is the fastest growing local government area in Queensland and our massive population growth is putting undue pressure on our existing hospital and health services. Over the past eight years I have been proud to be a part of the Palaszczuk Labor government that has committed to expanding our region's health capacity. We have a strong track record to prove it.


We are expanding the Ipswich Hospital with an initial investment of \$146.3 million for stage 1 of the expansion and \$710 million for stage 2 of the expansion, which will deliver another 200 beds. I am also pleased that our government has committed to building a new alcohol and other drug residential rehabilitation and withdrawal service in Ipswich. That facility will provide 45 beds for patients who need intensive treatment and support for substance abuse. There is a huge and growing demand for a service like this in Ipswich, and it is extremely important that people who are struggling with addiction and who want help to turn their lives around can get that sort of treatment close to home and close to family and loved ones who can support them.

During the 2020 state election, we made a commitment to build seven satellite hospitals across South-East Queensland and one is being delivered in Ripley. The other day my neighbour Lance McCallum and I went and looked at the facility. It turned out to be the same day that the Premier announced the primary healthcare model for that service. It will be a fantastic service and I know how well it will be received in the community.

The satellite hospital at Ripley will have a minor injury and illness walk-in clinic that will give free urgent medical care to patients, with a capacity to see 490 patients each week. It will also have consult and treatment rooms to provide appointments with Queensland Health doctors. Those consult and treatment rooms will have the capacity to deliver 800 outpatient appointments every single week. I know that will be well received in our fast-growing area. The hospital will also provide mental health specialist appointments, oral health, breast screen services, medical imaging and diagnostic services. Following the satellite hospital opening, we will commence development on the subacute care facility right next door. It is fantastic to see this hospital going ahead.

My neighbour and I also went to have a look at the site of the new \$10.9 million ambulance station that is being built in Ripley. It was wonderful to see that site and hear the excitement from the hardworking paramedics about the new facility that is being built. I am very excited to be the member for Ipswich and my thanks go to the government for supporting our needs.

### Crocodile Management

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (3.12 pm): For years the KAP has warned the state government about the threat that crocodiles pose to human life and to the tourist industry in North Queensland. We have already tabled two bills in parliament and we will be tabling our Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2023 in the coming months—that is, three bills.

Crocodile numbers are exploding as more and more crocodiles move into populated waterways and beaches. We know that North Queenslanders cannot trust governing from Brisbane on the issues that need to be fixed locally. Our bill aims to locally manage the crocodile population in Queensland while continuing to preserve and protect crocodiles in the wild.

The bill will establish the Queensland Crocodile Authority, which will be based in Cairns and not Brisbane where there are no crocs at all. The authority will make all decisions and deliver all programs on crocodile management issues, with the advisory committee established to represent Indigenous communities, tourism businesses, Surf Life Saving Queensland and all other relevant stakeholders. It is important that the program is flexible to cater for cultural sensitivities in some Indigenous communities that see the crocodile as a totem. The Queensland Crocodile Authority will also oversee funding, licensing and the development of crocodile and egg harvesting, farming and other related economic activities and opportunities for Indigenous communities.

Another key part of the bill is a zero tolerance policy on crocodiles in populated waterways and beaches. For instance, every year the Northern Territory culls between 250 and 300 crocodiles in the Darwin Harbour. That has not adversely affected populations in other parts of the Northern Territory. In North Queensland we should also establish concentrated annual culling programs to target populated areas where we do not want crocodiles.


The government has to decide what value they place on human lives in North Queensland and it has to manage the dangerous consequences of humans and crocodiles living alongside each other. It is acknowledged that we are never going to completely eliminate the threat but we can reduce the



risks through culling programs to limit the number of crocodile attacks in populated areas. North Queenslanders want strong management that mitigates risk and gives us back our popular waterways and beaches. The fact that you can cull cats, dogs, horses, pigs and kangaroos but not man-eating crocodiles is complete madness. I feel sorry for the tourism industry, which is trying to promote pristine beaches, islands and waterways only for tourists to be greeted by croc signs upon arrival. It is time we put human lives, the tourist industry in North Queensland and our quality of life first.

*(Time expired)*

### Townsville Eco Resort


 **Mr WALKER** (Mundingburra—ALP) (3.15 pm): Today I rise to speak about a new addition to the ecotourism market in North Queensland. A new ecotourism accommodation experience has opened in Townsville, at the Townsville Eco Resort, with the assistance of a \$500,000 grant from the Palaszczuk Labor government. It was a real pleasure to represent tourism minister Stirling Hinchliffe and do the official opening on his behalf. It is another milestone as the state government continues to help our tourism industry to recover.

Six years ago the whole idea of opening a new and exciting project such as this was a pipedream for Fiona and Martin Lidgett, which makes this even more special. During that time I have supported their journey as a councillor and as a former chair of planning with the Townsville City Council. I take this opportunity to congratulate Fiona and Martin for their vision, drive and investment in the \$1.5 million new addition to their very impressive park on the southern approach to Townsville. The ecotourism venture is located right next door to our internationally recognised Billabong Sanctuary, which is an ecocertified tourism attraction for advanced ecotourism and a green travel leader. I feel that makes it a location that offers a whole ecotourism experience.

The new \$1.5 million ecoglamping experience delivers 10 new glamping tents and 13 powered campsites for caravans, with the beautiful Black Barra Bar and Grill restaurant overlooking the newly constructed wetland, which will be home to live barramundi. The project was supported through the Palaszczuk government's \$25 million Growing Tourism Infrastructure Fund. The glamping experience is expected to boost tourism numbers by over 20,000 annually and bring an additional \$2.4 million to the local economy in overnight expenditure. Today I was impressed to hear that a local Indigenous construction company, Jakaba Constructions, was engaged to complete some of the project activities. Overall, an estimated 17 construction jobs and 10 operational jobs were supported on this project.

With more visitors choosing Queensland for their holidays, the state tourism industry continues to develop new and improved attractions and experiences including ecotourism focused ones. Therefore, it was great to see a further \$9.2 million announced by the Palaszczuk state government to kickstart a further six new ecotourism projects across the state. It is anticipated that together the six ecotourism projects will support 338 construction and 235 operational jobs.

### Regional Queensland, Disability Services

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (3.18 pm): The importance of regional Queensland is exemplified by our attendance in this regional parliament. As the shadow minister for disability services, I am deeply troubled by the stories of regional Queenslanders being unable to access disability services, especially in light of federal Labor's announcement of cost cutting to the program. Last year in the Torres Strait, the Premier said—

I want to make sure that there is no disadvantage when it comes to people who are living in some of the most remote parts of our state.

That is great to hear. Let us start simply with essential services for the disability community. At that time, the Premier also said that the cost-of-living issue in particular required action straight away, noting that the pressures felt in the Torres Strait were three times what Queenslanders in the south-east were experiencing. I note that the actions ended up being—and I see the transport minister here at the table—\$80 million for marine infrastructure, shared with the Commonwealth, and \$64 million for freight subsidies. I table a copy of a Queensland report that deals with that for 20,000 people in the Torres Strait Islands, the cape and the gulf.

*Tabled paper:* Article from *In Queensland*, dated 11 May 2023, titled 'Freight subsidies to help bring down cost of island living' [632].

When it comes to the issue of services for the disability community, Queenslanders with disabilities are being overlooked and their expectations are not being met. Issues such as accessibility are conveniently swept under the rug. Along with the rising cost of living and the youth crime crisis, the Labor government is losing control. I table a recent article by the ABC addressing the terrible state of accessibility, prohibiting people living with a disability in the regions from receiving adequate services.

*Tabled paper:* Article from ABC News, dated 7 September 2022, titled 'Federal and state ministers to visit Longreach to address "terrible" state of disability services' [633].

According to the article, Longreach resident Margie Webb cared for her daughter Edwina, who has Down syndrome, on their outback Queensland sheep station. The 'terrible state of disability services' turned this upside down. Like many others, the Webb family were forced to leave the region for Brisbane in pursuit of better disability services. Others who remain in the regions say they have 'no options'.

It has been nearly three years since people with disabilities living in central west Queensland had access to respite and short-term accommodation services. NDIS participants and their families continue to say that support in the bush is going backwards. I table a letter from the hardworking member for Gregory addressed to the Minister for Seniors and Disability Services.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 21 January 2021, to the Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Hon. Craig Crawford, titled 'Lease of "Anna's Place" at the Bolton Clarke Pioneers Aged Residential Facility, Longreach, for Disabled Respite, Emergency and Long-Term Accommodation' [634].

The letter states—

As you may be aware, the advent of the NDIS saw the withdrawal of day and residential services by Blue Care and Anglicare Southern across central western Queensland. This has left an area larger than Victoria with no access to any of these services at all.

When it comes to the issue of independent living, the PHN said, 'The study found over 400 potential clients may not be currently on an NDIS plan.' The expectations of regional Queenslanders with disabilities are not being met.

*(Time expired)*

### Hervey Bay Electorate, School Halls



**Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (3.21 pm): I take this opportunity to update the House on the progress of several projects being delivered by the Palaszczuk Labor government in the Hervey Bay electorate. Recently I was advised that two multipurpose school halls—one at Urangan State High School and the other at Urangan Point State School—have passed another of their major milestones, with tendered submissions going to contract in June-July 2023 for each of these respective works. With a combined value of around \$27 million, these works will commence shortly thereafter. The halls will be a timely addition to each of these schools and, once completed, will not only improve the quality of each school's facilities but give each of these local communities the ability to hold their various school events indoor, out of the elements that can be so harsh on students and teachers.


The knock-on benefits of these halls will also give the greater community access to a localised indoor venue for various community activities when the facility is not being used for schooling purposes. With the addition of the new multimillion dollar STEM and creative arts facilities at the Hervey Bay State High School and a number of other additional upgrades underway or complete at the Hervey Bay Special School, the Kawungan State School, the Pialba State School and support for infrastructure builds at the Fraser Coast Anglican and St James Lutheran colleges, let alone all our schools being air-conditioned well ahead of schedule, school facilities in Hervey Bay have and are being improved day by day by this Palaszczuk Labor government, with still more to come.

Further still, the impact of these contracts means a continuous pipeline of employment for our tradies, subbies and apprentices. This will bring more jobs and will further inject money into our local economy which is a great win for my community, driving jobs and building careers.

I want to thank the education minister, Minister Grace, for listening to the call from the Hervey Bay community and for being responsive to the need for these facilities to manage the growth in the Hervey Bay electorate post COVID. I am proud to be part of a Palaszczuk Labor government that is working hard to deliver for the students and teachers of my Hervey Bay community every day by improving stated owned and private school facilities so that we can ensure our local school students and their teachers have the most up-to-date schooling facilities to enhance school learning in our much loved Hervey Bay schools.

The contrast between this positive and forward-thinking Palaszczuk Labor government and the desire to drive forward our community's learning and training facilities and the blank sheet delivered by those opposite during their time in government and the former member could not be more stark. On behalf of the people of Hervey Bay, I want to thank the Palaszczuk Labor government for focusing on delivering for the people of Hervey Bay and helping to build a better Hervey Bay.

### Hervey Bay, Youth Crime

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (3.23 pm): Madam Deputy Speaker, sometimes you have the luck of the draw when it comes to who you speak immediately after. I am very glad I am now speaking directly after the member for Hervey Bay because the contribution I am about to give in the next 2½ minutes centres on Hervey Bay itself. I want to talk specifically not about education but about law and order or a distinct lack thereof.

I put it to you, Madam Deputy Speaker, that the first priority of any member of this chamber is to look after the absolute life and property of Queensland citizens. I want to share a story of a gentleman by the name of Paul Redpath, who owns the Pier Village Cafe in Hervey Bay. This is a guy who when I have spoken with him has said, in these exact words, he came from struggle street, he came from public housing and he has had a desperate wish for the last 2½ decades to get him and his family out of where he has come from to have a better life, not just for himself but also for his family. What has he done? He has toiled and he has worked to finally, after 2½ decades, establish his own small business. Well, under the watch of the current member for Hervey Bay and it being a crime-torn area, much to his disdain here is what has happened to Paul and his small business in the last four weeks. It goes something like this.

On 10 April this year, two juvenile offenders—one male and one female—jimmied the front door. Once inside they stole two point-of-sale iPads and alcohol. His insurance excess is \$1,000. The total cost to him was \$1,500.


A couple of weeks later on Friday, 28 April at 8.58 pm—the street was busy at the time, so clearly the offenders did not care—one female juvenile offender made several attempts at smashing the glass sliding door with a brick, succeeded and destroyed the door. Once inside she stole brand new iPads. They had just been replaced, mind you, along with other property. This time he paid the \$1,000 excess to go through insurance.

On 10 May—so we are talking 10 April, 28 April and now 10 May—two juvenile offenders gained entry. This was only last night at around 10 pm on the CCTV. They came back to the shop later. There were about five juveniles in total. They smashed the front window and stole alcohol. I table documents and pictures of what has occurred.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of photographs depicting damage to a business [\[635\]](#).

Paul has said that the issue is not the service he receives from the Queensland Police Service. What he is most offended about is the fact that the member for Hervey Bay is always missing in action. He absolutely never, ever sees him. This is something that is absolutely a crisis in Hervey Bay—crime.

### Townsville Electorate, Anzac Day; Tudehope, Mr A

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (3.26 pm): Townsville is Australia's largest garrison city and our Defence Force personnel are a huge part of our proud community. That is why Anzac Day is so special for the city, and I am very privileged to represent that city. There were thousands of people at Townsville's two dawn services paying their respects on this very important day. Whether those attending the service were serving defence personnel, veterans or just people in our community, Anzac Day means so much to them.

I would like to read the words of Kaea Stanieg, vice school captain and year 12 student, whose speech really stuck with me. She said—

As a young woman in today's day and age, I am able to recognise and appreciate the freedoms I enjoy, opportunities I receive and choices I am able to make.

The ability to get my drivers licence, pursue a career I'm passionate about and have the honour of representing my country in a sport that I love, are just a few examples of what I am reminded not to take for granted.

Every day I strive to give back, make good choices and care for others, because so much of my life, our lives, is thanks to those who served.

Our country is somewhere where we can feel safe, comfortable, and have a sense of community because our ANZACS displayed great courage, endurance, initiative, discipline, good humour and mateship.

Those are poignant words that demonstrate the importance of the Anzacs as well as the day we spend commemorating them.

While I am on my feet I would also like to inform the House of the passing of a stalwart and guardian of Central Queensland—Arch Tudehope. Arch was a retired coalminer and a beloved husband, father and grandfather. He was a staunch unionist—one of the most committed to our cause I have ever come across. He was instrumental in establishing the Queensland Resources Dust Disease Support Group charity.

Arch campaigned for the establishment of the Mine Dust Health Support Service to provide a one-stop shop for current and former miners and their families to access screening, support and compensation if diagnosed with a mine dust lung disease. He was tireless and dedicated to his work. He did not compromise and he always sought better for the world, particularly for his comrades. It appeared that to Arch everyone was a comrade until proven different.

His love for Collinsville and Moranbah ran deep and extended throughout Central Queensland. There is simply not enough time today to cover the depth and breadth of the volunteer work undertaken by Arch to serve his community and the workers within. I wish to extend my condolences and those of my staff to Trish, Kelly, David, Megan, Bronwyn and their families in this difficult time. Vale Arch Tudehope.

## MOTION

### Far North Queensland, Service Delivery



**Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (3.30 pm): I move—

That this House notes the failure of local Far North Queensland Labor MPs to listen to their communities, overseeing a deterioration of service delivery in the Far North.

Essentially, this motion is a condemnation of the Labor MPs in Far North Queensland condemning them for their lack of action in Far North Queensland, not standing up for the people of Far North Queensland and not putting their interests first. We have seen crime increase in Far North Queensland. In contrast, the opposition leader and other members of our team have been meeting with victims of crime. We have been listening to the people of Far North Queensland. On behalf of the honourable Leader of the Opposition, I thank the wonderful people of Far North Queensland who have sought us out over the week to talk to us about the issues that are impacting their lives.

There is none more so than the youth crime crisis. We need consequences for actions, get rid of detention as a last resort, and of course the gold standard: early intervention. That is what the people of Far North Queensland are talking to us about. I was amazed at how many people stopped our members on the street and the anger towards the Labor Party MPs in Far North Queensland. The anger towards Premier Palaszczuk and Minister Mark Bailey was incredible. The only time I can recall seeing this sort of anger towards a government was in the dying days of the Bligh Labor government.

This morning the Premier was asked a question about a boat ramp by the member for Hill. She was legitimately surprised because I do not think she knows what a boat ramp is. The reason she would not know what a boat ramp is is because the superyachts she goes on do not use boat ramps: they have wide channels. The superyachts that she likes to go to the red carpets on do not use boat ramps: that is why the Premier was a bit concerned about boat ramps. She has never been on a boat ramp because her big superyachts cannot get up a boat ramp.


The Premier also said that she is going to go to London herself and bring back artefacts to Queensland. Has she written to the museum and asked them to send them back? Has she sent them an express post bag? There is an email address, [info @ britishmuseum.org](mailto:info@britishmuseum.org). Maybe the Premier can save herself a trip and just ask for the artefacts back. Has she done that?

Talking about the member for Cairns, I read a big announcement in today's *Cairns Post* 'Hope for flights—Cairns MP on a mission'. This mission is a valedictory tour for the member for Cairns. They are sending him overseas on his valedictory tour because it is the worst kept secret in Cairns that the member for Cairns is running for mayor. He is abandoning the people of Cairns and he is running for mayor. It is the worst kept secret, but the people of Cairns keep telling us. Can you imagine this guy, the member for Cairns, rocking up to Hong Kong? He is leading the delegation. The people of Hong Kong will look around and say, 'Who's that chap?' They would have no idea who this guy is—just like the people of Cairns who want to get rid of him.

But there is hope. It is not hope for flights, as the *Cairns Post* reports; it is hope for a better future for the Far North Queensland region because we will have great candidates. We have one in Cairns—Yolonde Entsch has already been announced. The member for Cairns would be shivering in his seat, but he does not care because he is not going to be here because he is running for mayor. It is disgusting and disgraceful, the campaign that Labor Party members are running against Yolonde Entsch because of whom she is married to. She is there on her own efforts. She is not there—

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I just want to take some advice. Member for Kawana, I ask you to come back to the substance of your motion. I gave you some latitude there while exploring an alternative candidate, but I think you are now moving into areas that are well away from the substance of your motion. I would ask you to come back to your motion.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** In noting the failure of the Far North Queensland Labor Party MPs I am talking about a brighter future for the people of Cairns and Far North Queensland, and that brighter future and alternative rests with Yolonde Entsch, who is a fantastic candidate and former Cairns Citizen of the Year. She has lived in Cairns for 20 years. She is a mother, a humanitarian and a small business owner. She will make a fantastic representative for the people of Cairns at the next state election. The people of Cairns want change. The people of Queensland want change. They want to get rid of this bad Labor government, and Yolonde Entsch is the future for the people of Cairns.

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (3.35 pm): I expected better than that from the member for Kawana. I thought it was going to be a bit more entertaining. I thought there was going to be a bit more punch in there. I was very surprised that he actually got called up to come back to relevance on his own motion, which was interesting.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** I will manage the House, thank you, member.

**Mr CRAWFORD:** I move the following amendment—

That all words after “House” be omitted and the following inserted:

1. commends the members for Cairns, Cook, Barron River and Mulgrave for their continued dedication and advocacy on behalf of their community.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Members of the opposition, I would ask that we hear the amendment in silence so that I can adjudicate on the amendment.

**Mr CRAWFORD:** And—

2. notes the investment by the Palaszczuk government in Far North Queensland to support Queenslanders, including:

**Mr O'Connor** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Bonney, you are warned.

**Mr CRAWFORD:** And—

- (a) \$346 million for a major upgrade of the Cairns Hospital;
  - (b) \$310 million since 2015 to upgrade local schools;
  - (c) \$15 million to upgrade Cairns TAFE with an additional \$16 million to expand Great Barrier Reef International Marine College;
  - (d) \$146 million for the Smithfield Bypass;
  - (e) \$481 million for Bruce Highway upgrades between Edmonton to Gordonvale;
  - (f) \$127 million for Cairns Shipping Development project;
  - (g) \$189 million to support the Cairns Marine Precinct with an additional \$39 million injection for road and bridge infrastructure and local shipyards upgrades;
  - (h) over \$1 billion to protect the Great Barrier Reef;
3. notes the savage cuts by the Newman LNP government including:
  - (a) cut 430 frontline health jobs in FNQ;
  - (b) cut over 140 agriculture and fishery employees in FNQ;
  - (c) cut 889 jobs at Ergon Energy;
  - (d) cut \$188 million from the state's tourism budget;
  - (e) increased electricity prices by 43 per cent in FNQ;
  - (f) planned to shut 14 schools in FNQ;
  - (g) cut \$2.7 million from FNQ child safety, support and disability organisations;
  - (h) cut more than \$2 million to nine local community health organisations; and

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Everton, you are warned under the standing orders. I have asked to hear the motion in silence.


**Mr CRAWFORD:** And—

4. notes that the LNP opposition are the same tired faces of the Newman government who will cut, sack and sell again.

Coming into the 2015 election as a first-time Labor candidate, the Newman government held all of the seats up here bar one. They had completely turned their backs on Far North Queensland. They had taken the people of the north for granted. The LNP basically declared war on almost the entire public sector. As a candidate in 2015 coming from a paramedic background, the ambulance staff was being attacked by the Newman government, firefighters were being attacked, nurses were being attacked, senior medical officers were being attacked, the judiciary was being attacked and teachers were being attacked. The road construction industry was virtually on its knees with no significant work on the horizon. At one of the first meetings after I was elected there was a plea from the civil construction industry, 'Please get us a pipeline of work, otherwise we are going to have to sell up and go somewhere else.' The Palaszczuk government delivered project after project, and then we delivered the Smithfield bypass.

Under the LNP, school funding in the north had dried up. Since 2015, with our government, every single state school in my electorate has received significant funding—new halls, teachers, car parks, drop-offs, pick-ups, STEM facilities, world-class infrastructure into our schools. We have significantly supported our health system when the LNP turned their back. We have delivered state-of-the-art infrastructure to our health system over and over and over again.

They picked the wrong city to try on a motion like theirs. Cairns has sent a strong message to the LNP. They were not welcome in 2015, they were not welcome in 2017 and they were not welcome in 2020. The greatest thing to happen to Far North Queensland is the election of the Palaszczuk government, and the LNP again will not be welcomed here in 2024.

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (3.40 pm): After listening to a speech that was three minutes of the usual Labor Party propaganda, that is the only thing a minister in the Palaszczuk Labor government, after many years in that post, can spout. I watched the clock tick down as he went through the same litany of excuses and mistakes for the Labor Party.

This is an easy motion to speak to, given it reflects exactly the comments made by many members of the Cairns community to the LNP here in Queensland as we have been out and about. You do not have to go far to hear just how much on the nose the local members in Far North Queensland are. On Monday night, the deputy opposition leader, the Manager of Opposition Business and I were out in the community and we were approached by a complete stranger who proceeded to regale us with a litany of horrors. When you hear that, you think you might hear one problem but this fellow had faced all three. He had crime, he had health and he had manufacturing which was not being supported by the local members up here.

Just yesterday, what did the three Far North Queensland members do in respect of the community meeting that was being held out the front? They walked straight past it. They did not want to even engage with members of the community who had reasonable requests and were concerned about law and order.

A quick look at the figures shows how bad the local Far North members are when it comes to dealing with the issue of youth crime. No figure stands out more than the number of cars stolen in Cairns in the last 12 months. In the year to March 2023, there were 1,182 cars stolen here in Cairns—more than three cars a day. The number of reported juvenile offenders for unlawful use of a motor vehicle in the Cairns local government area has gone from 280 in the 12 months to May 2015 to over 1,150 in the same period in 2023—a 300 per cent increase. There are similar shocking figures for robbery, with the number of offenders increasing by 353 per cent for the same period and over the same time that the members for Barron River, Cairns and Cook have been in this place. Break and enter offences are up, as is assault.

No-one should be allowed to get away with saying this failure in service delivery has just happened over night. This has been happening right under the noses of the members here in Far North Queensland and especially here in Cairns for the last eight years. It is just that the local MPs are not taking the fight up in Brisbane. Take, for example, the member for Cairns. He talks a big game up here. When he spoke to the *Cairns Post* in 2020, he said, 'I'm not singing the party line. I'm going to take down to Brisbane what's going on up here,' but what does he do when he is down in the warm embrace

of the comrades in the politburo in Brisbane? He toes the party line in the finest tradition of all the Labor apparatchiks. He votes against breach of bail laws, he votes against detention as a last resort and he continues to parrot the Labor Party talking points. He does it time and time again.


The people of Cairns fondly remember the LNP's local members, people like Michael Trout, who were not afraid to take the battle up in Brisbane. I can tell you that not many members fought as hard for their local area as Trouty. Whether it was on the phone or in person, Trouty was battling and battling hard. What did he want? He wanted more police, and 1,000 more police were delivered by the LNP all over Queensland over four years. He was successful with the youth offender camps that were working, with a \$45 million centre for tropical medicine delivered here in Cairns—

**Mr Hinchliffe** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Sandgate, you are warned.

**Mr NICHOLLS:**—with the hugely successful Attracting Aviation Investment Fund, with the first hugely successful DestinationQ conference held right here in Queensland and let us not forget the Aquis project that died a death under Labor. With colleagues like Dave Kempton and Gavin King, he stood up for the Far North. He was not heading off on a farewell Dame Nellie Melba tour to Hong Kong. He was working here on the ground. He did not cut and run when the going got tough. He fought and fought and fought. As it was here in Cairns it was throughout the state, because we were successful. The Childrens Court report for 2014-15, as prepared by the chief judge Michael Shanahan, showed that the incidence of youth crime fell by five per cent in that year. That is a five per cent decrease. When it comes to representing the people here, this lot are in the rear with the gear.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (3.46 pm): I rise to speak in support of the amendment to the private member's motion. I would like to begin by saying how entertaining those on the other side are, and that is all they are—entertaining. I want to comment about the previous speaker. Michael Trout was popular but he did not get elected again and you lost government. What happens is through the democratic process your performance is determined by the people, so you can say what you want in this place but the decisions are made by the people out there and all of your people got kicked out.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Direct your comments through the chair.

**Mr HEALY:** Sorry, Mr Acting Speaker. Their government and their representatives up here lost the support and they did not get re-elected. This is how it works. They can say what they want in here but the real decisions are made by the people out there. I remind the House of the appalling situation this city was left in during the term of the Newman government and how the Palaszczuk government has picked up the pieces after Campbell's cuts and his absolute chaos. We have reinvested and revitalised the region that was decimated by the worst kind of LNP economic management and decision-making. It was absolutely appalling.

Let us briefly cast our minds back to the Newman government's woeful performance and litany of destruction they left behind. There were 14,000 Queenslanders sacked and we were not immune in Cairns, with hundreds of jobs in the health sector lost. A lot of those people were my friends and they lost their jobs. Key projects for transport and community infrastructure had their allocated budgets slashed, stalling economic progress and sucking the confidence out of the region. TEQ lost staff and they lost money to be able to market the destination. We had absolutely no support up here whatsoever.

We can contrast that to the last three terms of this government that has had to step into the breach. I have been very proud to be a part of this government as we have made some significant changes. Let me start with the Cairns Shipping Development Project. When the LNP held the reins and they had their elected members here in Cairns, they totally supported it, with an allocation of \$40 million to a project that was going to cost over \$100 million—they fooled the people of this city. We got in, we spent \$127 million, we got it done in the most environmentally sensitive way and we are now seeing the benefits of cruise ships coming in. We are getting closer every day to home porting. That is an investment. That is \$20 million on our wharf which we were all on the other night. That is a Labor investment. You never made it when you had the chance.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Direct your comments through the chair.

**Mr HEALY:** Sorry, Mr Acting Speaker. They never made it when they had the opportunity, and the people of this city know this. The people are acutely aware of this.

There were recent decisions in relation to our marine college. This was put there by a Labor government, and now we are spending another \$16 million expanding that because that is the future. We are building a future. There was not one thing that the LNP gave for the future. It was all about themselves. If they ever get near power again, they will cut things and reduce the ability for people to be able to grow, particularly in regional areas.


We know up here. We are seeing hundreds of millions of dollars in roads. We are seeing over \$93 million in my term being spent in education. We are seeing significant money spent in the tourism industry. We are seeing \$200 million in the aviation sector. There is over \$150 million from the Queensland government and another \$150 million from the federal government—that is a \$300 million investment—and I cannot tell you what opportunity that provides for our kids and the future of this city.

When they talk about their city, they talk about themselves; they do not talk about a collective. When I stand here and talk, I talk about my community, what we need and where we are going. We have had hundreds of millions of dollars in investment. We will continue to invest. I tell you what—here is a really good one: if I am not mayor by the end of the term, one of us is a liar. That is just an observation I would like to share. I will make that statement right now. We have heard this claim—

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock. I believe that language is unparliamentary. I ask that you withdraw.

**Mr HEALY:** I withdraw. I suspect that if I am not wearing the robes—and I know that will frustrate some on that side because they would possibly look good—but if that is not the case, one person here is misinforming the House. It would not be the first time they have not only misinformed the House but are not honest with the people of this city and not honest with the people of Queensland. The people of Queensland will not forget what you did when you were last in.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Direct your comments through the chair.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (3.51 pm): I rise to support the motion as moved by the member for Kawana. 'Do our lives not matter?' Those five words are the reason I am standing here today—to say 'yes' to Larissa, a 24-year-old victim of crime from this community. Yes, her life matters. Yes, I will be her voice in this parliament in Cairns because the three local members, as we have seen, are clearly mute when it comes to talking about youth crime in this city.

**Mr Harper:** Garbage.

**Mr LAST:** I take that interjection. They claim that that is garbage. Well, go and read page 3 of the local paper today—the *Cairns Post*. Go and read page 3 of the *Cairns Post* and see what the local residents have had to say about the biggest issue facing this community—youth crime. Those opposite will not talk about it. These people want hope. They want to know that this government has got their back and this government has some answers for them. If they do not believe me, go to the gallery, because I know there are victims of crime sitting in that gallery right now. They will tell you what it means to be a member of this community and to have their house broken into and their car stolen.

The fact that these three local members could not be bothered to turn up this week and talk about youth crime is a disgrace. We just heard from the member for Barron River, followed by the member for Cairns. They had their opportunity right now to talk about youth crime and they still could not bring themselves to talk about the biggest issue facing this community.

There was a rally against crime outside yesterday. We heard their stories, we heard their anger, we heard their frustration and we heard their demands for something to be done. Where were the Labor members while that rally was going on? Not one of them bothered to take the time to turn up—no Premier, no minister—could not be bothered to turn up to the crime rally out here and give these people some hope. They ought to hang their heads in shame.

We heard from the member for Clayfield about some of the figures, and they are horrendous. The people of Cairns know what those figures are about: they are living it. We know unlawful entry and unlawful use offences have doubled in this community since this government came to power. You would think that these local members would be using this opportunity, using the Cairns regional sittings, to show this community that they care, that they have their finger on the pulse, to talk about the single biggest issue impacting on their community. We have been waiting for it all week, and what have we heard? Absolutely nothing. Absolutely nothing!


Just when we thought it could not get any worse, we find out today that the Premier is sending the member for Cairns to Hong Kong. I say this: make it a one-way ticket because Cairns deserves better. Cairns deserves someone who is going to represent them. The member for Cairns stands up and continually refuses to talk about this issue.



I cannot wait to hear the contribution from the member for Cook, who moved her office out of Mareeba down here to Cairns—abandoned that community. Go to Mareeba if you do not believe me and have a look at what is happening up in Mareeba at the moment. Have a look at how that community has been torn apart. I know there is a Mareeba resident in the gallery, right up there with his hand up. He will tell you what is going on in Mareeba. What do they call the member for Barron River? He is 'The Phantom' because he can never be found when they need him. In their time of need, where is he? He cannot be found.

Those three members have spoken about the victims of youth crime crisis in parliament once—between the three of them. Think about that—the biggest issue in this community and the best they could do is talk about it once between them. It is high time that these three local members in Cairns spoke up for their constituents. We will hear from the member for Cook in a minute. Let's see if the member for Cook talks about youth crime and the impact it is having on this community and the impact it is having on her electorate, in places like Mareeba. I continually get calls about it. These members have put crime in the too-hard basket. They have given up, but I can tell the Cairns community that the LNP opposition will not give up and we will back them.

*(Time expired)*

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (3.56 pm): I say welcome to Far North Queensland. I will tell you exactly what we are doing up here in Far North Queensland. The Palaszczuk government is delivering for jobs, infrastructure and services for Queenslanders no matter where they live. How lucky are we that Far North Queensland is represented by four hardworking, stable Labor members of parliament? Can I say I think we are the 'Fantastic Four' up here, if not the 'Incredible Four'. I know that every day we stand up for our community and we fight every day for our community. We are dedicated to supporting good Queensland jobs and the great lifestyle that we have here in Far North Queensland, the great lifestyle that we were so lucky to introduce to those opposite this week.

I will tell you how hard we fight for Far North Queensland. Our hard work has secured almost \$1.6 billion in funding over the next four years across our Far North Queensland region, supporting 1,440 jobs over the life of the program. In the Mulgrave electorate, works are close to completion on the \$535 million jointly funded Bruce Highway, Cairns Southern Access Corridor, stage 3, Edmonton to Gordonvale, and works are due to be completed by mid this year. The member for Mulgrave, who is a good friend, knows how important this project is to the local community—improving congestion and providing safer access points on this section of the Bruce Highway which is why he fought so hard for this project. Over \$11 million for the Yarrabah jetty—another successful project delivered by the hardworking member for Mulgrave.

The member for Cairns, my good friend Michael Healy, is a strong advocate for his electorate, and this is clear by his continued advocacy to invest in the Cairns Port precinct with \$127 million for the Cairns Shipping Development Project. This means bigger cruise ships can now dock in Cairns, providing a boost to the local economy and tourism markets. Additionally, \$128 million to support the Cairns Marine Precinct with an additional \$39 million injection for road and bridge infrastructure and local shipyards upgrades has been announced by the Deputy Premier this week—all supporting local jobs in Far North Queensland.


In the Barron River electorate, the member for Barron River delivered \$164 million for the Smithfield Bypass, a long overdue project to reduce travel times for the Northern Beaches of Cairns. The \$22 million Yorkeys Knob boat ramp upgrade is nearly complete. This state-of-the-art upgrade will service the keen boaties in Far North Queensland.

We know how much our communities deserve. We work hard for our communities and we deliver for our communities every day. In the Cook electorate there is the combined investment of \$513.5 million on the jointly funded Cape York Region Package to seal the Peninsula Development Road, the Archer River bridge, Endeavour Valley Road and upgrades to vital infrastructure across the Cape York region. The projects have facilitated unprecedented local access to employment opportunities, training, business development in civil construction, and cultural heritage. The historic \$80 million Marine Infrastructure Investment Program in partnership with the federal government is the most significant investment in the Torres Strait's infrastructure in 30 years.

What have those opposite delivered? Unlike the four hardworking Labor MPs we have here, the LNP's only record in Far North Queensland when they were last in office was to cut. They cut \$1.6 billion from roads and transport funding, the \$24 million Cairns bus station, the regional aviation development scheme—they cut \$2.9 million from that scheme and then abolished it, and they plan to it again.

We have heard from the member for Chatsworth about the LNP's plan for 'pruning', or have they chosen a new word? Is it 'trim', is it 'shear' or 'shaving off'? No-one knows. I welcome whatever new word they choose to come up with. Even the federal member for Leichhardt, Warren Entsch, is not doing anything because there are four Labor MPs delivering for Far North Queensland.

*(Time expired)*

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (4.01 pm): I am pleased to contribute to the motion moved by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I cannot believe what I have heard in this chamber today. We saw an amendment to the motion moved by a member congratulating himself on being such a great member, supported by two other members—they were all congratulating themselves. Not one minister stood up to move that amendment to the motion. I find it very interesting that they left it to the members, the 'fabulous four'.

**Government members:** He is a minister.

**Ms CAMM:** That is right; sorry, he is a minister. I have not heard the minister speak very often in the two years since I have been in the House.

I would like to remind the House and the people of North Queensland that we in the LNP do not talk in announcements; we talk in outcomes. I would like to draw the attention of the House to some facts. The Cairns Child Safety Service Centre has a vacancy rate of 36.75 per cent—nothing to be proud of. The Cape York North and Torres Strait Island Child Safety Service Centre has a vacancy rate of 35.09 per cent. The North Cairns and Lower Cape Child Safety Service Centre has a 30.16 per cent vacancy rate.

**Mrs McMahon** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order, member for Macalister!

**Ms CAMM:** The Far North Queensland Investigation and Assessment Team has a 24.5 per cent vacancy rate. On the latest data, Far North Queensland has the shortest average tenure—

**Mrs McMahon** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Sorry to interrupt. Member for Macalister, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms CAMM:** I will repeat that. On the latest data, Far North Queensland has the shortest average tenure of child safety officers of any region in Queensland. What that says is that people do not want to work for the Palaszczuk Labor government. I have met with people who have left Child Safety in Far North Queensland because they do not want blood on their hands, yet all we hear is silence. People do not want to talk about the uncomfortable truth or the uncomfortable facts, but we on this side of the House are prepared to stand up for those who are most vulnerable. I am prepared to stand up for Aboriginal children, for our most vulnerable. When I travel around this state I speak to former child safety officers who have left under this Palaszczuk Labor government because they will not forge reports; they will not downgrade things that need to be uncovered. That is what has happened, and we met one just yesterday.

I now turn to domestic violence breaches. In this House we continuously hear about data from 2015. I can say that since 2015 domestic violence breaches are up 220 per cent. That is an increase from 2,179 to 7,010 in the Far North district. Sexual offences—and these are reportable offences—are up 29 per cent since 2015, from 642 in 2015 to 830 in 2022. I meet and speak with the sexual assault service because as a North Queensland member and as the shadow minister for the prevention of domestic, family and sexual violence, I am out there speaking to the stakeholders when members opposite are not standing up and advocating for more funding, for more services, for more resources and for a change in the laws. What do we see delivered? Fewer police. When we see an increase in sexual assaults and an increase in domestic violence we see a decrease in police on the beat—frontline staff and officers needed to protect our most vulnerable in Far North Queensland.


When I travelled to Mapoon last year the mayor there told me that she cannot even get a police officer—not one—approved. She cannot even get a police liaison officer. In fact, she would even settle for a police officer to live there so he could just park his car there to provide a police presence. That is the representation that we do not have from the members of Far North Queensland—

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Ms CAMM:**—and the member for Pine Rivers shouts out. I would love to see what the member for Pine Rivers really knows about our most vulnerable in Far North Queensland and how many meetings have been had with Indigenous leaders and vulnerable stakeholders across our region.

The *Hear her voice* report detailed some of the damning findings from the consultation of Indigenous women who have been incarcerated under this government of what they have to deal with under this government, and we hear silence from those opposite. All we hear is millions and millions of dollars of announcements, but there are no outcomes and there are no members opposite standing up for our most vulnerable in North Queensland.

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (4.06 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the motion as amended. It is always a pleasure to speak after the member for Whitsunday to respond to some of the outrageous allegations that she just made, particularly given the LNP's track record to cut 225 Child Safety workers.

**Ms Camm** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order, member for Whitsunday!

**Ms SCANLON:** If she wants to talk about domestic and family violence, I can say that women now feel safe to come forward—

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Whitsunday, you are warned. You have just made your contribution. The member on their feet is responding and you are constantly interjecting. You are warned.

**Ms SCANLON:** Women can now come forward because we have resourced the services and we have changed the laws. What private members' motions or any policies have we heard from those opposite? Nothing!

**Ms Camm** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Whitsunday, you can leave the chamber for an hour.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Whitsunday withdrew from the chamber at 4.07 pm.*

**Ms SCANLON:** It was this government that restored frontline services after they were gutted by those opposite.

**Ms Fentiman:** Gutted and gagged.

**Ms SCANLON:** I take the interjection from the Attorney-General; they were gutted and gagged. Of course, our Labor government has a very proud legacy in Far North Queensland and we have fantastic local members, including the first ever Torres Strait Islander person elected to any parliament in the world, and they are massive advocates for frontline services in this community and also in protecting the environmental and economic jewel in Queensland's crown, the Great Barrier Reef.

On the way here I was reflecting that it was almost 50 years ago that the Whitlam Labor government who created the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and that the then Bjelke-Petersen government—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Kawana, you are warned.

**Ms SCANLON:** I take the interjection from the member for Kawana. It was, of course, the Bjelke-Petersen government that wanted to drill for oil in the reef. It is our government that protected the Great Barrier Reef. They have learned very little because only just this week the member for Currumbin in a speech was talking up all of the wonderful achievements of Joh Bjelke-Petersen. It was bizarre. They have clearly learned nothing.

It is only a Labor government that will stand up for the reef. We have committed \$270 million to continue our water quality program. To date, since coming to government we have spent nearly a billion dollars. This builds on the reef regulations we introduced in 2019.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Ms SCANLON:** I take the member for Nanango's interjection. It is relevant. We are in Far North Queensland and the motion is directly relevant to the Great Barrier Reef.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Ms SCANLON:** The member may not think it is relevant, but I can assure her Far North Queenslanders think the Great Barrier Reef is relevant.

In 2018 we introduced stronger tree-clearing laws, again opposed by those opposite. We banned the dumping of dredge spoil. Who can forget the member for Glass House at the time staging a boycott of Ben & Jerry's ice cream because they supported the Fight for the Reef campaign that was trying to halt the dumping of dredge spoil? That is their track record, and then they reappointed him to the front bench.


We know that taking strong action on climate change is incredibly important to the Great Barrier Reef. That is why we are investing in things like electric vehicle charging infrastructure. We have an ambitious energy plan to transition our coal-fired power stations to clean energy hubs, all while maintaining public ownership and delivering a jobs guarantee. We have almost hit our emissions reduction target nine years early—something I have heard nothing about from the opposition. Of course, all of this would be at risk if those opposite were elected to government. They systemically revoked almost every important environmental policy that this government and former Labor governments established.

The Leader of the Opposition was at the decision-making table when the LNP watered down reef protections, tore up tree-clearing protections, axed renewable energy projects, cut climate change programs and abolished the waste levy. The best predictor of future behaviour is past behaviour, and we know precisely how the LNP would act in government. You only have to listen to the loud chorus of the LNP's self-described 'cookers' to know where they stand. You have Barnaby Joyce calling climate action 'barking mad'; Matt Canavan, a member of the Queensland Liberal National Party, calling climate change 'a scam'; Gerard Rennick saying 'it's not like I don't care about the environment, I just don't believe in the science of climate change'.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Ms SCANLON:** I take the interjection from the Leader of the Opposition. The member for Glass House said, 'Is the climate changing? Yes. Am I 100 per cent convinced of human population's role? No, I'm not.' They are the views of those opposite.

*(Time expired)*

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (4.12 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. Queensland Health is in crisis, and don't the people of Far North Queensland know it? There are lengthy delays for surgery, obscene periods of time to see a specialist and, tragically, fatal waits for an ambulance. Nearly 4,000 people are waiting for their surgery, more than 19,000 are waiting to see a specialist and one in four patients are ramped when they arrive at the Cairns Hospital. That is what is happening across Far North Queensland. You do not need to travel too far to see that with your own eyes. Who could forget the images of ambulance after ambulance stacked on the ramp at the Cairns Hospital, just down the road from where we are today? It was so choked full of ramped vehicles that ambulances spilled out onto the road and the footpath. They were disturbing scenes. Eight years ago, many of the staff at that hospital would not have even known what ramping was.

Recently we heard reports of a tragic case where an individual passed away after suffering from a heart attack in Port Douglas. Despite urgent calls to triple 0, it was a 51-minute wait before the ambulance arrived, and by then it was too late. Why did it take that long? The review of that case obtained by the opposition showed that there were 'nil resources in the area'. I repeat: 'nil resources in the area'. That is why: there were no resources. Who does resource our health system? It is those opposite, the Palaszczuk government. On that occasion those opposite failed, with tragic consequences. They failed that person and their family, and our thoughts are with them for their loss.

Where have the members representing this region been while all this has been occurring? We heard barely a word from the members for Cairns, Cook and Barron River about the struggling health system in the region. Not one of them is game enough to call out the failures of the woefully inept minister and the mess she is presiding over.

I am not sure if the member for Cook knows, but the Cooktown Hospital has been on maternity bypass for over a year. The mothers in that community have been forced to travel hours from home to have their babies. It is a disgrace. I am not sure if the member for Cook even knows it is happening. I have not heard her talk about it once. Way to have the backs of the mothers in Cooktown!


What about the honourable member for Cairns—His Worship over there? Where has he been? Is he backing the workers at the Cairns Hospital, in particular the mental health units? Of course he is not. He would not even know about these problems, because public hospitals are not a local

government responsibility, are they, member for Cairns? The member is not worried about trivial state government matters. No, he is too busy lining up his campaign to be the mayor. The problems plaguing the hospital will be a distant memory once he ups and leaves.

Seriously, though, the report obtained by the opposition from the Cairns Hospital Mental Health Unit is absolutely damning. The staff there are scared to speak up because of retribution under this government. They are fearful, and it is written in black and white in that report. It is a disgrace. Nobody should go to work fearful of speaking up and speaking out—that is what is happening in that unit. It is unconscionable.

The report also revealed a culture of blame—and, boy oh boy, doesn't that sound familiar? We all know where that culture of blame started. It started at the top. It started under the Premier and this health minister. They blame patients; they blame staff; they blame anyone. They would blame the stray cat out the front if it meant they could get away with it. That is how they work: blame, blame, blame.

It is the same for the members for Cairns, Barron River and Cook. They never accept responsibility. They are never accountable. They never own up to the crisis. Every Queenslanders in the Far North lives with the consequences of that and the consequences of the Queensland health crisis. I say to those members: it is time to stand up, to listen, to say 'enough' and to actually do something to try to fix the mess. They should go and knock on the health minister's door and tell her that her time is up.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (4.17 pm): My ears are ringing right now, let me tell you! When you think about how many people were sacked as a result of the policies of those opposite, it is astonishing.

I turn to the amendment moved by the member for Barron River. The Palaszczuk government is investing in social and affordable housing in Cairns and Far North Queensland. We are investing \$3.9 billion in social and affordable housing across the state. This is the largest concentrated investment in Queensland's history, and we are making sure Far North Queensland benefits from that investment.

Since 2015 we have added 4,321 homes to our social housing stock across the state, and we have delivered over 300 social homes in Far North Queensland, including over 200 in the Cairns local government area. We have built homes from Mooroolbark, Edmondton, Manunda and Gordonvale to Earlville, Woree, Mount Sheridan and more, but we are not stopping there. Our infrastructure big build will see 255 new social homes commenced in the Far North Queensland region by June 2025 through a planned investment of over \$100 million, supporting more than 320 full-time-equivalent jobs.

I have been very pleased to be here this week with the hardworking Far North Queensland MPs. I particularly mention the member for Cairns, whom I have joined on several occasions over the last week. We saw seven new social housing units nearing completion in Westcourt. We are delivering on our government's election commitment to expand and refurbish the Lyons Street Diversionary Centre which sees an increase in beds there. It means the centre now includes a new women's wellbeing space, as well as upgrades to facilities. We have made an announcement with regard to a Department of Transport and Main Roads property at Manoora which will be upgraded to become a 24/7 temporary accommodation site for specialist homelessness services—

**Mr Sullivan** interjected.

**Mr Nicholls** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Pause the clock.

**Ms ENOCH:**—supporting tenants around the clock.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Minister, I am sorry to interrupt you, but I have paused the clock. Member for Stafford and member for Clayfield, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms ENOCH:** We are not only building more social and affordable homes but also investing in our neighbourhood and community centres. We have seen the biggest increase in base funding for state government funded NCCs in our state's history. Of course, that includes neighbourhood and community centres across Cairns and Far North Queensland through our investment in the current budget to increase operational funding. Here in Cairns our record investment is delivering more than \$103,000 in additional funding to the Manoora and Mooroolbark centres. In Barron River we delivered a \$70,000 uplift for the Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre and a funding uplift of more than \$103,000 for the Marlin Coast Neighbourhood Centre. In Mulgrave we delivered more than \$126,000 in additional funding for Hambledon House and more than \$721,000 in additional base operating funding and \$120,000 in rental supplements across the seven neighbourhood and community centres in Cook.

We are investing in infrastructure where it is needed most. Last year I joined the Premier, the member for Cook and colleagues to open Buai Mudh, a \$5.28 million purpose-built centre on Thursday Island. The member for Cairns recently announced an almost \$3 million rebuild of Mooroolool Community Support Services' centre on Birch Street, Manunda.


Those opposite should not come in here and talk about service delivery when we consider their absolutely appalling record. They are still stuck in the same old, tired mindset of the Campbell Newman years. In fact, I was scrolling through Facebook recently and I stumbled across the LNP Cairns Facebook page. This Facebook page, believe it or not, has not had anything posted to it for 10 years.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Member, you will not use that as a prop.

**Ms ENOCH:** I had a bit of a look. The most recent post was from the former member for Cairns, Gavin King. The last time the LNP Cairns page posted anything about their local member at the time was in 2013. They gave up two years before he even lost his seat!

I clicked on one of the links on that page that talked about the achievements of the first 18 months of Gavin King, but what I found was a page that said 'nothing here'. That is pretty much what we see from those opposite. I thought the member for Leichhardt, Warren Entsch, might have been in this space a little bit more, but he continues to vote 'no' to the Housing Australia Future Fund at the national level—still not ensuring there is adequate social and affordable housing in this state. My colleagues on this side of the House are working hard all the time. What we see from those opposite is nothing new.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (4.22 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion. This week, those who have attended the parliamentary sittings have seen something extremely rare—more rare than a Labor Party funded promise becoming a reality, more rare than a juvenile car thief being brought to justice, more rare than the Minister for Transport rejecting an instruction from his union masters and more rare than the Treasurer walking past a mirror and not looking at his reflection. The rare thing that the people of Cairns who have come to the convention centre have seen is their members of parliament—those members of parliament who come here and roar like a lion but who are as meek as mice when they are in Brisbane.

I can use no greater example of this than the member for Barron River. The member for Barron River has been here this week strutting around parliament, very proud of himself. I think I would be right in saying that the number of speeches the member has given this week exceeds the number of speeches he has given in the eight years he has been a member of parliament. There is no doubt about that at all. He is full of bravado. I swear I saw a couple of people in the gallery saying, 'Who's this bloke?' It was the first time they had seen him.

Much has been said about the future of the member for Cairns. It does not matter what he says: the rumours are overwhelming. Already there has been discussion about his trip to Hong Kong. I know why he is going to Hong Kong. It is because they have the best tailors in the world and they are going to make the most beautiful robes—


**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member, I can see that you are enjoying the performance for the people in the gallery, but it does make it difficult for Hansard to hear your contribution. I ask you to direct your comments towards the microphone and through the chair.

**Mr MANDER:** As already has been mentioned, it is well known that the member for Cook deserted her electorate when she left Mareeba to base her electorate office not in her electorate. I do not know of any other example of that in the Queensland parliament.

This week these Far North Queensland members have trumpeted what they have done for Far North Queensland—particularly for First Nations people, with their Path to Treaty legislation. As the Far North Queensland members slap themselves on the back and sip champagne at the cocktail parties celebrating what champions they are for the oppressed, what is the reality? You see the reality when you walk to the convention centre and you see the homeless people in the parks—over-represented by Indigenous people.

There are 6,000 people on the social housing waiting list in Cairns and across Far North Queensland. I can tell you now: there is an over-representation of Indigenous people on that list. That 6,000 people represents a 67 per cent increase in the last five years. Despite that 67 per cent increase, the number of social houses has increased by 1.4 per cent. That is a disgrace. You do not hear the local members talking about that. In the past five years only 50 properties have been built in the Far North Queensland area, despite the fact that 2,374 people have been added to the list.

If you do not have a stable roof over your head, it is very difficult to live life. Is it any wonder we have an over-representation of Indigenous people in the juvenile justice system when they cannot get a house? Is it any wonder there is an over-representation of Indigenous people in the health system when they do not have a house? Is it any wonder there is over-representation of Indigenous people in terms of school truancy when they cannot get a house? Those opposite talk and make promises, but they do not deliver on the reality that our most vulnerable people, no matter what treaties are signed, are suffering and the local members are doing nothing about it.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (4.27 pm): I rise to speak in support of the amendment and to oppose the motion. One can only characterise the opposition contribution to the debate as being akin to the year 9 drama classes I used to teach: juvenile, silly, puerile, without content, without substance and without integrity. Let's look at the record of our members representing this region compared to the Newman government.

What has been delivered by the member for Barron River? There is the Smithfield Bypass; the Yorkeys Knob boat ramp, worth \$22 million; the Kuranda ITS, which will open midyear; and upgrades to the Cairns Western Arterial Road. We are also working with the fishing industry. This represents the very strong record of the member for Barron River.

What has been delivered by the member for Cook? The local fares scheme was brought back after it was cut by the LNP and the former member for Cook. We see the freight subsidy committed to and we see marine infrastructure commitments of \$80 million. Also, the whole cabinet was brought to the Torres Strait. The Peninsula Developmental Road stage 2 was delivered because she and I advocated for it.

In terms of the upgrades at Lockhart River, there is an air terminal, the performance ground and the social club. We have been working with the council and Mayor Butcher to increase local capacity along with new local roads and bridges. The member for Cairns will see upgrades to the Cairns ring-road coming soon, upgrades to the Western Arterial Road, Bruce Highway upgrades from Kate Street to Aumuller Street, upgrades to the Cairns shipping port development with \$127 million to let larger ships into Cairns so there is more tourism here and the massive commitments to the Cairns Marine Precinct, including the \$39 million committed only this week. The member for Mulgrave has seen the Yarrabah Jetty open—and it is magnificent—which will open up opportunities for that community as well as a massive half-billion dollar upgrade to the Bruce Highway from Edmonton to Gordonvale supported and delivered because of his hard work.

Let us take that record of substantial reform and local achievements and compare it to the oncers from the LNP who did not survive one term because they let their electorates down. They cut the airfare subsidies to the Torres Strait. The \$12 million that was to upgrade the Mareeba Airport was cut by the Newman government. The former member for Cairns cut funding for the operating theatre at the hospital. We saw staff sacked. Funding for the Cairns bus station was cut. The former member for Cairns Gavin King did do one thing: he wrote a wonderful book about Newman. My favourite quote is from the now Leader of the Opposition and former member for Mundingburra, who said of Campbell Newman—

In that moment, that one second in time—

the melodrama—

I realised I was dealing with someone special.

...

I'll remember that moment until the day I die.

They were the words of the Leader of the Opposition fawning over Campbell Newman, who cut staff—cut, sack and sell, \$100 million to try and sell off our assets. The Leader of the Opposition was in the thick of it. He was in the thick of it and we know that if he got another chance he would be doing exactly the same thing a second time. We would see thousands of staff sacked. We would see our assets being put on the line. Only a month ago the cat was let out of the bag by the member for Chatsworth who said that they had already made decisions to cut billions of dollars in funding. This was not eight years ago with the Newman government; this was only a month ago. He thought he would get away with it because rather than call it a 'cut' he was going to 'prune' it. He was going to 'prune' it, wasn't he? Picture him with little secateurs, making it sound very minor and very little, but we know leopards do not change their spots. We know the Leader of the Opposition will cut, sack and sell if he got the chance, regardless of whatever he says in opposition.

The four local members in Cairns will back in Queenslanders. They will not sell assets. They will back our health staff. They will always stand up for their communities, and that is why none of them are oncers; they are there for multiple terms because they fight for their local electorates, and they always will. This is a puerile motion that deserves to be voted down.

*(Time expired)*

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

**AYES, 49:**

**ALP, 49—**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, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

**NOES, 31:**

**LNP, 31—**Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

Pair: McMillan, Hart.

Resolved in the affirmative.

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

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Ring the bells for one minute.

**AYES, 49:**

**ALP, 49—**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, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

**NOES, 31:**

**LNP, 31—**Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

Pair: McMillan, Hart.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Motion, as agreed—


That this House:

1. commends the members for Cairns, Cook, Barron River and Mulgrave for their continued dedication and advocacy on behalf of their community.
2. notes the investment by the Palaszczuk government in Far North Queensland to support Queenslanders, including:
  - (a) \$346 million for a major upgrade of the Cairns Hospital;
  - (b) \$310 million since 2015 to upgrade local schools;
  - (c) \$15 million to upgrade Cairns TAFE with an additional \$16 million to expand Great Barrier Reef International Marine College;
  - (d) \$146 million for the Smithfield Bypass;
  - (e) \$481 million for Bruce Highway upgrades between Edmonton to Gordonvale;
  - (f) \$127 million for Cairns Shipping Development project;
  - (g) \$189 million to support the Cairns Marine Precinct with an additional \$39 million injection for road and bridge infrastructure and local shipyards upgrades;
  - (h) over \$1 billion to protect the Great Barrier Reef;
3. notes the savage cuts by the Newman LNP government including:
  - (a) cut 430 frontline health jobs in FNQ;
  - (b) cut over 140 agriculture and fishery employees in FNQ;
  - (c) cut 889 jobs at Ergon Energy;
  - (d) cut \$188 million from the state's tourism budget;
  - (e) increased electricity prices by 43 per cent in FNQ;
  - (f) planned to shut 14 schools in FNQ;
  - (g) cut \$2.7 million from FNQ child safety, support and disability organisations;
  - (h) cut more than \$2 million to nine local community health organisations; and
4. notes that the LNP opposition are the same tired faces of the Newman government who will cut, sack and sell again.



## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Regional Sitzings of Parliament, Cairns

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (4.40 pm), by leave: There are two reasons for taking the parliament on the road, so to speak. The first is so that people have the opportunity to keep a closer eye on us. The second and more important reason is that we can better see and hear them. Queensland is a big state. Unlike other states, most of our population lives outside our capital city. Cairns is physically closer to Port Moresby than it is to Brisbane and Brisbane is almost as close to Melbourne as it is to Cairns. I think it is important to remind ourselves of these facts. It makes the closeness of Queenslanders all the more remarkable because I absolutely believe that no matter where we live in this state we are in everything together.

Having the parliament sit in regional Queensland acknowledges and honours that we are not a one-city state. This week the government has hosted 11 community events with seniors, with school students, with community and business groups. We have had countless meetings. We have met many people along the road, and we have also met a number of mayors who have come down. We passed historic legislation that will create a path to treaty with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We did it with the mace of parliament alongside the broken-tipped spear offered as a sign of peace—an echo of an identical offering given to Captain James Cook on the Endeavour River bank centuries ago—and we did it in a city formerly known as Battle Camp. The symmetry and symbolism of this moment could not have been achieved in parliament's usual setting.


I am advised that almost 1,400 public visitors attended the precinct and over 2,500 students and teachers registered to attend this historic sitting. I am advised that this compares to the average of 60 people who visit the gallery at the Brisbane parliament each week. As we know, planning for regional sittings to host all of these visitors is no mean feat. I want to place on record my thanks to the Clerk, the Deputy Clerk, the entire Parliamentary Service and the Office of the Speaker for their work in making this event possible. Thank you very much, Mr Acting Speaker, for presiding in the chair. I also want to thank the Leader of the House and my staff members Donna O'Donoghue and Darren Cann who spent a lot of time doing all of the liaison in making these events possible.

I want to thank the university students from James Cook University who I bumped into outside earlier who have been volunteering their time this week at the parliamentary educational displays and helping usher in the students, which has been wonderful. I also wish to take the opportunity to thank my department, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, for coordinating multiple government events throughout the week and all of the public servants who ensured this week was a success. I especially want to thank the people of this great city. I want to thank all of my government members and I also want to acknowledge the opposition. I have actually quite liked this format.

The winner this week is democracy. As Robert Kennedy said, 'Democracy is messy, and it's hard. It's never easy,' but I would say worth it. To the people of Cairns and the Far North, thank you for your hospitality and your warm welcome no matter where we went. We do indeed live in the most beautiful part of the world—a big, rich, diverse and wonderful state called Queensland.

## ACTING SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

### Regional Sitzings of Parliament, Cairns

 **Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** The people of Cairns have truly shown their enthusiasm for regional parliament by showing up in such significant numbers. It has been great to see so many members of parliament engaging with both the school students and the many people who have come through the gallery. It has been great to see members sharing their knowledge and their enthusiasm for this place and its democracy with those people who have shown that interest in coming along.

It has certainly been a very successful week from my perspective. The Path to Treaty Bill was one of the most respectful debates that I have ever had the privilege to be involved in. I think that it is something that we will one day look back on and feel very proud of. I will not comment on the outcome, but I am proud of the way we conducted a very difficult debate in this chamber. I hope the people of Cairns appreciate just what a special debate that was.

I would like to thank many people. I would like to thank the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk and all the table clerks. I would like to thank the attendants and the Sergeant-at-Arms who chose to celebrate his birthday here. That was a big call. I would like to thank the Hansard reporters and the broadcast

staff. I appreciated the efforts and attention of the security staff and the great lengths they have gone to to make sure we are safe, ably supported by the members of the Queensland Police Service. The convention centre staff have been a constant presence as well. I also want to thank the education staff and in particular the volunteers in the education centre. For those who had the opportunity to visit the education centre it really was a special place. I was blown away by how excited the kids were to be there. I do want to thank the staff of the Speaker's office. They have done a fantastic job in supporting me this week. Finally I want to thank the project manager for regional parliament, Coralee Kemp, and her assistant, Amanda Beem, who have done an amazing job of keeping us all comforted, fed and watered during our time here. Thank you. It has been a wonderful experience and I hope we do it again really soon.

## ADJOURNMENT



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.46 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

### Stanley, Mr P



**Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (4.46 pm): I rise to pay tribute to Paul Stanley who sadly passed away on Thursday, 20 April. Paul became well known through his work with the Matthew Stanley Foundation to fight youth crime after the death of his son Matthew. In 2006 the evening news reported on the death of Matthew Stanley after a violent coward's punch attack at a party in Alexandra Hills. Matthew received a cowardly punch to the head which caused him to fall to the ground unconscious. I recall it on TV at the time and, having a son the same age as Matthew, this tragedy impacted greatly on me and my family. Any parent of a teenager knows the feeling of waiting up for them to come home at night. News of Matthew's death significantly impacted us and has been talked about many times in our family home.

In 2009, as the member for Cleveland, I had the privilege to meet Paul. Despite their grief and the impact that Matthew's tragic death had on their family, Paul and his wife, Kay, established the Matthew Stanley Foundation and the Walk Away Chill Out campaign. The aim of the Matthew Stanley Foundation is to end youth violence and to educate and raise awareness of the danger of coward punch attacks. As Paul often said, education is the answer to it all. Paul dedicated his life and the years following Matthew's death to working with police and the Ambulance Service, schools, churches and community groups to spread the antiviolenence message to students. Paul's campaigning and relentless passion saw him speak to hundreds of schools across the state over multiple years to share Matthew's story.

The One Punch Can Kill and Walk Away Chill Out campaigns had a profound impact. Paul's presentations were unique and powerful. Often teachers would get in touch with him after a presentation to ask, 'How did you get through to them?' Matthew's story and Paul's raw and emotional presentation significantly impacted all those who heard it. Paul's philosophy was if one life was saved it was worth it. Paul lived in Thornlands running a flooring business prior to moving to Bundaberg. Paul closed his business to devote the majority of his time to travelling around the state and sharing his story.

It was my privilege to get to know Paul on a personal level. His passion to end youth violence was second to none and the impact he has had on youth over the last 17 years will be felt for decades to come. With the current youth crime crisis we face we sorely need more champions to call for change. Paul, thank you for all you have done and the legacy you leave behind. We pay tribute to you today. May you rest in peace. Vale, Paul Stanley.

### Regional Sitzings of Parliament, Cairns; Aurukun




**Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (4.49 pm): I start by saying how grateful I am to everyone for travelling up to Far North Queensland. Premier, thank you so much for bringing parliament to Cairns. It has been an incredible week and such an experience for all of us. This is my second experience of regional parliament. I am incredibly proud of government proceedings being held in regional cities and giving people in the regions an opportunity to come and take part in what we get to do in Brisbane. It was wonderful to have both my parents in the gallery. This is the first time they have been in the gallery to see me so it was special. It has been a pleasure to have all of you up here and an absolute pleasure to be part of a government that works in the best interests of all Queenslanders right across the state.

I want to talk about my recent trip to Aurukun. Aurukun is a community that I am very proud of. Aurukun has a very special place in my heart. In the past couple of weeks I visited Aurukun with Minister Farmer. We were able to meet many community champions who are doing exceptional things in their local community. Baressa, the school principal, is working incredibly hard to improve educational outcomes for her local community. At the PCYC, Steve and Norma and their daughter Helena are very passionate about youth work in Aurukun. I commend Steve and Norma for the work that they do in community. In a community such as Aurukun you need people with passion. You need people with vision and aspiration for where they want to take their community into the future. Mayor Tamwoy is very passionate about her local community. She fights for it every day. Just like the rest of us, every day she gets up to fight for better outcomes for her community through education, health, housing and social justice. I met some of the elders from the Aurukun Justice Group where everyone spoke very passionately about the community.

I wanted to speak about Aurukun purely because this is about the positive stories and there are people doing incredible work in that community. They deserve to be celebrated. All of their successes need to be celebrated. I wish only the best for Aurukun.

### Containers for Change


 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (4.52 pm): Queensland has the lowest recycling rate of any state in the nation and Queenslanders are doing what they can to fix that. They are stepping up and taking part in Containers for Change, a bipartisan scheme to try to improve our recycling rates. We have especially seen school kids step up by returning millions of popper boxes and the state government has encouraged them to do that. The environment minister was, in fact, very happy to be part of a half a million dollar advertising campaign with the Popper Patrol alongside Dolly Carton, Bruce Juice and Harry Popper.

The problem is that the state government forgot to figure out how to recycle poppers in Queensland. Over 126 million liquid paperboard containers have been collected since 2018, but not a single one of those containers has been recycled in our state. In the almost five years since Containers for Change was set up, a recycling facility has not been established. It is now revealed that, without that, millions of those containers have been sent overseas. We are told that they are being recycled, but given that the minister can barely regulate what is happening in Queensland how would she have any idea that that is actually happening? Apparently there has been an audit but, again, that relies on the environmental regulations overseas being worth anything.

We need to transition to a circular economy. Our recycling policy should not rely on sending our waste to other countries and hoping for the best. They have not released it anyway so there is no evidence that any of those containers, collected by Queenslanders, are actually being recycled. A facility has finally been announced, coincidentally just as the media started making inquiries about why millions of items collected by Containers for Change are not being recycled here, but time is running out. From the middle of next year it will be illegal for these items to be sent overseas. Talk about leaving your assignment till the night before it is due.

We do not want this to be another REDcycle disaster. The waste levy brings in \$300 million a year. Funding is not the issue. The minister constantly talks about the government's billion dollar fund but that means nothing if it is not actually spent. We were the last state to sign up to the Recycling Modernisation Fund. The Resource Recovery Industry Development Program was massively oversubscribed but most of the money went unspent. When it comes to recycling we are falling behind. We need a government that cares more about environmental outcomes than environmental announcements.

### Cairns Electorate


 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (4.55 pm): I will probably do something a little outrageous and not look at my notes but speak from the heart, so this might go a bit longer. I want to acknowledge my parliamentary colleagues and echo the remarks made about how good it is to have all of you here in this spectacular part of the world. In the six years that I have been a member of parliament, not one kid from Cairns has come through Parliament House in Brisbane. To have so many kids come through this chamber and to know them and their teachers has been absolutely fantastic. I say to Minister Grace that what adds to that is the significant investment that we are making in education. We can see it. For those who came to see the great hall at Cairns State High School I can say that that is just one of a number of significant investments. The Premier made the commitment to that school and the outcome is absolutely impressive. Clontarf conduct fantastic work.

The Minister for Health has made fantastic announcements for projects that are very much needed. While we knew that the commitment had been made, to see soil turned on the \$70 million investment into a mental health facility and the \$26.5 million investment into the Cairns Hospital emergency department is so important. Ours is a growing city and that investment is very much welcomed.

I acknowledge that we have challenges with youth crime. We have seen significant investments made in that area and we will continue to see significant investments being made. Unfortunately, too frequently I meet with people who have suffered because of crime. It is a tragedy. I will continue to meet with those people because that is my responsibility. However, I have great faith in the amendments that we have introduced, the laws that we have changed and what we are doing. I want to recognise everybody on this side of the chamber because we do not in any way, shape or form hide from our responsibilities. This is a tough job and we are up for it. As a government we have proven that by doing a lot of tough things and we will continue to do that.

I make special mention of the Minister for Housing. Because I am going to run out of time I will say that I love all the ministers, but I mention the Minister for Housing in particular for the extremely difficult position I continually put her in. Today we met with the Cairns Alliance of Social Services along with the Minister for Police, the Minister for Children and the Attorney-General. It was so impressive to have so many important ministers—predominantly women, which is terrific because we know that things will get done—at that meeting. I am proud that you are in my city; I am also proud to show you off to the people of my city and acknowledge the work that you all do. I mean that. I acknowledge the Premier for the commitments that she and her cabinet have made. It is an absolute pleasure to be part of this government. You are welcome back any time.

### **Mooloolaba Surf Life Saving Club; Rotary Club; Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance**

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (4.59 pm): I give a shout-out to the Mooloolaba Surf Life Saving Club, which is celebrating 100 years of keeping that beautiful beach safe. They are a magnificent club that upholds the best of Surf Life Saving's traditions. Last week I was honoured to join nearly 400 people to mark that milestone. I am also delighted to give a shout-out to the Mooloolaba Rotary Club, which recently celebrated 50 years of serving our community, making our community beautiful and embodying the Rotary motto of 'Service above self'.

On other matters, the phrase that best describes this state Labor government is 'crisis, chaos and cover-ups'. On the Sunshine Coast, under this Labor government, assault numbers reached a 20-year high last year, and latest trends indicate that 2023 figures will eclipse that, according to reported government figures.

However, the state government refuses to come clean about real police numbers—boots on the ground—on the Sunshine Coast and instead quotes phantom 'approved' numbers. They are distinctly different from actual police numbers as approved positions do not answer a triple 0 call—only real police do that. There are about 86 police stations in Queensland with fewer actual police than when Labor took power eight years ago. Many areas on the Sunshine Coast are facing rosters that are not being properly filled.

This government is covering up the latest Queensland workforce reports. They have not released the latest reports.

**Ms Palaszczuk:** That's not true.

**Ms SIMPSON:** The Premier is saying it is not true. Well, it is true. It was due out in September last year, yet eight months later we still have not seen the real numbers for police, nurses and doctors, and the government is still talking about approved but not actual numbers.

I talked to one business owner in Nambour recently who witnessed someone getting kicked in the head in the middle of the day in the centre of town.


**Government members** interjected.

**Ms SIMPSON:** It is not funny. To the Labor ministers and members who think this is funny, this is a business owner in the middle of town in the middle of the day who saw someone having their head kicked in. When that person called police or called triple 0 they tell me it took nearly 40 minutes for police to come. They said that the police are spread thin and are hardworking but they do not have enough police to respond in the middle of the day when someone is kicked in the head.

This government has presided over a weakening of laws. They have hidden the workforce data. They are still hiding it eight months after it was due to be released. Then there is also the Working for Queensland survey, and we know this government has a pattern of bullying and toxic culture in the way they treat the public sector.

*(Time expired)*

### Regional Sitzings of Parliament, Cairns

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (5.02 pm): Madam Deputy Speaker, let's try to go out on a positive note! On behalf of the City of Cairns, on behalf of the people of Far North Queensland, I thank the entire parliament for coming here this week. What a fantastic week it was! It began with a cabinet meeting on Monday here in Cairns and great announcements, it moved into the government reception on Monday night and then we have had three fantastic days of sitting. We have had fantastic conversations with stakeholders.

I want to acknowledge those who did welcome to country many, many times—the Gimuy Walubara Yidinji people, the Yirrganydji people, the Djabugay people, the Torres Strait Islander people and, of course, the dancers. They were very busy. I think it is probably their busiest week of welcomes to country for some time.

I thank the Cairns Convention Centre staff. This is an amazing, awesome building. There is much more to this building than just what we see here. It is actually a very large building, with many staff working here behind the scenes. There is a whole floor underneath us where all the kitchens are and everything else. It is a rabbit warren, but it is very well put together and of significant, world-class standard.

I thank the security, the police, the volunteers and our electorate staff who came in. I thank the media—those who travelled up here but also the local Cairns media. I thank the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk and all the attendants who made this happen. I thank the member for Greenslopes for stepping in as Acting Speaker. He did an amazing job for us this week.

I thank the many schoolkids who came and even visitors who came and sat in the gallery. There are some people up there right now who have been here all week—all week! They could probably write very serious reports on our behaviour. I went up after question time this morning to talk to the schoolkids. Referring to the member for Cairns' comments, we do not get to talk to our schoolkids in Brisbane. It was great to go up to the gallery and talk to them. I got hit with a thousand questions. Now I know what the Brisbane MPs go through! It was absolutely fantastic.


We had all the other events around Cairns—I thank the nurses, the mayors, the councils, all the advocacy groups and the seniors who were here. It was a very busy week.

We had the historic passing of the treaty bill. I am so delighted that Mr Acting Speaker made reference to the Guugu Yimithirr spear—that it will be travelling back to parliament and that parliament will do something special with it. I think that is very fitting.

I thank the ITTB members who travelled here and helped me with treaty this week. I thank my ministerial team. They have written so many speeches this week it is not funny. I thank my department led by Chris Sarra and Kathy Parton, who helped support my office this week.

Finally, to everyone, stay a bit longer if you like. Enjoy your time and you are free to come back any time you like.

### Wilson, Ms N, OAM; Sugar Road and Mooloolaba Road Intersection, Upgrade

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (5.05 pm): As we sit here in Cairns for regional parliament, I rise to pay tribute to Naomi Wilson OAM, a former member for Mulgrave, a minister in the LNP Borbridge government, a tireless community advocate and visionary. Naomi served as the member for Mulgrave between 1995 and 1998. However, her service to the people of the Far North extends some 49 years.

Her achievements are many, but establishing Queensland's first playgroup and the Trinity Anglican School are both notable. When Naomi was asked how she came to be so involved with the community, Naomi said, 'I don't know how I got involved with these things, I just sort of did ... people called me the playgroup lady.' 'I just did': that sums up Naomi Wilson OAM to a tee—a committed community champion and a doer.

After leaving parliament, Naomi has remained passionately involved in trying to deliver for Indigenous communities like Yarrabah and Woorabinda. Although Naomi has now relocated to live in Buderim, her heart lies in the Far North. As she is one of my constituents, I now have the benefit of Naomi's deep experience and advice. Naomi's knowledge of the challenges facing disadvantaged young Queenslanders has helped inform my response to the challenges that our community is facing at this time. The Far North's loss has been Buderim's gain but, on behalf of all Queenslanders, I would like to pay tribute to Naomi Wilson OAM for a lifetime of service.

On a separate note, I would like to address the state government's failure to get work started on the Sugar Road and Mooloolaba Road intersection. In early 2019 the state government committed to upgrade that important intersection, which thousands of my constituents use every single day. Prior to that, I met with the Minister for Transport and Main Roads on site and he, alongside with Transport and Main Roads staff, acknowledged the need for the upgrade to reduce congestion and improve safety. It was one of the few heartening examples of where a Labor minister has been willing to work in a collaborative way for my community.

Unfortunately, after that promising start, the project has languished ever since. After a lengthy period for design and consultation, work was supposed to start this time last year, but we still have not seen a shovel in the ground. My community has had enough. The delays need to stop. Work needs to commence and the state government need to honour their commitment to build these much needed upgrades.

Whether it is the upgrades to the Sugar Road and Mooloolaba Road intersection, duplicating the Sunshine Coast rail line, fixing the bottleneck that is the Mooloolah River interchange or a multitude of other projects across the Sunshine Coast, work under this minister seems to be perpetually stalled. I am not sure whether it is because the minister is incompetent or because he has no inclination to build the roads, the rail and the infrastructure that the Sunshine Coast deserves.

The Sunshine Coast community deserves better than they are getting under this Palaszczuk Labor government. I will not accept further inaction on the Sugar Road and Mooloolaba Road intersection.

*(Time expired)*

### Australian Sikh Games



**Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (5.08 pm): Madam Deputy Speaker, 'sat sri akal' to you and all the members of this place. That is a traditional greeting in the Punjabi language. I rise today to recognise the Sikh community and, in particular, the outstanding work of the organising committee and participating clubs of the 2023 Australian Sikh Games.

The games are an annual event that bring together members of the Sikh community from across Australia to compete in a wide range of sports and cultural activities. This year I was privileged to attend the games, along with the Minister for Sport, the Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe, which were held in Queensland on the Gold Coast and supported with funding from the Palaszczuk government.

The Australian Sikh Games have been a tradition for over 30 years and have become an important way for members of the Sikh community to connect with each other and celebrate their cultural heritage. The games showcase the talents of athletes and performers from the Sikh community and serve as a platform for promoting cultural exchange and understanding.


The games drew a huge crowd of over 100,000 people across the three days and had around 3,500 athletes competing. It was a truly great spectacle. It was great to see people of all ages competing in hockey, soccer, netball, weightlifting and more, as well as the traditional Sikh wrestling known as kabaddi, which is a fantastic game to watch. It is a bit like a combination between Rugby League and WWE, except it is very real!

There will be approximately 130 clubs competing from around Australia and overseas. It was fantastic to see clubs from my local area well represented, including: Brisbane Punjabi Community Club Calamvale, Indian Cultural and Sports Club, Majha Youth Club Brisbane, Indo Sports Club and the Calamvale Cricket Club, including many other clubs from around Australia. I make special mention of members of the Azaad Sports and Cultural Club of North Queensland and the Sikh community of Cairns who participated as well.

The theme for this year's games was unity and diversity, which is a perfect reflection of the values that underpin our multicultural community in Queensland. Our state is a vibrant melting pot of cultures, religions and backgrounds. It is this diversity that makes us unique and strong. The Sikh community

has made significant contributions to our great state of Queensland for many years. In my local area they are also a regular feature of every Sunnybank district RSL Anzac Day, providing warm chai tea after the dawn service, organised by my good friend Parnam Sing Heir, president of the Australians of Indian Heritage War Memorial Committee. Congratulations also go to organising committee president Happi Dhami and secretary Jagdeep Singh. I say congratulations to the thousands of participants. I can officially declare that the 2023 Australian Sikh Games were the best Sikh Games ever.

### **Regional Sitzings of Parliament, Cairns; Theodore Electorate, Infrastructure Projects**

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (5.11 pm): Before I begin I would just like to thank the people of Cairns for being so welcoming. It has been very good conversing with local residents up here. They have obviously been very vocal about their opinions on matters. I just want to say thank you on behalf of the LNP for being so welcoming and vocal.

I also want to speak about some issues that many residents in my area have been expressing comments on, and that relates to infrastructure projects. The first topic I would like to mention is the proposed Coomera Connector. The Department of Transport and Main Roads is planning not to install sound barriers on the western side of the Coomera Connector north of Saltwater Creek. This is a recalcitrant decision that will allow sound to boom through residential houses within close proximity to the Connector. That estate is River Links Estate. This is completely unacceptable to those residents and they urgently want this reviewed. Residents of Fleetwood Court and River Links Boulevard East will feel the full force of the Coomera Connector going through their houses. To make matters worse for them, the Coomera Connector at that section will be raised; therefore, sound will travel across parkland straight into their living rooms and bedrooms. If that affected a member on the government benches, I can guarantee they would get it fixed. I want my residents to be treated as they would have their residents treated. They need sound barriers all the way from Saltwater Creek north along the Coomera Connector. We also need to install sound caps on the Coomera Connector sound barriers.


I have contacted the minister and put questions on notice. It is quite interesting that the government is more interested in penny pinching than those residents' rights to have a decent life in the backyards of their own properties. If it was a government member they would get it fixed. Install sound caps on these sound barriers to make a real difference for these residents. They have every right to have a backyard barbecue.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): Order! Member for Coomera, you are warned. There will be no interjection across the chamber.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** These simple requests are as simple as the original request I made for the Hope Island train station: 179 car spaces was not enough.

### **Aspley Small Business Awards; Regional Sitzings of Parliament, Cairns**

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (5.14 pm): Having the honour of being the last speaker of the Cairns regional parliament, I am going to keep it brief and positive. This year I wanted to show my appreciation for the countless small businesses that make up such a great part of our north side by holding the first ever Aspley Small Business Awards. Small businesses are a pillar of our local community and provide much of the fabric of our local area. We have whittled down the nominations, and since Monday voting is now open for locals to vote for their favourite small businesses in a range of categories. We have had over 1,000 votes already. Voting closes 22 May, so get on board.

In the best cafe category the nominees are: Ahoy Coffee Co, Bald Hills; Deja Bru Cafe, McDowall; Milk & Froth, Aspley; Soultly Olive, Aspley; and Coffee Club, Aspley. In the best restaurants and bars category we have: Aspley Hornets; Cold Rock Ice Creamery, Aspley; DosaHut, Aspley; Ivy's Pizzeria, Bridgeman Downs; and Malaysian Nyonya House, Geebung Bowls Club. Best beauty, cosmetics and hairdressing nominees are: Aspley Skin & Beauty; Bald Hills Hair Design; Hair on Piccadilly, Geebung; Mancave Barbershop, Aspley; Stay Local Barbershop, Aspley.

For the best early education centres we have: Aspley Avenues Early Learning Centre; Flutterbys Childcare, Bridgeman Downs; Goodstart Early Learning, Aspley; Journey Early Learning Centre, Carseldine; and Milestones Early Learning, Aspley. In the best health and fitness category we have: BFT Aspley; Fitness Cartel Aspley; Fitstop Aspley; Relax Yoga, Chermide West; and UBX Aspley. I apologise to all of them for saying that I am going to go to those gyms and I never do. In the best retail and sales category we have: Amcal Pharmacy, Aspley; Aspley Day and Night Pharmacy; Carseldine

Quality Meats; Little Fox Lane; and Top Spot Fruit Market. In the final category, best trade and services, we have: Beat Connection; Image Property; McDowall Veterinary Practice; Ray White Aspley; and Shield Tech Locksmiths. Thank you to everyone who has nominated or voted for these categories and recognising these fantastic businesses.

While I have time, I would also like to congratulate the winners of my recent Easter colouring-in competition. We had some brilliant entries. It was very hard to pick the winners out of all the amazing entries. Sadly, I do not have them with me to table. The winners were: Zara, St Dymphna's for prep; Yuvraj, St Kevin's for grade 1; Ivan, Bald Hills for year 2; Krauzer, Zillmere State School for year 3; and Georgia, Aspley State School for year 4. There were some very worthy runners-up.

While I am on my feet I would also like to congratulate Jason, who runs Aspley 10 Pin Bowl in our electorate. Jason is now Australia's pinball champion. Jason won the championship last weekend against 48 players from all around Australia on a Foo Fighters pinball machine. He is now two weeks away from heading to Germany to compete in the European and world championships. Well done, Jason! He runs a fantastic business out there at Aspley 10 Pin Bowl.

As the last speaker in parliament—others have said it much better—thank you to everyone for having us here. It has been fantastic. Thank you to everyone who has had anything to do with it. It has been a brilliant few days. Peace out, Cairns.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): Members, I have just been informed that 23 May is the Clerk of the Parliament's birthday. How lucky is he that he will get to have all of us in parliament for his birthday!

The House adjourned at 5.18 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, 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, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke, Palaszcuk, Pease, Perrett, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting