



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

### Wednesday, 14 June 2023

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## WEDNESDAY, 14 JUNE 2023

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The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

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


### SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

#### Absence of Member

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have received advice from the member for Traeger, Robbie Katter MP, that he will be absent from this week's sittings of the House. The member's notification complies with standing order 263A.

### SPEAKER'S RULINGS

#### Same Question Rule

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have considered the application of the same question rule as it applies to the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Surgeons) Amendment Bill 2023.

In summary, the same question rule is enlivened by clause 5 of the bill, contrary to standing order 87. A motion to suspend standing order 87 would be required for this clause to be considered by the House. I seek leave to incorporate my full ruling circulated in my name.

Leave granted.

#### SPEAKER'S RULING—APPLICATION OF SAME QUESTION RULE TO HEALTH PRACTITIONER REGULATION NATIONAL LAW (SURGEONS) AMENDMENT BILL

I have considered the application of the same question rule to the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2022 and the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Surgeons) Amendment Bill 2023.

The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2022 was passed with amendment on 13 October 2022 and assented to on 21 October 2022. The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Surgeons) Amendment Bill 2023 was introduced on 20 April 2023.


Standing Order 87 provides the general rule of Westminster parliamentary practice 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 amendments, new clauses or schedules of a bill. As previous Speakers have noted, the matters do not have to be identical but merely the same in substance as the previous matter. In other words, it is a question of substance, not form (Speaker Reynolds, Record of Proceedings, 9 September 2008, p. 2559).

Clause 3 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Surgeons) Amendment Bill amends a section previously amended by the Act (Definitions), they both amend different and distinct stand-alone definitions in the section. The proposed amendment is not reconsidering the substance of earlier amendments to this section.

However, Clause 5 of the Bill proposes amendments to a provision that are substantially the same as amendments previously considered and agreed to by the House in the same session of parliament. (Namely, how decisions by responsible tribunals about registered health practitioners can be made.) This is contrary to Standing Order 87.

Accordingly, I rule that the same question rule is enlivened by clause 5 of the bill contrary to Standing Order 87. A motion to suspend Standing Order 87 would be required for this clause to be considered.

#### Same Question Rule

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have considered the application of the same question rule as it applies to the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2021 and the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Act (No.1) 2023.

In summary, the same question rule is enlivened by clause 3 and clause 50 of the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, contrary to standing order 87. A motion to suspend standing order 87 would be required for these clauses to be considered. I seek leave to incorporate my full ruling circulated in my name.

Leave granted.

**SPEAKER'S RULING—APPLICATION OF SAME QUESTION RULE TO CHILD PROTECTION (OFFENDER REPORTING AND OFFENDER PROHIBITION ORDER) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

I have considered the application of the same question rule to the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2021 and the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Act (No. 1) 2023.

On 15 September 2021 the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services (the Minister) introduced the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. The Bill was passed without amendment on 30 November 2021.

On 26 October 2022 the Minister introduced the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill.

On 21 February 2023 the Minister introduced the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. The Bill was passed with amendment on 20 April 2023 and received assent on 2 May 2023.

Standing Order 87 provides the general rule of Westminster parliamentary practice 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 amendments, new clauses or schedules of a bill. As previous Speakers have noted, the matters do not have to be identical but merely the same in substance as the previous matter. In other words, it is a question of substance, not form (Speaker Reynolds, Record of Proceedings, 9 September 2008, p. 2559).

Clause 3 and clause 50 of the Bill propose amendments to provisions that are the same in substance to amendments previously considered and agreed to by the House in the same session of parliament. (Effectively asking the House to reconsider sections of an Act already amended during this session of parliament.) This is contrary to Standing Order 87.

Accordingly, I rule that the same question rule is enlivened by clause 3 and clause 50 of the Bill contrary to Standing Order 87.

A motion to suspend Standing Order 87 would be required for these clauses to be considered.

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

### School Group Tours



**Mr SPEAKER:** I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Peace Lutheran Primary School, Gatton, in the electorate of Lockyer; Manly West State School in the electorate of Lytton; and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Primary School in the electorate of Greenslopes.

## PETITION

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

### Hospitals, Contraceptive Services

**Dr MacMahon**, from 1,907 petitioners, requesting the House to legislate to ensure that contraceptive services are available at all Queensland hospitals [\[851\]](#).

Petition received.

## TABLED PAPER

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MEMBER'S PAPER

The member's paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Member for Surfers Paradise (Mr Langbroek)—

[852](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on a Queensland Parliamentary Delegation to Republic of China (Taiwan) by the member for Surfers Paradise, Mr John-Paul Langbroek MP, 26 April to 1 May 2023

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Budget



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.35 am): 'A budget for the times,' said the RACQ. 'Both short and long-term solutions to cost-of-living pressures Queenslanders are facing,' said the Queensland Council of Social Services.

'More than 65 per cent of capital investment outside Greater Brisbane,' said the *Courier-Mail*. 'The state budget focuses on the future whilst providing measures to ease cost of living for all Queenslanders. Townsville Enterprise congratulates the Queensland government on the budget released today and acknowledges the government's commitment to North Queensland.' Finally, 'Will reduce ambulance ramping and reduce elective surgery wait lists,' so said the AMA.

We do not do things by halves in Queensland, and that includes the budget brought down yesterday. We have delivered the biggest cost-of-living relief package Australia has ever seen—the biggest spending on health, on housing and on infrastructure. Our budget helps Queensland families, big and small. From the littlest who will now have access to free kindy to the biggest ever investment in roads, schools and hospitals, this budget demonstrates a government that has listened to Queenslanders and is delivering. Free kindy not only saves families \$4,600 but also allows women who want to return to the workforce. The Early Learning and Care Council of Australia said, 'For parents, this means affordable kindy that enables them to work; for employers, the policy generates a greater pool of willing employees.' When it comes to our women's policy, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry said it is 'really pleased to see an investment in women and the investment around women's financial security'.

A budget is never just about the numbers; it is about people. For people like Amelia from the Sunshine Coast it means a home. Amelia learned she was to become homeless when she was 30 weeks pregnant. She and her son Luca now have the home she deserves—as do 20-year-olds Asher and Christina in Townsville and dad Michael and his two children. These are the faces behind our record \$5 billion investment in housing. These are the people our budget is all about.

Queensland did not create the economic headwinds forcing up the cost of living, but you can be absolutely sure we will stand by the people of this state to help them. Increasing and extending our electricity rebate means electricity will be free for many of the state's most vulnerable. This is the biggest amount of support offered by any government anywhere in Australia.


Nothing is more important than people's health. While private health and GP networks crumble, our proud, free public hospitals and the people who work in them are there for Queenslanders no matter what. On any given day, more than 51,000 Queenslanders turn to our public hospitals for help. The budget includes measures to add more beds and target ambulance ramping. These have been welcomed by the AMA which said, 'For example, being able to discharge people seven days a week will make a huge difference.' These measures are for people like 10-year-old Abbey and her dad, Joe, who I met in Townsville and nurses like Marisa, Sarah, Caitlin and Rebecca, who I met in Redlands. I met Sharon, who has been a nurse for 42 years. She will be the first ever nurse unit manager at the new Redlands satellite hospital. It is one of the seven nearing completion that will bring health care closer to home and help ease the pressures our hospitals are facing.

As the *Courier-Mail* described it, this is a budget set to help. It includes \$446.4 million to boost police resources and tackle youth crime. It increases funding to \$50 million for PCYCs in Mareeba, Rockhampton, Sandgate, Pimpama, Toowoomba, Ipswich, Upper Ross, Zillmere, Carindale, Inala and Crestmead, because that is what the community asked for. It helps in big ways like our record \$89 billion program to build the roads and schools we need, providing nearly 100,000 jobs and our \$62 billion Energy and Jobs Plan, transitioning to cheaper, cleaner renewable energy. It also helps in small, important ways like the million dollars each we are giving to improve facilities for Scouts and Guides across Queensland.

The riches of this state belong to the people of this state. I make no apologies for insisting that the record profits enjoyed by extracting Queensland's coal are shared with the people who own it. As the Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association said—

Queensland's long-running support for onshore gas development sees it enjoy substantial economic benefits ... helping fund important infrastructure like new hospitals and schools.

### Budget, Cost of Living

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.40 am): Our budget is delivering for Queensland families. We know national pressures are impacting the cost of living but we are acting to make a difference. That is why in this budget we are delivering the biggest cost-of-living relief package of any state in Australia. Last year we gave Queenslanders a \$175 energy bill rebate. This year the rebate is \$550. I said it would be big and it certainly is. Do not worry—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Members to my left.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right: we look forward to seeing the alternative plan tomorrow. Our pensioners will receive a \$172 rebate because our government looks after all Queenslanders. This is only possible because our energy assets are publicly owned and we are building more through this budget. We have more money rolling out to deliver Queensland's landmark Energy and Jobs Plan, which will deliver affordable, reliable and secure energy for decades to come.

That is not all: as I announced yesterday, our government is making kindergarten free for four-year-olds. We are also giving families a \$150 voucher to ease the cost of swimming lessons. There is \$2.7 million to expand school breakfast programs, meaning kids do not miss out on the most important meal of the day. That funding will also go to organisations such as Foodbank, Y-Care and P&C groups. Today Minister Grace and I had the pleasure of visiting Durack State School where we met with Julie, Katrina and Thelma. Thelma has been there for 27 years and believes theirs is one of the first breakfast programs ever set up in Queensland. Foodbank already provides more than 28,000 meals per week to Queensland kids in more than 300 schools statewide.

**Opposition members** interjected.


**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I say to those opposite that I want to ensure that our kids do not go to school hungry. I want to make sure that they get breakfast every morning, which is exactly what this \$2.7 million is going towards.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The House will come to order.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** If you do not like it, vote against the budget. They are always whingeing and whining. For those who need to travel for healthcare services, this budget delivers more than \$70 million to increase accommodation and fuel subsidies. The budget delivers more than \$206 million in vehicle and boat registration concessions as well as a reduction in learner licence fees. In total we are rolling out \$8.2 billion in concessions because Queenslanders are doing it tough and they deserve a helping hand.

## Budget, Health

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.44 am): At some stage in their life, every Queenslander will interact with our health system. That is why our government is committed to giving our health heroes the tools they need to make a difference each and every day. I am proud of this year's budget as proof of that commitment.


Coming in at a record \$25.8 billion, our government has handed down yet another record health budget. Some \$24 billion will go to delivering the critical frontline services Queensland rely on. That includes \$764 million to put patients first with a plan to reduce ramping and improve access to our emergency departments, \$586 million for the lifesaving services LifeFlight provides for those living in rural and remote areas, \$224 million to address surgery and specialist backlogs, \$301 million to deliver mental health services as part of our landmark \$1.6 billion commitment, and \$150 million for a new mental health facility at Redlands Hospital. I know the member for Redlands is very excited about that.

*An incident having occurred in the chamber—*

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am not sure what that was about.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** New investments now take our hospital expansion program to nearly \$10 billion to deliver new and upgraded systems.

## Hunter Valley, Bus Accident

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.45 am): The awful events that have unfolded in the Hunter Valley in New South Wales this week have shocked Australians, left dozens of families in profound grief and left a scar across a small community that is unlikely to ever heal. It is unthinkable and tragic that just moments before that horrific bus crash, which killed 10 people and injured two dozen more, the victims had been celebrating the wedding of their friends and relatives.

The effects of the accident are also being felt here in Queensland. Today we should take a moment to grieve a former QAFL player, his wife and a young mining engineer who were among four people who called Queensland home before they were tragically killed in the bus crash. Husband and wife Andrew and Lynan Scott lived in Brisbane until 2015, while Zach Bray and Angus Craig lived in Queensland recently. The group were leaving the wedding of Madeleine and Mitchell.




Mr Scott was originally from Brisbane and had moved to Singleton. The devastated football community of the Redland-Victoria Point Sharks Football Club took to social media to mourn the loss of Mr Scott and his wife. Chisel, as he was known, played for the Bombers in 2014, alongside his brother Luke. He was also a long-time player at QAFL level at Mount Gravatt, where he was part of the Vultures' 2007 premiership team. A club representative said—

He was a terrific member of our community both on and off the field and was characterised by his big heart and willingness to help anyone.

Mr and Mrs Scott leave behind two young boys. Mrs Scott was originally from New South Wales. She moved to Brisbane and studied a Bachelor of Engineering at the University of Queensland.

Our hearts go out to the families and friends impacted by this tragedy. I have conveyed the thoughts of Queenslanders to the Premier of New South Wales, Chris Minns.

## Budget, Infrastructure

 **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) (9.47 am): I add my condolences to those offered by the Premier to the families of those who have lost loved ones in that horrible bus crash in the Hunter Valley.


Yesterday's budget confirmed that we are transforming our state through major projects. The Palaszczuk government is delivering Queensland's Big Build. Over the next four years the Palaszczuk Labor government will invest \$89 billion to create more jobs, new industries, better communities and stronger regions and more than half of our investment is in regional Queensland. The Palaszczuk government is kicking off our Big Build with more than \$20 billion over the next year, supporting 58,000 jobs. We will be delivering transformational projects as well as more and better essential services. Seizing opportunities is something Queensland has always been good at, ensuring each generation of Queenslanders gets an even better go at making a better life for themselves than the last. If we do not build big now we risk losing the great Queensland lifestyle we know and love.

In the lead-up to Brisbane 2032, when the world's eyes will be on us, we will invest \$7.1 billion in the games infrastructure program, shared with the Australian government. We will build the \$5 billion CopperString 2032 project—a 1,100-kilometre transmission line from Townsville to Mount Isa, connecting North-West Queensland to the national energy grid. This will unlock opportunities for massive renewable energy and critical minerals projects in the north and north-west.

Our transport services are being transformed by projects such as Cross River Rail, the largest transport project ever undertaken in Queensland. We are upgrading the M1 and Bruce Highway and constructing the Coomera Connector and Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3. We are bringing manufacturing home to Queensland, establishing the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program in Maryborough. Water infrastructure projects will be delivered in our regions like Bundaberg, Rockhampton and Townsville. We are also making sure Queenslanders have the essential services they need. There will be more hospital beds and services thanks to a nearly \$10 billion investment at 15 facilities across the health system. In the south-east seven satellite hospitals are being delivered, bringing better care closer to home. There will be better infrastructure for the delivery of more housing and more schools.

People are moving to Queensland in droves for our great lifestyle, our growing industries and the thousands of jobs we are creating here. That growth gives us an opportunity for more and better infrastructure to maintain our lifestyle and our economic prosperity. That is why the Palaszczuk government is delivering the Big Build. Of the \$20.3 billion to be invested this coming year, more than 65 per cent goes to regions outside of the Greater Brisbane area. It is a big build and it means Queenslanders can look forward to an even bigger and brighter future.

## Budget

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.50 am): Yesterday's budget will cut taxes, lower debt and deliver more for Queenslanders. It is not just Queenslanders who have welcomed the budget; ratings agencies were happy too. Ratings agency Moody's issued a statement saying—

Bumper mining royalties continue to drive budget surpluses, leaving the state well-positioned for carbon transition.

Moody's commented—

... revenue has provided Queensland with considerable fiscal space, enabling the state to balance \$1.6 billion in new cost of living support measures and various new capital spending initiatives—including approximately \$19 billion over the next four years in the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan ... while lowering the state's non-financial public sector ... borrowings.

Exactly right, Moody's: more cost of living, more capital spending and lower debt. They were not the only ones. S&P Global issued a statement yesterday saying that the budget means—

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** They know the member for Everton would not spend one more dollar on housing. That is what QCOSS knows; that is what they told me. S&P Global issued a statement yesterday saying that the budget means this year will be 'another year of strong fiscal surplus'. S&P went on to say—

The introduction of progressive coal royalty rates from July 2022 has allowed the state to capitalise on surging coal prices.

S&P Global affirmed our strong AA-plus credit rating, concluding—

Queensland's economy, financial management, and comprehensive liquidity coverage support our ratings and the stable outlook.

On the bond market I am advised by Queensland Treasury Corporation that Queensland government bonds continue to outperform other states, achieving lower rates than New South Wales and Victoria in one-, three-, five- and 10-year bonds.

There were some other reactions I did not expect. I noted a post on Twitter welcoming our record surplus saying—

... I guess all Queenslanders can be glad that we are, most definitely, in the coal business.


That is exactly right—Campbell Newman! More to the point, all Queenslanders can be glad that our Labor government put in place progressive coal royalties to ensure Queensland gets its fair share of that coal business. Ian Macfarlane, CEO of the Queensland Resources Council, said—

The Queensland resources sector is proud of the significant contribution it makes that enables the State Government to provide the services and support Queenslanders need, especially when many are doing it tough.

That is exactly right—Ian Macfarlane! Our progressive coal royalties will continue to ensure that happens for as long as we have a Labor government in this state.

The most important audience for this budget are the people and the small businesses of Queensland and the confidence that they have in our future. On that score, the NAB Monthly Business Survey released yesterday shows Queensland continues to enjoy the strongest business conditions among the states. The Westpac Melbourne Institute Consumer Sentiment Index showed Queensland had the strongest rise in a month, with Queensland as the only state in the nation to be in positive territory over the last year. The budget shows we can count on the people of Queensland to do the right thing and it shows we can count on the people of Queensland to support coal royalties. The only question when it comes to supporting progressive coal royalties is: can we count on the Leader of the Opposition?

### Budget, Kindergarten

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.55 am): Yesterday we made an historic announcement—free kindy for every Queensland family from January 2024. This is significant cost-of-living relief, with families set to save up to \$4,600 per year. Yesterday I had the pleasure of meeting with stakeholders from the early childhood sector, and their response was overwhelming. They arrived early to get front row seats to the budget briefing and led the applause when the Premier mentioned free kindy for all Queenslanders. There was a second round of applause when it was talked about again by the Treasurer. These organisations work day in, day out educating and caring for our kindy kids. They know what a huge difference free kindy is going to make.


Louise Jackson, CEO of Lady Gowrie, talked about how kindy can stimulate children's intellectual growth and curiosity, and fosters a love for learning for life. Dr Sandra Cheeseman, the CEO of C&K, said that giving children the best possible start in the first five years of life is the single most important investment society can make. Dr Ros Baxter, the CEO of Goodstart Early Learning, reflected on how important this is for those families doing it tough, and that cost will no longer be a barrier for any family wanting to get their child to kindy. Elizabeth Death, CEO of the Early Learning & Care Council of Australia, said free kindy is 'precisely the right policy for the times'.

One of the things the stakeholders told me yesterday was just how happy they were that this is a broader package. The money we are investing will not just make kindy free. I remind the House that it is so much more than that. The Palaszczuk government is investing \$120 million over the next four

years to attract and retain a quality workforce, with a portion specifically dedicated to getting staff to kindy services in regional and remote areas—we on this side of the House will always look after the Nationals!—by providing benefits like relocation expenses and accommodation assistance. Others might not, but we do.

The successful Kindy Uplift program has received a \$20 million boost to make a total of \$112 million over four years. Some 2,000 services will now benefit from programs in five targeted improvement areas including oral language, communication and physicality. There is an extra \$15 million to boost support for children with disability and additional needs, taking the total to \$91 million. As part of our new kindy inclusion service we will partner with specialist organisations such as Down Syndrome Queensland, Autism Queensland and Hear and Say to provide free practical support services. I take this opportunity to thank the early childhood sector for their passion, commitment and advocacy. I look forward to working with them closely over the coming months ready to welcome new children to the wonderful world of free kindy in January 2024.

### Budget, Health

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (9.58 am): Our doctors, nurses, paramedics and support staff are committed to providing world-class care to their fellow Queenslanders. The Palaszczuk government will always support them. Our health heroes work tirelessly saving lives every day, but we know that our health system is under increasing pressure. Emergency department presentations have increased by 100 per cent since 2015, and health workers are dealing with more serious and more complex cases. The Palaszczuk government is taking action. We know more needs to be done to address ramping. I am committed to improving the system for all Queenslanders. That is why I am so proud to be delivering the \$764 million Putting Patients First plan as part of our record \$24 billion health budget.

Putting Patients First is a five-point plan focused on tackling ambulance ramping at hospitals and addressing healthcare pressures being experienced right across the system. The key areas of the plan will focus on: keeping Queenslanders out of hospital and providing alternatives to emergency departments, including by expanding the mental health co-responder model; supercharging virtual care to transform how Queenslanders connect with healthcare services, including a new statewide virtual hospital; strengthening the Queensland Ambulance Service to meet increasing demand statewide with new ambulances, new ambulance stations and more paramedics; investing in the front-line health workforce and employing more specialty staff in our emergency departments; and providing many more hospital beds and more access to hospital beds with initiatives like transit lounges and a \$16 million allied health service enhancement to roster on these very important staff over the weekend to make sure Queenslanders get home quicker.

Putting Patients First is about addressing the pressures right through someone's healthcare journey—from the moment they call triple 0 to when they are discharged from hospital. I am so pleased that our plan has been welcomed by groups across the healthcare sector. For example, Dr Maria Boulton from the AMA said—

We are ... pleased to see that more recommendations from our Ramping Roundtable Action Plan have been adopted, including funding to extend hospital transit and discharge lounge opening hours to allow patients to be discharged after hours and on weekends, freeing up beds for patients waiting in emergency departments.


Mel Fox from Health Consumers Queensland has also welcomed the plan saying—

Just as healthcare cannot be one-size-fits-all, this plan reflects that multiple solutions are needed to increase equity and timeliness of access to healthcare. This includes shifting care from hospitals to community, and a greater focus on prevention.

Putting Patients First means continuing to listen and partner with users of the health system to implement and deliver on the success of these initiatives.

Our government will always back our health workers and will always support our health system. We know that more needs to be done to improve ramping, and this plan will do that and much more.

### Budget, Housing


 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing) (10.01 am): Every Queenslanders deserves a safe and secure roof over their head. Across Australia, housing pressures are having an impact including here in Queensland, with tens of thousands of people migrating here from interstate following our strong COVID response and economic recovery. That is why the Palaszczuk government's budget is focused on housing, health and cost of living—a budget that brings our social and affordable housing investment to \$5 billion. This is the largest investment in Queensland's history.

Our big social housing build will see a 67 per cent increase to our capital program in the next financial year alone, with an additional \$1.1 billion to help deliver 13,500 new homes. This includes: \$322.2 million to expand the QuickStarts social housing construction program; \$452 million of top-up funding to continue the delivery of the existing social housing construction program in recognition of constraints in the national supply chain; \$249.1 million to retain and upgrade social housing homes; and \$77 million to deliver housing in remote and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

It will also provide critical housing support in other ways, including over \$250 million for housing and homelessness supports. That includes things like covering rental payments, providing bond loans and connecting people to services to find and maintain a rental in the private market; \$64 million to purchase and lease emergency accommodation facilities in inner Brisbane to help more Queenslanders experiencing or at risk of homelessness; and a further \$14 million towards on-site support at three former retirement villages turned into accommodation in the Redlands, Toowoomba and Clayfield areas. There is also more than \$50 million in this year's budget to roll out the second First Nations Housing Action Plan.

There is power in having a safe roof over your head. We have all seen it. We know that there is a lot of work to do over the coming years. I will be working closely with the sector to ensure we deliver a comprehensive plan to address the needs across the entire housing spectrum. This budget is a great start—a great Labor budget that looks after the people in our community who need it most.

### Budget, Electricity Rebates

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (10.04 am): As the Treasurer said yesterday, our government will deliver greater and more widespread cost-of-living relief than any other government in Australia—\$550 for all Queenslanders and \$1,072 for all seniors, pensioners and concession card holders delivered because the highest priority of this budget is cost-of-living relief for all Queenslanders. This is because they own their electricity assets and because our government has put Queenslanders first with a fair share of high resource values.

Queensland is a big state. It is regional Queensland with its big ambition that is our big beating heart, so it is Queensland cities and towns who will be the biggest beneficiaries of Queensland's Big Build too—the biggest in our state's history. They will receive the biggest cost-of-living relief in the nation.

As part of our commitment to keep regional Queensland thriving, the Palaszczuk government provides extra cost-of-living relief to all regional Queenslanders by meeting the additional costs involved in supplying electricity to every corner of the state. It is called a community service obligation, but really it is a responsibility—a responsibility to significantly bring down the cost of living in regional Queensland. It means that every year this government purposefully invests to reduce regional power bills to be on par with South-East Queensland.

Because of the remoteness, the real cost of delivering power to regional and remote Queensland can be as much as 18 per cent extra for those along the coast of regional Queensland and as much as 55 per cent extra for those in Western Queensland but, because we govern for all Queenslanders, this government eliminates those extra costs.

I am pleased to announce that in this year's budget the Palaszczuk government will deliver another \$541.2 million—that is hundreds of millions of dollars to our regional cities, towns and communities. With this budget, despite the global energy challenges, this is the best year ahead for regional Queenslanders in more than a decade.


All of this is underpinned by three very simple principles—a three-point plan, if you will: rebates on power bills; renewables that are cheaper; and retention of public ownership, keeping power in the hands of Queenslanders.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

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

**Mr de BRENNI:** Queenslanders know what the alternative three-point plan is.

## Budget, Police Service

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.06 am): The Palaszczuk government's commitment to the Queensland Police Service is the strongest of any government in Queensland history—record funding and record support for more police personnel. There are 700 more police officers in Queensland now compared to when we were elected in 2015. The budget documents show in black and white that the funded personnel positions for the Queensland Police Service will grow by over 800 positions to 18,350 positions in the next financial year.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Members to my left will cease their interjections.

**Mr RYAN:** Notwithstanding the current impacts on labour markets in all workforces and in all industry sectors around the world, the Queensland Police Service is aggressively recruiting against the recorded budgeted positions provided by the government. There are currently over 300 recruits at the Queensland police academies with a constable graduation scheduled for the end of this month. In addition, new recruit intakes are scheduled essentially every six weeks, with 120 recruits expected to join the academy next month. I am advised by the Queensland Police Service that there are more than 1,200 recruit applications in the pipeline, with almost 500 applications received last month alone. In addition, nearly 300 applications from skilled police officers under the federal labour agreement are in various stages of consideration.

The government's unprecedented nearly \$90 million police recruitment package includes: a cost-of-living training allowance for current and new recruits on top of the current recruit wage, which takes the current package to the equivalent of \$52,000 annually; waiving all application and preselection test fees, saving potential recruits up to \$1,000; waiving police academy accommodation costs, saving potential live-in recruits almost \$200 per week; up to \$20,000 towards the higher education debt of up to 400 successful police graduates who hold certain tertiary degrees; up to \$20,000 towards the relocation costs of up to 500 interstate and up to 500 overseas applicants who are serving or recently served police officers; a new initiative where staff members of the Queensland Police Service who are accepted into recruit training will remain on their previous pay scale while training, capped at constable pay level 1.1; and the 'Try it on' campaign, a recruit advertising partnership with the Queensland Police Union.

The Queensland Police Service commissioner has publicly confirmed that Queensland Police Service efforts to recruit an additional 1,450 sworn police officers over and above attrition are significant. The commissioner recently said, 'Certainly, into the future I am confident we will meet those figures. The government allocates the positions, so they're there. It's up to us as an organisation to fill them.' Only last month the president of the Queensland Police Union, Ian Leavers, said, 'Prior to the last election what I negotiated was 2,025 personnel over five years—1,450 sworn—150 to every police region. That was the best commitment at the time. The other commitment I got was nearly 400 police over the four- to five-year period. 1,450 is better than 400.'

That is right; 1,450 extra police are way better than 400. I commend the Queensland Police Service for their innovative and significant recruitment efforts, and I look forward to more police personnel joining the Queensland Police Service over the months and years to come.

## Budget, Rail Manufacturing Industry

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (10.11 am): In a tight construction market, this year's budget focuses on the delivery of our road, rail, port and active transport commitments across the state. I am pleased to inform the House that the Palaszczuk government's budget confirms funding to build trains in Maryborough by Queensland manufacturing workers and to make our network more accessible.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** One would have thought they would be bipartisan, but it never is. The budget includes a \$4.8 billion allocation in the forward estimates towards the capital costs of the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program. That program will see 65 new passenger trains built at a new purpose-built train manufacturing facility at Torbanlea in Maryborough, supporting 800 long-term jobs. As the member for Maryborough will tell you, the Palaszczuk government wants to see the Maryborough region be the strong beating heart of a vibrant rail manufacturing sector in Queensland.

The Queensland Train Manufacturing Program will also see the revitalised Rockhampton railyards play a key role in the rail manufacturing supply chain. I was pleased to join the member for Rockhampton and the member for Keppel earlier this month at the Rocky railyards to announce the first tenants into that facility: a fibreglass manufacturer and a hydrogen rail research collaboration between Queensland Rail and Central Queensland University. The Queensland Train Manufacturing Program will see new stabling and maintenance facilities built at Ormeau, establishing good, ongoing jobs in the rail sector on the northern Gold Coast to maintain our new rail fleet.

In addition to delivering manufacturing jobs in Maryborough instead of importing them overseas, we have learned from the mistakes the previous LNP government made when they ordered New Generation Rollingstock made overseas. Those trains were not compliant with disability standards, and we are retrofitting. I can report that funding continues for that program. We have now passed the halfway mark in retrofitting these carriages to be disability compliant, including: a second accessible toilet on every NGR train; more grab-hand handrails; improving and adding Braille and tactile text to signage; an increase of 10 per cent to space inside toilet cubicles for easier movement; an increase in priority seating for those who need it from 24 to 88 per train; and improving wheelchair allocated spaces. Of the 75 NGR trains being retrofitted to comply with disability standards, I am pleased to report that 41 are now compliant and running passenger services across South-East Queensland. A further eight are at the Maryborough workshop being fixed by manufacturing workers in Queensland.

Other accessibility measures in yesterday's budget include an allocation of funds towards five new stations for Queensland Rail's Accessibility Upgrade Program. Banyo, Bundamba, Burpengary, Lindum and Morningside stations will be transformed with an additional \$300 million to the existing \$500 million program. The budget allocates \$500 million towards three new accessible stations on the Gold Coast at Hope Island, Pimpama and Merrimac.


**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my left will cease their interjections. The minister is delivering a statement which appears to be very factual. I will hear the statement. Members in the House will hear the statement.

**Mr BAILEY:** These eight stations, in addition to the 12 either new or upgraded stations being delivered by the Cross River Rail Development Authority and part of Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail, mean that across the network around 30 stations will be brought up to modern accessibility standards for people in wheelchairs, people with disabilities and parents with prams. We are not just building Cross River Rail; we are continuing our rail revolution.

## TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE


### Report

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (10.15 am): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 35 of the Transport and Resources Committee titled *Subordinate legislation tabled between 29 November 2022 and 9 May 2023*. I commend the report to the House.

*Tabled paper:* Transport and Resources Committee: Report No. 35, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 29 November 2022 and 9 May 2023 [[853](#)].

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### State Development and Regional Industries Committee, 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.16 am): I give notice that I will move—


That the State Development and Regional Industries Committee (the Committee)—

1. Commence an ongoing public accounts and public works inquiry into preparations for the 2032 Olympics and Paralympics under section 94 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001;
2. In undertaking the inquiry and periodic report, the Committee will consider all public works to be undertaken for the 2032 Olympics and Paralympics and for each public work address the matters in section 94(2) for its reporting to the Legislative Assembly;
3. Report to the Legislative Assembly on its inquiry periodically, with a report once every six months, with the first report being due on Friday, 16 December 2023 and the second report being due on Friday, 17 May 2024.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, question time will conclude today at 11.17 am.

### Palaszczuk Labor Government

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.17 am): My question is to the Premier. The Palaszczuk government was elected in 2015, yet nine budgets later Queenslanders have never had it so tough. Will the Premier accept her government's failures in health, housing, youth crime and cost of living have led to the pressures Queenslanders now face?

**Mr SPEAKER:** There are imputations in the question and the Premier will answer that as she sees fit.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** With absolute delight. I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. The Leader of the Opposition will cease his interjections. You have asked the question; I will hear the Premier's answer. I have allowed the question.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** This is our best budget yet because it tackles the cost of living. There it is, tackling the cost of living in colour. Not in black and white, but in colour. As we know, this budget is focused on families. There are billions of dollars for cost-of-living relief focused on families and our most vulnerable. Tomorrow the Leader of the Opposition will have nowhere to hide. Does the Leader of the Opposition support our progressive coal royalties or not? Where is the Leader of the Opposition going to find cuts of \$10 billion? I am so looking forward to the members of the opposition going back to their electorates in a few days time and finding out whether or not they support our electricity rebates.

**Mr Janetzki:** Why is the government having to give the rebate?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We own our assets. That is No. 1.

**Mr Boothman** interjected.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. The member for Theodore is warned under the standing orders. The member for Kawana is warned under the standing orders. The Premier is trying to respond to the question as asked. She will be heard.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Last year we gave back \$175.

**Mr Hart:** You gave back.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right; we gave to Queenslanders. This year it is \$550.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Buderim will cease his interjections.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Well, we are good economic managers on this side. What about on that side? We do not cut people; we do not cut services.

**Mr Dick:** They cut concessions.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right. Go and talk to the member for Clayfield. He had the pensioners up in arms cutting concessions.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am absolutely delighted for all members of this House to go into their electorates and find out what the public think about our electricity rebates—

**Mr Dick:** You go out there.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right. Does the opposition support our free kindy and our billions of dollars into housing? Acknowledging that emergency accommodation is needed, we put millions of dollars into that. There are 500 more of our QuickStarts builds. The minister has been out there talking to Queenslanders. This budget delivers for families and Queenslanders.

*(Time expired)*

## Budget, Health

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** My question is to the Premier. Two years after first announcing the new hospital spend and in the middle of the Queensland Health crisis, 95 per cent of the government's new funding is beyond the next election. Does this show the Palaszczuk government's hospital announcement is a promise without a pulse?

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I will take that interjection. I am proud of our \$10 billion spend on hospitals—the biggest in the country. Perhaps the opposition have been asleep, but the seven satellite hospitals are out of the ground. We were down at Redlands. We open in a couple of months and I will be there to cut the ribbon with the member for Redlands. The one in Tugun will be finished. Member for Currumbin, I will invite you along. You can come and cut the ribbon too.

**Mrs Gerber:** No ED. No overnight patients.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Okay, well do not come.

**Mrs Gerber:** Currumbin deserves better.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Okay, you are uninvited.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Currumbin, you are warned under the standing orders. The Premier needs to be heard. The question has been asked. I want to hear the answer to that question, as I am sure most members of the House would like to hear the answer to the question.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The seven satellite hospitals will be open before the next election, making health care closer to where families live. Secondly, the opposition may be asleep here too, but we have awarded \$3 billion worth of tenders to upgrade our hospitals. We are building new hospitals in Bundaberg, Coomera and Toowoomba. We are expanding the beds. There is extra money towards ramping as well. We are addressing those issues.

There is a great program as well for our rural and regional hospitals, including Moranbah. Once again, I say to the Leader of the Opposition: do you support our progressive coal royalties or not? That money is going into the new Moranbah Hospital. Do they support that or not? It is a very clear proposition. We have Toowoomba and Coomera, with expansions across the biggest build in the state's history. Let me say that again: the biggest build in the state's history. We announced it last year and it is rolling out. Not only that, but there will be more doctors and there will be more nurses. We have incentives coming to get more nurses out into the regions. We have a package for maternity, with over \$40 million. There will be more services. I looked through some of the announcements coming and there are going to be more X-ray machines in Ipswich and more of our medical equipment being rolled out across our hospitals as well—because on this side of the House we care about families. We do not cut health workers.

*(Time expired)*

## Kindergarten

**Mr KELLY:** My question is to the Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. How will the Palaszczuk government's free kindy initiative benefit Queenslanders, and is the Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member very much for the question. It was just last week that the Treasurer and I, along with the member for Greenslopes, went to the Harty Street Kindergarten at Coorparoo, and what a wonderful centre that is. It has been operating for nearly 70 years and I must admit that we had a great time with the children there. It is a signature element of our budget, in acknowledging the cost-of-living pressures for families, that we are offering free kindy. I thank the thousands of people who are in support of this initiative.

Once again, I urge all members to go out to their electorates and see what people think about this. What it does is it frees up women to re-enter the workforce, which is a good thing, and take on those extra part-time jobs. We know that there is a huge skills shortage out there at the moment, and this allows women to participate in the economy and that is a good thing for Queenslanders and that is a good thing for women.

Tomorrow the Leader of the Opposition has to say very clearly whether he supports our progressive coal royalties, because the money is being used to pay for cost-of-living relief, such as free kindy. This will mean about \$4,600 per year and it will mean free kindy for all four-year-olds, up to



15 hours a week, across all of Queensland. I really want to thank Minister Grace for the great work she has done leading the consultation on this. It has been a great engagement, and I know that a lot of our members have been involved in that engagement.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Well, the Leader of the Opposition can say tomorrow whether he supports free kindy or not. In fact, this builds on Labor's strong initiatives of introducing prep. Previous Labor governments—

**Ms Fentiman:** Moving year 7 to high school.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right—moving year 7 to high school, and of course now free kindy. I am absolutely proud that we are doing that. We want to give these children the best start in life and the way you give them the best start in life is to make sure they have opportunities of early education. This is about setting them up for their future. We do not want to have that disadvantage of young people not being able to participate. I know this will be welcomed by families across our state. I say to those opposite that this is what we are focused on here: families and tackling the cost of living. This budget delivers for families, no matter where they live in our great state. All Queenslanders will receive that \$550 rebate and all Queenslanders will now be able to access free kindy.

*(Time expired)*

### **Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro Project**

**Mr JANETZKI:** My question is to the Treasurer.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr JANETZKI:** It's a good one, too!

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The House will come to order.

**Mr JANETZKI:** It is a good one.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am amazed at that response.

**Mr JANETZKI:** A question to the Treasurer. Just last week the government said the Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro Project was 'a cornerstone' and 'foundational investment' of their energy and jobs announcement. Given there is not one dollar for stage 1 of the project in yesterday's capital statement, does the Palaszczuk government care more about announcing hydro projects than delivering affordable, reliable and sustainable power?

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members! Thank you, members to my right!

**Mr DICK:** I thank the honourable gentleman for his question. It was a long time to wait for not much, wasn't it? How could you possibly, after we announced 24 hours ago a \$19 billion investment across the forwards in renewable energy generation—

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock! Sorry, Treasurer. Leader of the Opposition, you are skating on thin ice. You are interjecting consistently. It is getting to the point where you cannot do that. Member for Toowoomba South, you are also interjecting similarly. I will ask that you cease your interjections so that we can actually hear the Treasurer's response.

**Mr DICK:** It has taken so long for the question, he is desperate to hear the reply.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock! Member for Nanango, you are warned under the standing orders. I called the House to order and you immediately interjected. You are warned.

**Mr DICK:** Actually, the member for Nanango reminds me about the difference between \$19 billion and a funded, renewable energy generation transmission and storage plan and the fake Bradfield Scheme. How can we forget that!

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Mr DICK:** Remember Thelma and Louise? The Leader of the Opposition—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, please, understand that Hansard have to hear what is being said and your interjections and your overall raucousness is not helpful.

**Mr DICK:** Remember Thelma and Louise? The members for Everton and Nanango—

**Ms Simpson** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock! Member for Maroochydore, you interjected immediately after I called the House to order. You are warned under the standing orders. It is getting to the point where you cannot look for a gap or a space in what is being offered. You cannot do that. You are warned.

**Mr DICK:** That is the difference: a budget that has committed \$7 billion to pumped hydro in this state—\$6 billion for the Borumba Pumped Hydro and a billion dollars for the Pioneer-Burdekin. In regards to the Borumba Pumped Hydro program, it is the single biggest infrastructure program ever funded by a Queensland government. There has never been a program like it. So, tomorrow we will see the clear distinction between a government that funds cost-of-living relief, the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, the biggest build in the history of our state—\$89 billion over four years—and an opposition that has already identified \$10 billion in infrastructure waste. When the LNP says they have identified \$10 billion—

**Mr POWELL:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on the question of relevance under standing order 118(b). The question was about the Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro Project and the lack of any funding in yesterday's capital statement.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Treasurer, there is a specific element to the question that you need to address but ultimately you have the call.

**Mr DICK:** I say it again for all members of the House: \$7 billion in the budget yesterday for four years—\$6 billion for Borumba and \$1 billion for the Pioneer-Burdekin, the biggest pumped hydro program in the world. That is our commitment. There is a very clear line being drawn between our government and the LNP, 500 days out from the next state election. The only way we can fund the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan is through progressive coal royalties.

Tomorrow the Leader of the Opposition has nowhere to hide. Does he support progressive coal royalties in their entirety and everything that it funds in our budget or not? If he does not, then he needs to explain in his budget reply speech tomorrow when the cuts will start—cuts to infrastructure, cuts to jobs, cuts to investment and cuts to services—because that is the LNP's way.

*(Time expired)*

### Cost of Living

**Mr TANTARI:** My question is of the Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. What action is the Palaszczuk government taking to assist Queenslanders with national cost-of-living pressures, and is the Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Hervey Bay very much for his question. As we know, the member for Hervey Bay represents a beautiful electorate and there are a large number of seniors living in his electorate. I am sure that the member for Hervey Bay will be absolutely delighted to go back to his electorate to say how many seniors are going to benefit from the \$1,000 rebate that they will get for their electricity.

Let me say this to our seniors and pensioners as we go into winter: they do not have to worry about putting their heating on and putting the lights on and using their electricity because their electricity bill for the year will be essentially free. This is what being in government is about. It is about looking after the most vulnerable and making sure that our seniors do not have to go cold this winter. We are able to do this because of our progressive coal royalties and the fact that Queenslanders own our energy assets.

I will say it again: the Leader of the Opposition tomorrow has to say whether or not he will support progressive coal royalties. It is imperative that he makes his position clear to Queensland. You know what? We may even hear a policy. I am not—

**Mr DICK:** Don't hold your breath!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am not holding my breath. I am not counting on it because I do not know what the brains trust over there have come up with. Let's wait and see. Not only do we have the rebates for electricity for our seniors—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am talking about seniors and you are being very rude.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members! The Premier will direct her comments through the chair. Members to my left will cease their interjections.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We also have vehicle registration concessions for seniors and concession card holders, 200 rates rebates for eligible pensioners, free basic prescription glasses through our Spectacle Supply Scheme, and free dental care with an average value of \$830 for eligible pensioners and seniors. I urge all members to let their communities know how they can access these benefits. I encourage every Queenslander to jump on our Queensland Savers website and see what they are eligible for. As well, we announced that \$70 million Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme making it easier for people to come to their appointments—\$70 million! There is record funding for LifeFlight ensuring that people from rural and regional—

*(Time expired)*

### **Budget, Infrastructure Projects**

**Mr BLEIJIE:** My question is to the Premier. Nearly 80 per cent of the second Bruce Highway funding and almost two-thirds of Olympic funding will not be funded for at least the next four years while there is nothing to build the Sunshine Coast heavy passenger rail. After nearly a decade in power, does the Palaszczuk government care more about announcing infrastructure projects than building them?

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members! I will wait for the House to come to order.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Let me say to the member for Kawana that we are a big state and we have the Big Build underway—the biggest build. In fact, I can even draw his attention to the budget papers. If he looks at page 53, he will see there is the \$89 billion Big Build. This is about delivering for our state—the biggest build. Move over Forgan Smith; we have the biggest build the state has ever seen. We know that this is a growing state. People are moving here and we have an enviable lifestyle. We are investing in the M1, the Coomera Connector, the Bruce Highway and our hospitals with the biggest build ever. Let me say it again: the biggest build ever in our hospitals.

**Mr Dick:** \$20 billion next year.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Then we have allocated \$20 billion for next year alone to continue our supply and keep people in work right across our state. We have shared investment from the federal government to deliver our Olympic infrastructure. Not only that, we know that Queensland is growing and we are making sure that we have the infrastructure that this great state needs. However, those opposite have identified \$10 billion in cuts.

**Mr Powell** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Glass House will cease his interjections.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Where is that \$10 billion in cuts going to come from? The Leader of the Opposition—

**Mrs Gerber** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Currumbin, you are already under a warning. You are interjecting. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Currumbin withdrew from the chamber at 10.41 am.*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members should be aware if you are under a warning you will cease all interjections, otherwise you will face the same fate as the member for Currumbin. It is pretty clear.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** There is also \$14 million for the study for the Sunshine Coast rail connection.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right; it is called planning.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Buderim.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right; we actually have a plan.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. The member for Buderim is warned under the standing orders. He will cease his interjections or he will leave the chamber.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Our government is investing \$32 billion over the next four years for priority transport and main roads infrastructure across our state. Every year the minister produces the QTRIP. That actually outlines to all members our plan for the state. We will continue to invest in the infrastructure that is needed for our growing communities, whether it is the brand new hospitals that are being built in our growing communities or the expansion of our hospitals. We also recognise that Queenslanders are doing it tough, and this budget firmly focuses on them with cost-of-living relief.

### **Budget, Infrastructure Projects**

**Mr SAUNDERS:** My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure. Could the Deputy Premier advise the House how the Palaszczuk government's Big Build is delivering a record infrastructure investment for Queenslanders, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for Maryborough for his question. Like every other member on this side of the House, he knows that yesterday was an historic day for Queensland, a day that will be remembered as the day we began Queensland's Big Build, the biggest decade of infrastructure delivery in Queensland's history.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The Deputy Premier will be heard.

**Dr MILES:** It is an historic commitment in our state, the Big Build that Queensland needs. It is an \$89 billion investment over the next four years—far and away the biggest in Queensland's history—more than half of it in regional Queensland, in places like Maryborough. The Big Build will deliver jobs for Queenslanders. The Big Build will improve services for Queenslanders. The Big Build will grow our state's economy. It will boost our regions. The Big Build will secure our lifestyle for future generations.

Next year alone the Big Build will deliver \$20 billion of projects that Queensland needs, supporting 58,000 jobs. The Big Build will transform our energy system, allowing us to generate our energy with renewables and store it with pumped hydro. The Big Build will let us build the hospitals that Queensland's growing population needs. It will deliver the social and affordable housing that Queensland needs. The Big Build will build the M1 and the Bruce, and the Big Build will let us build trains in Maryborough.

It is the Big Build that Queensland needs for Queensland's future. All of that is at risk because those opposite will not say if they support the progressive coal royalties that will deliver the Big Build, that will fund the Big Build. If you do not have the revenue stream that funds the Big Build, then you cannot have the Big Build. Tomorrow the Leader of the Opposition has to say whether or not he supports the revenue streams, the progressive coal royalties, that are delivering the Big Build Queensland needs and whether he will cut the Big Build, as the member for Chatsworth has already said they have a secret plan to do.

### **Police Service, Personnel**

**Mr LAST:** My question is to the Premier. At the last election the government promised 1,450 extra police. Delayed workforce numbers show there are actually 72 fewer police since the election. After nearly a decade in power does this show the Palaszczuk government cares more about announcing extra police than keeping Queenslanders safe?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. The minister has made comprehensive ministerial statements on this, but I am happy to recap again for those opposite. On this side of the House we do not cut police, like those opposite did. The member—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Members to my left, the Premier is trying to respond to the question as asked and I am hearing interjections from the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Toowoomba South. You will cease the interjections and allow the Premier to answer the question.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** There are 700 more police now since 2015 and at the last election we promised more police than those opposite did. There have been workforce challenges and the Police Commissioner has been very active in recruitment. In fact, if the member had been listening to the

minister this morning he would have heard the minister say there were more than 11,000 expressions of interest from overseas police officers from 21 countries. That is outstanding. There are 1,200 applicants in the pipeline, there are 300 recruits at the academy right now and 120 recruits are starting training in three weeks time.

There you go, Mr Speaker. That is what happens when you are active and you are out there trying to recruit more people to get involved with our Police Service. I am advised that the QPS will grow by over 800 positions to 18,350 positions in the next financial year. We do know, as I said, that there have been impacts on recruitment. That is why we have put together a \$90 million police recruitment package including—

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Southern Downs, you are a serial offender. You are warned under the standing orders. You will cease your interjections, otherwise you will leave the chamber.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** This includes a training allowance for current and new recruits on top of the current recruit wage; waiving all application fees, saving potential recruits between \$780 to \$972; waiving police academy accommodation costs; and providing up to \$20,000 towards their higher education debt. I urge young people to consider a career in our Police Service. The \$90 million recruitment campaign is directly targeted. It is probably the most generous, as well. I would not be surprised to see a large number of applicants are from interstate. I say to the member for Burdekin: the Police Commissioner and the police minister are doing everything they possibly can to encourage more recruits for our Police Service. I look forward to seeing those new recruits out across Queensland.

### Budget, Electricity Rebate

**Mrs GILBERT:** My question is of the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. Will the Treasurer please update the House on how the Palaszczuk government's 2023 budget is delivering energy bill relief for Queenslanders, and is the Treasurer aware of any other approach?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Mackay for her question and for her great advocacy for her region in Queensland. The budget yesterday delivered the biggest and best cost-of-living relief package of any government anywhere in Australia, providing a minimum rebate of \$550 for every household in Queensland and \$1,072 off electricity bills for our most vulnerable households, particularly pensioners, next year. That investment will help to reduce inflation, thereby reducing pressure on interest rates.

I am asked about alternative approaches. I woke up in a cold sweat last night imagining a future under a Crisafulli-Bleijie government. How might that duo respond with cost-of-living relief? As a matter of fact, we do not have to imagine because both of them served as senior ministers in the Newman LNP government and signed off on every decision. What happened when electricity prices went up under the Newman government?

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** I take the interjection. They went up 43 per cent. When faced with the situation of increasing power prices, they did not respond with direct relief. In fact, they responded with a media release. In that media release they said 'the government could not afford to pay all consumers an electricity rebate'. I table that media release.

*Tabled paper:* Media statement, dated 31 May 2013, by the former Treasurer and Minister for Trade, Hon. Tim Nicholls, and former Minister for Energy and Water Supply, Hon. Mark McArdle, titled 'Joint Statement on Electricity Prices' [\[854\]](#).

That is what they did. This is the crew that spent \$1.2 billion, signed off by the Leader of the Opposition and the deputy, to build an edifice to their glory—1 William Street—but unlike our government could not find one dollar in electricity rebates for Queensland households, including for the most vulnerable. That is the future of Queensland if a Crisafulli-Bleijie government ever comes to pass. We know their playbook. They will cut taxes for their mates and then manufacture a black hole. Then they will rip away services, infrastructure and the cost-of-living support that Queenslanders need.

**Ms Palaszczuk:** It's a playbook.

**Mr DICK:** I take the interjection. That is the playbook; that is exactly what they did last time. We should never forget that, outside of cost-of-living pressure, they planned in their first budget to take concessions away from pensioners. That is what they did. The cuts list is out there—\$10 billion in waste. They call unavoidable construction costs 'waste'. This budget proudly invests \$778 million to deal with higher construction costs for our existing housing program. They would cut that. Some 1,500 homes

would go out of the pipeline; 1,500 more people would be homeless under the LNP. That is the plan of the Leader of the Opposition. He needs to clarify everything tomorrow. He needs to clear it up. He has nowhere to hide.

**Mr Janetzki** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Toowoomba South will cease his interjections.

**Mr DICK:** He needs to clear it up. He has nowhere to hide.

**Mr Janetzki** interjected.

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

**Mr DICK:** Do you support progressive coal royalties and everything they support in this budget or not?

*(Time expired)*

### Social Housing

**Mr MANDER:** My question is to the Premier. Two years ago the government promised the Housing Investment Fund, which has not built one house for Queenslanders in need. Will the government's latest promise to build social houses be any different, or does the Palaszczuk government care more about announcing social houses than helping to house struggling Queenslanders?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** In the budget speech, the Treasurer said that the first people are in NRAS housing, funded by the Housing Investment Fund. I believe that the member has deliberately misled the House. We will get a copy of the budget speech to the member.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. The interjections will cease from the Treasurer, the member for Everton, the member for Toowoomba South and the Leader of the Opposition, otherwise warnings will be issued.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I find it ironic that the member for Everton can stand up in this House and talk about housing when it went backwards under the LNP. It is absolutely astounding that he would do that.

We have an historic \$6 billion for social and affordable housing. We went back and had a look and found that we have helped over 200,000 Queenslanders when it comes to a whole range of measures, whether it is rental bonds, rental assistance or social housing. The member might be aware that the minister has announced over \$60 million for more emergency support housing. We are purchasing hotels to facilitate this emergency housing, as well as buying up retirement villages to enable people to have a roof over their heads.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** You asked a serious question. It is a serious issue, and I am giving you a serious answer. There is something called respect. I know that the member for Everton does not have any respect. After the press conference the other day, you should be ashamed and you should apologise.

**Mr MANDER:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find those comments offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Everton has found those comments to be offensive.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I withdraw. There has never been a greater investment in housing. I acknowledge and understand that there are people who are doing it tough. We have mass migration into this state which is forcing renters out of properties as properties go onto the market. There is so much distress out there. It is also impacting on people being able to pay their bills, and that is why this budget is firmly focused on tackling cost-of-living relief. We have tackled all of those areas. When it comes to paying those bills, we are giving rebates to make those cost-of-living pressures easier. We are freeing up women to go into the workforce so that they can provide more income for their families by giving free kindy. Having the biggest build in our state's history, keeping 58,000-plus people employed—

**Mr DICK:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Nanango, who is on a warning, continues to interject.

**Mr SPEAKER:** My sights at the moment are on the member for Burleigh and the member for Southport, and not necessarily the member for Nanango. I will listen, but the members for Southport and Burleigh are warned under the standing orders. Premier, you have 10 seconds remaining.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** There is investment of \$322 million for 500 additional social homes to be delivered under the QuickStarts program.

**Mr Watts** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Toowoomba North, you can add yourself to the list. You are warned under the standing orders.

### Kindergarten

**Mr BROWN:** My question of the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Will the minister advise the House on the benefits of providing free kindergarten to all Queensland children, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

**Ms GRACE:** I thank the member for Capalaba for the question and know that he is very keen to go out in his electorate to try to get all children into kindergarten free of charge in 2024. This benefit has come from our progressive coal royalties, which give us the funding for this. I join with others in asking what the opposition is going to do in this space, because we hear one thing in this House and something else outside. It would be nice for the opposition to have its view clearly put as to whether or not it supports these progressive royalties which are funding many of our great budget initiatives.

With regard to free kindy, we started this year with Kindy for All with 14,000 families getting kindy free and 26,000 families getting reduced fees, and it worked very well. We worked with the industry, we knew that we could deliver it and the next step, I am very proud to say, is free kindy in 2024. The benefits of kindy include that it builds confidence in children and develops their communication skills and their ability to share and empathise with other kids their age. The research shows that for every dollar invested now we as a community get \$2 back over the child's life. It really is incredible. The benefits not only flow to those children and families in the cost-of-living savings and in how it sets them up for life; it also flows to the broader community and the economy, and we do not want to see those benefits lost because cost is a barrier for families to enrol their kids in kindy. I once again call on everyone in this House to go out and sell our free kindy and get those 8,000 children who are not enrolled enrolled.

While free kindy is giving young Queenslanders the tools to be respectful and kind, we also have to be role models for them. I join the Premier in outing that train wreck of an interview that happened last week where the Premier—the longest serving female Premier in Australia—was called misogynistic terms that I will not even repeat in this House. Those opposite at that press conference—no example for our kindy children—laughed, did not correct it. Often behaviour is best seen when the cameras are not on than when the cameras are on—

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:**—and it demonstrated that those opposite, including the member for Mudgeeraba who is interjecting—

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Mudgeeraba will cease her interjections.

**Ms GRACE:**—laughed at the slur and the misogynistic term used—

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:**—because they thought that the cameras were off. Shame on you all!

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Mudgeeraba is warned under the standing orders and the minister's time has expired. Member for Mudgeeraba, you are warned.

### Kindergarten Teachers

**Dr ROWAN:** My question is to the Premier. Given it takes four years to train a kindy teacher, can the Premier guarantee that there will be enough qualified kindy teachers and classrooms in place to meet demand by the beginning of 2024?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for an excellent question, and that is why we put in place \$120 million to support the workforce. We have covered all angles here. Do members know what? I can guarantee that free kindy will start on 1 January next year because this is a government that believes in education. It believes in giving these young kids the very best start in life.

When the Treasurer and I went along with the member for Greenslopes to that kindy, those children were learning. They were learning; they were engaged. It made the issue even more serious for me that there are children who are missing out on those great social interactions, learning to read, to interact, to draw, to paint, to play, to be part of an environment of young children who have the best start in life. One of our enduring Labor values is equality. This is equality for all. This is equality for our young people. There should not be two different strains of children entering prep—those who have been to kindy and those who have not, and that is what a Labor government is about. I do not know why the member for Moggill sits on that side. You should be sitting on this side.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Direct your comments through the chair, Premier.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The member for Moggill should be on this side because I know that the member for Moggill cares. He asked a decent question today—a very decent question, a question—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** In fact, he really should be the shadow health minister. That is what he should be—a bit of decency there. At least he would not call the health workforce 'duds'. I know that.

**Ms Grace:** And he wasn't the first nurse Campbell Newman sacked!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right. He might have made a few mistakes when he was the president of the AMA—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members! Order!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We are able to pay for free kindy because of our progressive coal royalties and the Leader of the Opposition has to stand in this House in almost 24 hours from now and state very clearly whether or not the LNP backs our progressive coal royalties. There is just one question to answer, and the answer is yes or no.

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right. Then the Leader of the Opposition needs to explain the \$10 billion in cuts. Where are they coming from? What are those opposite going to cut? They have identified the \$10 billion. The member for Chatsworth has talked about the pruning. There is not long to go. While he is at it, the member should also display some policy work. Those opposite are the most well funded opposition. They have so many staff. We had more policies when we had seven members of parliament than this lot over there.

*(Time expired)*

### **Budget, Social and Affordable Housing**

**Ms PEASE:** My question is of the Minister for Housing. Can the minister please update the House on how the Palaszczuk government's budget delivers record funding for social and affordable housing in Queensland, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

**Ms SCANLON:** I thank the member for Lytton for the question. I know that she is a big supporter of our big social housing build. This year's budget delivered an additional \$1.1 billion which takes our total investment for social and affordable housing to \$5 billion in this state. To put that into perspective, that is a 67 per cent increase in capital expenditure compared to last financial year. That is a big number, but members also know that 90 per cent is a big number, and that is the number by which social housing was cut by those opposite under the shadow housing minister. That is the member for Everton's record.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, member for Everton.

**Ms SCANLON:** The Leader of the Opposition's captain's pick was to appoint the same bloke to the housing portfolio. The only reason that you would pick a bloke who cut social housing is to do it again.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Everton, you are warned under the standing orders. I appreciate that there is actually a provocation, but you are interjecting and you should not be doing that.



**Ms SCANLON:** Another big number is 30,000. That is how many homes Peter Dutton and the LNP are blocking right now by opposing the Housing Australia Future Fund. Even Bert van Manen, the member for Forde, admitted that it was a big number. He has a different interpretation of that big number though. He said—

If we add a huge number of new houses to the current situation, that problem is only going to get worse.

That is the position of the LNP—that if we build more social housing it is going to make the housing situation worse. I wonder whether his new colleague the LNP candidate for Fadden thinks the same as his colleague for Forde. It is clear that those opposite and their mates in Canberra are ideologically opposed to social and affordable housing, particularly public housing in this state. The Leader of the Opposition talks about their debt reduction—

**Mr Langbroek** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Surfers Paradise is warned under the standing orders.

**Ms SCANLON:**—strategy. We heard this morning that those opposite were referring to increased costs as waste, so presumably that means they will cut the funding we have allocated for more social housing. We have heard from the member for Chatsworth that we need to have tough love and we need to prune things back. That is their position, and we all know what that means. That means cuts again to social housing. The Leader of the Opposition has a test in his budget reply: does he support—

**Ms Camm** interjected.

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

**Ms SCANLON:**—progressive coal royalties that allow us to invest record amounts in social and affordable housing or will they cut again, because they did it last time and we know that, if given the chance, they will do it again.

### **Sunrise Beach Development, Glossy Black-Cockatoo**

**Ms BOLTON:** My question is to the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for Multicultural Affairs. Section 102 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 authorises the minister to prohibit or control land clearing of critical habitat. Minister, why is this power not being utilised to urgently halt the imminent destruction of the scarce habitat of the endangered glossy black-cockatoos at Sunrise Beach until the developer can identify a suitable offset site?

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member has directed the question directly at the minister. I ask that you rephrase the question. I will give you the opportunity to do that, otherwise I will rule the question out of order.

**Ms BOLTON:** Shall I go from the start?

**Mr SPEAKER:** No, you can rephrase the last component of the question.

**Ms BOLTON:** I ask why this power is not being utilised urgently to halt the imminent destruction of the scarce habitat of the endangered glossy black-cockatoos at Sunrise Beach until the developer can identify a suitable offset site?

**Ms LINARD:** I thank the member for the question. I have been made aware of this development and also the community concern regarding the development and I do want to, from the outset, acknowledge the efforts of young Spencer Hitchen. I have not had the opportunity to meet him, but he has been seeking to raise awareness of the beautiful glossy black-cockatoo that the member has spoken of which do inhabit the Noosa area and have been observed on the site in question.

As the member is aware, the development was approved by the Sunshine Coast Regional Council in 2011, 12 years ago, so it is a testament to Spencer and the community's fortitude to continue their campaign for so long. I also note in 2021 the Morrison government decided not to refer the matter as a controlled action or, in other words, determined the project did not trigger its assessment or protection powers.

In terms of any role that I play, I am afraid it is limited. In this regard my department has now completed a review of the issue. The department has formed the view that, based on the currently available information, there are not sufficient grounds to make an interim conservation order in relation to the project. The determination is based on an assessment of the available environmental data and the related assessment documentation that has been provided. While available information does confirm the presence of matters of state environmental significance, it does not, in the view of the

department, provide sufficient evidence to satisfy the threshold required to meet the definition of critical habitat. This is significant in that an interim conservation order under section 102 of the Nature Conservation Act can only be issued if threatened or near threatened wildlife or a protected wildlife habitat that is a critical habitat is subject to a threatening process that is likely to have a significant detrimental effect on the wildlife, habitat or area. To meet that statutory definition of a critical habitat an area must contain habitat that is essential for the conservation of a viable population of protected wildlife or community of native wildlife, whether or not special management considerations and protection are required. My department's conclusion, for the member's benefit, is based on the relatively small footprint of the development and the presence of other more extensive and contiguous habitat within adjoining areas, which includes Noosa National Park.

In terms of the offset, Noosa Shire Council is now responsible for ensuring these and other conditions applied to the development are complied with by the developers. I appreciate that these are very technical matters. My director-general will respond to the concerned residents with advice regarding any future courses of action, but again I indicate my appreciation of the critical role Spencer is playing in raising awareness of these beautiful creatures.

*(Time expired).*

### **Budget, Health Workforce**

**Mr MADDEN:** My question is to the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women. Can the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government's record health budget will support healthcare workers and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

**Mr SPEAKER:** You have two minutes to respond, Minister.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I thank the member for the question. I am so proud of the biggest ever budget for health in our state's history: \$24 billion. It is an enormous budget for health that will go straight towards helping our frontline health workers—our doctors, our midwives, our nurses—because on this side of the House we are a government that has always been about supporting our health workers and our health system. We will never pretend to be anything we are not. When it comes to pretending to be something you are not, I guess some members cannot help themselves. As I said yesterday, I think the member for Mudgeeraba should be very careful on her social media to dress up in her custom-made scrubs—

**Ms BATES:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find the comments made today and yesterday insulting from the minister and I ask that she withdraw those unconditionally.

**Mr SPEAKER:** You find those comments offensive, member?

**Ms BATES:** That too.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister for Health, the member has found those comments offensive. I ask you will you withdraw?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I withdraw. As I said yesterday, we know that Ahpra has placed restrictions on the member for Mudgeeraba's nursing registration.

**Ms BATES:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find the minister's comments offensive and I ask that she withdraw. I take personal offence at the comments that the minister continues to make regarding my registration as a registered nurse under the Ahpra provisions.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, it is not an opportunity to debate the issue, but if you have, by convention, found those comments to be offensive I ask the minister to withdraw.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I withdraw. I do understand that the member for Mudgeeraba knows the plight of nurses very well because, of course, let us not forget she was the first nurse that Campbell Newman sacked. But it seems that it was not just on the one occasion that the member for Mudgeeraba had on scrubs, despite the fact that she is unable to do any clinical work, it happened again: standing up with a paramedic in her scrubs saying that she spent all night on the road when, in fact, she was chauffeured in a sedan behind an ambulance, but she did not say that on the social media post.

**Mr Head** interjected.

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

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I have often heard the member for Mudgeeraba call me and other members a fake, a phony and a fraud, but I have a feeling the member for Mudgeeraba should look in the mirror when she makes those comments.

**Ms BATES:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find those comments offensive and I ask that the minister withdraw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister for Health, the member for Mudgeeraba has found those comments offensive. Will you withdraw?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I withdraw. It is clear that you do not need custom-made scrubs to do administrative work or perhaps some training, which are the things that the member for Mudgeeraba is permitted to do under her Ahpra registration, and you clearly do not need custom-made scrubs to be a member of parliament. This is all about the member for Mudgeeraba portraying an image that is incredibly misleading. As I said, for the member for Mudgeeraba to accuse members on this side of the House of being a fake or being a phony is absolutely the height of hypocrisy. It is so hypocritical for the member for Mudgeeraba to continue to maintain the image through her social media that she somehow has responsibility for clinical duties. She is a fake nurse, she is a member of the fake union, a union that supports—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Minister, the question as asked did relate to the health budget. I would ask you to come back to that aspect of the question. You have 13 seconds.

**Ms BATES:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find the comments made by the fake, phony health minister insulting and I ask her to withdraw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, you cannot use a point of order to attack another member of parliament. That is essentially what you have done. I warn you under the standing orders. In fact, you are already under a warning. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Mudgeeraba withdrew from the chamber at 11.19 am.*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, you have 13 seconds remaining. Do you have anything else to contribute?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** A fake nurse who is a member of a fake union, in fake scrubs.

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

## MOTION

### Business Program



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.19 am): I move—

1. That a motion without notice to be moved by the Leader of the House in relation to the 2023 estimates process and standing orders and time frames be completed within 30 minutes of being moved;
2. That all remaining stages of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill be completed by 6.55 pm on Wednesday, 14 June 2023 with the minister to be called on in reply 45 minutes before the expiry;
3. That the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill be completed within one hour and thirty minutes of the Treasurer having finished his contribution in reply; and
4. If all stages of the bills listed in 2 and 3 have not been completed by the specified times in 2 and 3 respectively, Mr Speaker:
  - (a) shall call on a minister to table any explanatory notes to their circulated amendments, any statement of compatibility with human rights or any statement relating to an override declaration
  - (b) shall put all remaining questions necessary to either pass that stage or pass the bill without further debate
  - (c) may interrupt non-specified business or debate on a bill or motion to complete the requirements of the motion
  - (d) will complete all stages required by this motion notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders.

The motion before the House speaks for itself. To give members the opportunity to focus on legislation before the House, I commend the motion to the House.



**Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (11.20 am): I too will make a brief comment on the business program motion. The LNP opposition will be opposing it on the grounds that, as per normal, we will see elements of this week's agenda guillotined, including the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill that is currently being debated. On my reading of the speaking list before me, debate on the bill will not be concluded by the time it is guillotined at 6.55 this evening. On those grounds we will not be supporting the motion.

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

**AYES, 51:**

**ALP, 51**—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Madden, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

**NOES, 36:**

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

**Grn, 2**—Berkman, MacMahon.

**KAP, 2**—Dametto, Knuth.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.


Resolved in the affirmative.

## BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from 13 June (see p. 1792), on motion of Mrs D'Ath—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (11.26 am): I rise to make my contribution to the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022. A couple of weeks ago in a press conference, the now Minister for Health and then attorney-general was asked what the definition of a woman is. She answered by saying her definition of a woman is someone who identifies as a woman. That response—that comment, that statement, that point of view—is at the heart of this bill and it is also at the heart of my opposition to aspects of the bill. While that is the opinion of the now health minister and of the Labor Party, I think most Queenslanders find that definition absurd. Most Queenslanders—

**Government members** interjected.

**A government member:** They find you absurd.

**Mr MANDER:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I hope that we can have a conversation in a respectful way on a very sensitive issue.

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Bush): Order, members!

**Mr MANDER:** Isn't it funny that anything they disagree with is not disrespectful when they constantly interject and make the comments they make. Let me say that again: most Queenslanders find absurd the definition of a woman given by the health minister. Most Queenslanders believe that everybody should be treated with respect and with value. Most Queenslanders believe that nobody should be discriminated against and I agree with that as well. Most Queenslanders agree that trans people and those who suffer from gender dysphoria have had complex challenges in their lives and that that needs to be respected. Most Queenslanders believe that somebody has the right to change their birth certificate if they go through some medical procedure to change their gender. Most reasonable people think that and that is the current law.

However, this bill imposes the left's philosophical quest to change the very fabric of our social norms, which have served us well for centuries. There are two major issues—

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Members, I am determined to get through this debate in a respectful manner. I will warn all members against interjecting unnecessarily. The member for Everton has the call and I would encourage members to give him time to finish his speech.

**Mr MANDER:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. The two major issues of concern in this bill relate to safe places for females and the issue that I want to pay particular attention to, which is the right that it gives children below the age of 16 years to change their gender. When you go through the committee report, it seems to be one of those issues that a number of people disagree with and they come from a surprising range of backgrounds, from both what is often described as the left of politics

and the right of politics. Some of those groups that have issues that are relevant to what I want to highlight are Binary Australia, the Australian Christian Lobby, the LGB Alliance Australia, FamilyVoice Australia, the Feminist Legal Clinic, Fair Go for Queensland Women, the Coalition of Activist Lesbians, Active Watchful Waiting, Gender Awareness Australia and the Women's Forum of Australia. All of those groups from different political backgrounds and philosophies unite in having grave concerns about some of the issues in this bill.

I now want to focus on some of those issues, particularly as they relate to children. Some have suggested that introducing these changes may lead to the earlier 'medicalisation' of children, which many would describe as being healthy. I read from the committee report because it summarises it very well. The LGB Alliance Australia—

... expressed concerns that young people once they have transitioned socially will move onto the second stage of medical transitioning.

There is also a view that—

... the Bill may have the effect of 'fast-tracking the medicalisation of gender dysphoric children', with interventions that 'risk irreversible damage including to a young person's future sexual functioning'.

Even those who do not believe that still think that allowing children under 16 to make significant decisions about their future will have significant social and cultural impacts that cannot be minimised. We on this side of the House want to ensure that all children are given the support to thrive in an age-appropriate framework. In our opinion, this approach allowing children aged 12 to 15 to apply for the change without their parents' permission goes too far. Given we are still learning about how best to support children experiencing gender dysphoria, it is pre-emptive to introduce some of the provisions of this bill.

Again, I turn to some of the comments of different groups outlined in the committee report. It states—

Some submitters raised concerns about the Bill's potential impact on children who are neurodiverse, experiencing mental illness, or have a history of trauma or family dysfunction. Professor Parkinson stated the Bill would 'damage' young people as 'legal registration as a sex other than their natal sex may concretise what would otherwise be a transient and relatively harmless identification beneath the broad transgender umbrella.'

WAAC and Women's Forum Australia stated that gender dysphoria in children can mask trauma and autism, as well as comorbid mental health issues such as depression and anxiety, that require other treatment options. Women's Forum Australia stated that the Bill 'erodes safeguards for children' in this regard. One submitter stated that the Bill could be considered 'reckless and negligent' as it would 'allow people to legally change their sex without a medical or psychological assessment, or even any medical documentation', thereby 'enabling a psychological condition'.


The report further states—

It was the submitter's view that this puts children at risk and 'removes the ability of the parents to ensure their children are protected, especially if their child suffers from a history of childhood trauma, family dysfunction, sexual abuse, gender dysphoria and/or other mental health issues'.

Further—

Fair Go for Queensland Women expressed a similar view, stating that young people 'do not possess the assured cognitive capacity to fully understand the full repercussions that this Bill may entail'.

I find it intriguing that in so many different ways we do not treat anybody under 16 as an adult, and rightly so. Anybody under 16 cannot vote, drive or go to a pub for a drink because society has said that they have not developed appropriately at that age, yet this bill gives them the right to make the most significant decision they would ever have to make at a time when many of them are suffering gender dysphoria which the experts have stated—not me—is a very dangerous practice. At a time when this state is suffering a health crisis, a youth crime crisis and a housing crisis, I believe that the majority of Queenslanders want us focused on those life issues rather than something outlined in these provisions that is potentially dangerous.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (11.36 am): I rise to speak in support of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022. It is very hard to sit on this side of the House and to all of a sudden hear from those opposite compassion for young people and their inability to understand the consequences of their actions when we sat through a youth justice bill debate earlier this year where the only reaction for young people who make poor decisions as youths was to lock them up. Now they claim to protect young people because they do not have the mental capacity—

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Bush): The member for Coomera is warned under the standing orders.

**Mrs McMAHON:** I thank those opposite for suddenly having the epiphany that young people do struggle at times in their lives.

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. The member for Southern Downs is already on a warning. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Southern Downs withdrew from the chamber at 11.36 am.*

**Mrs McMAHON:** I stand here to speak in support of the LGBTQIA+ community. I stand here to speak in support of our trans community. These people are my friends; they are my family members. These people are my constituents. This is my community. The objectives of the bill are predominantly for them. I reiterate the pertinent objectives of the bill for members present. That is, to strengthen the legal recognition of trans and gender-diverse people and to better recognise contemporary family and parenting structures.

The rest of the objectives are largely administrative. Who is subject to this bill? Who are the key people whose lives will be impacted by this bill? It says it quite clearly—trans and gender-diverse people and those with contemporary parenting and family structures. When I hear concerns about the consultation on this bill and that individuals were up in arms about not being consulted on the bill, I ask: to which of these groups do these people belong? I have spoken to several community groups that represent these groups of Queenslanders and I have spoken with individuals who have followed this process. The people who are affected by this bill are aware of it. They have known of it and have followed its progress for years because it directly affects them.

I note the member for Scenic Rim's concerns that not all Queenslanders are aware of this bill and that they were not consulted. The member is probably right because the vast majority of Queenslanders are not going to be affected by this bill. I could probably list dozens of bills passed in this parliament this year which the general population is not aware of because they do not directly affect them. We debated a bill in this House about bees for days. I did not consult widely in my electorate on this because not many of my constituents own bees. Not every bill is going to be relevant to every person in Queensland, but, when it is, we will consult those who are directly affected.

Why didn't we consult some of the groups listed by the member for Everton? Let me go back to the objective of the bill—to strengthen the legal recognition of trans and gender-diverse people. I would not be consulting people who do not even recognise trans people if I were to consult on this bill.

The member for Whitsunday is concerned that not all women were consulted on this bill. I am aware of many submissions made by women, and I looked for those submissions by women who are members of the trans and gender-diverse communities and those whose families we call rainbow families—the people who actually make use of the reforms in this bill.

I include transwomen in my definition of women. I do so proudly. I do not consider myself the arbiter of how other people feel in their bodies and who or what they should conform to in order to fit into a narrow or binary concept. I would rather be excluded in a community because of whom I include in my definition of woman rather than need to be included in some group who are defined by whom they choose to exclude.

Yes, there are women's groups who pride themselves on some sort of exclusivity. If they need to do that to feel good about themselves, carry on, but they do not and should not have the right to determine how others perceive themselves or how they want to be perceived. If I were to call myself a radical feminist and still somehow be on the same side of a debate with the likes of Tony Abbott and Mark Latham on women's rights, I would have to take a good hard look at myself as to how I ended up there.

On the topic of rights, I am still absolutely baffled by the concerns that this bill will infringe on the rights of women—that is, cis women. I still cannot see where this happens in this bill. It is like they have a concept that if some group is given rights and freedoms then by some other token it means other people are losing freedoms. It is like some kind of pie chart. Human rights are not finite. They are only limited by bigotry and hatred disguised as social paternalism.

'What about the rights of parents?' I heard the member for Scenic Rim ask. What about the obligations of parents? I have never stood before my child when they have come to me and said to me that they do not feel comfortable in their own skin, that they do not like their name, that they do not like

their pronouns and said, 'I chose your name and I ticked that box on that birth certificate. I know my rights.' I support my child. I get used to the name change and I work hard to support them because I have an obligation as a parent. I do not stand there and tell my child about my rights.

I am glad to see that the LNP in this debate refuse to engage with the premise that transwomen represent a danger to people and public spaces. We know there is no evidence for this. There is only fear and fearmongering. Let's face it: the biggest and most present danger to women in public spaces and even in their own homes is men, specifically cis men whom they know. Honestly, I find the preoccupation that some people have on identifying the genitalia of the person in a bathroom stall next to them somewhat concerning. It probably says more about them than the person in the stall next to them.

I note that the shadow Attorney-General frequently cited concerns raised by the Queensland Human Rights Commission. I read that submission, and from my recollection the Human Rights Commissioner recommended the bill and supported its passing, so I had to go back and have a look. Yes, in fact, they do, but I note that they made a recommendation that the committee also endorsed.

I note concerns raised by the opposition and by a number of submitters about the terms 'sex' and 'gender' used in this bill. I understand that these terms do need a level of legal clarity. I support a greater level of uniformity across a number of pieces of legislation and jurisdictions. This is a big body of work, and I would endorse work done by all levels of government to bring uniformity and understanding to these terms.


I agree with the member for Scenic Rim, funnily enough, that there needs to be far more education for the Queensland community. It is clear by the tenor of some of the submissions. It was disturbing to see the number of submissions that seem to conflate transwomen with drag queens. It was even more concerning those that seek to link trans sexuality and homosexuality more broadly with fetishes and paedophilia. Yes, more education is needed, more protection is needed and more representation is needed.

I would like to see more education and support for those members of our community who are born intersex and the need to understand that these babies are often born with both sex characteristics. Notwithstanding the changes in this bill that allow parents more time to lodge the birth certificate—which may assist parents in this instance—I would ask for more work to be done in this space to protect those vulnerable infants. I would like to acknowledge the work that the ACT government has recently done in this space which makes them world leaders in protecting these vulnerable children.

There is so much more I would like to say about the flexibility that families can now have on listing parents on birth certificates. This is a hard fought win for our rainbow and same-sex families. I understand concerns that birth certificates somehow will not reflect the genetic input of a child. I understand that we have made some wonderful advances in IVF in the last 30 or 40 years and that very frequently the birth certificate does not reflect the genetic links to the child.

It is quite possible in this day and age, regardless of the sexuality or gender identity of families, for a child to have no genetic match with either parent on that birth certificate. That does not make the birth certificate any less valid or any less a point of truth. It is recognition of that family unit. If we have a government that supports families no matter what colour, what spectrum, what dynamic and what structure, then we are setting our kids up for success. Yes, we respect families of all shapes and all colours.

We want to talk about the mental health of our young people. I am sorry to the member for Whitsunday that it is not going to protect enough, but if it protects one child—one trans child who can now change their marker on their birth certificate so they feel whole—I fully support this bill.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (11.46 am): It was not that long ago that women were dismissed from the Public Service if they got married or that marriage was only allowed between a man and a woman. We have come far from these discriminatory times to become a more inclusive and compassionate society. However, as we have heard, we still have some way to go in many areas.

The Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022 aims to modernise the operation of the births, deaths and marriage registry, including the section in part 5 which makes it possible to change your sex on your birth certificate without undergoing sex reassignment surgery, which is the current requirement. For a Queensland under the age of 16, parental consent and an affirmation by a developmentally informed practitioner would be required or an application to the Childrens Court. This is in an effort to reduce the embarrassment, harm, fear, discrimination, stress and mental illness being experienced, very sadly, by transgender Queenslanders.

The amendments to part 5, as members have heard, saw an overwhelming volume of submissions to our Legal Affairs and Safety Committee. There was support from many organisations and families including the Queensland Family and Child Commission and Amnesty International Australia giving real-time examples of the situations that our trans children have been subjected to in public and how many of them may never be able to have gender reassignment in order to change their birth certificate so they can marry, for example.

There were also many submissions in opposition, including those who support a binary definition of sex, those that defined sex and gender as very different concepts scientifically, physically and emotionally, including from a feminist perspective, as well as gay and lesbian advocacy groups. The majority of concerns related to gender-specific spaces, with Women's Forum Australia stating that the bill will effectively allow men to self-identify into female-only activities, spaces, services and events, including female sports teams, bathrooms and domestic violence refuges. These concerns are understandable given there has been a lack of education and information around this. The department responded that there has been no data indicating this has been an issue in other jurisdictions in Australia that have adopted similar bills, nor in other countries.

Trans Queenslanders currently utilise these spaces, services and sports without any documented cases of the concerns raised; however, public and confidential witness statements we were privy to contained examples of sporting codes banning transgender competitors due to unfair physical advantages. In response, the department outlined that the Anti-Discrimination Act precludes restricting members or players based on sex or gender identity and that there is already capacity in the act for sporting groups individually or through their codes to apply for exemptions to preclude biological males. The government has not provided any commitment as to what assistance organisations will receive in relation to this.

A further issue raised was that changing a birth certificate is falsifying a record. Adoptee Rights Australia submitted that a person's genetic history is part of their individual identity and that a true genetic record of birth is needed and should not be altered. During the public hearing, the department confirmed that sex information at birth is retained on the register or birth record separately, ensuring this information is unaltered. The committee spent some time considering what this all means. In effect, if the birth register is the record, then the birth certificate is almost like an extract of that. This raises further questions as to why sex is even recorded on this 'extract' if it is not essential. There are already some countries that do not include sex on birth certificates. Drivers' licences, which are also used as identity documents, do not record sex or gender. The simplicity of phasing out the inclusion of sex or gender on birth certificates could have been explored—and I could not get any answers on this—which would have reduced the angst this bill has ignited throughout the community.

As I outlined in my statement of reservation, much could have been addressed by the government, including undertaking an appropriate options analysis and broader community engagement. I appreciate that the minister and other members have said there was plenty of consultation and engagement, but what I said in my statement of reservation is correct. I had no knowledge and my community seemed to have no knowledge, and I think that is reflected in why there was so much angst. For example, Fair Go for Queensland Women submitted that their only contact with the department—and I am not sure whether that was during the preceding 10 years or the 2021-22 consultation—was an information session and not a consultation.

Turning to the unnecessarily compressed time frames for the inquiry into the bill—and I do note comments that it was adequate—many stakeholders such as the Queensland Law Society stated emphatically that it was far too short and a few weeks during the holiday period was unacceptable. Our own secretariat struggled to process all 385 submissions in that time frame, and even the technical scrutiny secretariat could not provide some answers to our queries because the human rights panel had not had a chance to respond regarding the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child. Furthermore, submissions and hearings, many emails to my office and a survey of Noosa residents—which saw 80 per cent of respondents opposed to the bill—which again I believe is because there was a lack of information leading up to it—raised alarm around issues such as how gender identity and transitioning are managed for vulnerable children, including those with autism. This should have been investigated, as this legislation is not just about a document—it is about children and adults often undergoing life-changing psychological and/or physical medical interventions.

We were provided with evidence from families whose teenage children—an age when puberty can be intensely confusing—were encouraged by peers, counsellors and professionals that what they were experiencing were gender identity issues and they were offered transitioning via blockers, hormones and ultimately gender reassignment. Sadly, as we heard, the reality of these treatments can have long-term impacts, including the inability for those transitioning to carry a child. One witness stated




that what their family experienced could have been avoided if a wait-and-watch approach had been adopted during the confusion of puberty. Instead, there have been devastating and irreversible consequences. Our committee could not even ascertain whether what has been termed a 'trend' by witnesses is actually occurring. There were, and still are, no proposals or amendments from government to monitor or consider these issues, nor from the Cass review or Bell report. The study on gender services at Westmead Children's Hospital stated—

... the evidence-base pertaining to the gender-affirming medical pathways is sparse and, for the young people who may regret their choice of pathway at a future point in time, the risks for potential harm are significant ...

The United Kingdom's National Health Service, in response to extensive stakeholder engagement and a systematic review of the evidence, has now banned puberty blockers in clinical settings and is moving away from a gender-affirming approach for the treatment of gender dysphoria in minors.

This bill has highlighted the compassionate, articulate and deeply traumatised families who have shared their stories both for and against this bill. The fact that we never realised what they continue to go through is deeply saddening. We should be encouraging society to be tolerant and compassionate of our trans Queenslanders. We should have been provided with information as to why gender or sex are even required on identity documents anymore. There are many 'shoulds'. All voices, including those who have de-transitioned, should be heard without fear of repercussion, including being labelled transphobic. This was a complex inquiry conducted under unacceptably short time frames and it does not do justice to assess fully what 'should' be.

In closing, I want to thank my committee chair, fellow members, secretariat, the department and the many organisations and submitters who participated in this bill. I want to especially mention my many beautiful trans friends as well as those whom I met—and their families—along this journey. I look forward to the day there is no form of trauma in your world. Ultimately, I support you wholeheartedly; however, I cannot support a bill that neglects to address very real concerns—especially in relation to our children—with regard to decisions that will have impacts far beyond a political term.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (11.56 am): This is a bill that I wholeheartedly support. I want to be very clear about that to my community, particularly those who rely upon the reforms in this legislation just as much as those who vocally oppose it. I am eager to make this contribution in this place because words matter. Our words hold weight in this debate, and there is an opportunity in this place to clarify not only my position but the facts of this debate which obviously need to be highlighted.


The LNP tells us that the regular consultation time for this legislation—the same time as for the vast majority of other bills—is not good enough and that the process needs to be dragged out longer. Despite close to 400 submissions, those opposite claim that elements of this bill have not been adequately addressed. The sheer number of submissions received dispels their argument about the committee process, not to mention the considerable input and consultation around this bill. There has been considerable work done globally and locally on these proposals, but the political purpose and agenda of the conservatives of the current day—an ultraconservative LNP—are to drag these issues out in a very public and divisive way. It needs to be called out because it is, in and of itself, damaging. We saw it from them when they were in government nationally with the long, protracted and hurtful process in relation to marriage equality.

This model is used by fringe dwellers to do what they always want to do—be provided with a platform that promotes, encourages and normalises homophobia, transphobia and general prejudice in our community. It is a tactic they deploy to cause harm and also protection for extreme conservatives to speak their mind. It is already borne out through the committee process, however inadequate those opposite claim it was. As always with these debates there were some pretty wild assertions made. Let's be really clear about some of the concerns raised, including that women's safety or rights are under attack. There is no credible evidence of safety issues; no instances of women being assaulted by gender-diverse people; no accessing women's spaces under false or malicious purposes; and no increased risk to gender registration misuse. There is no inherent risk in these reforms. Conservative claims in this regard are entirely misplaced, borderline hysteria when it comes to single-sex places, and driven by an agenda of fear and division.

Some of the key principles that underpin this bill include that biological factors are not the only relevant factors in determining sex. Both self-perception and how others perceive a person are relevant and just as important as physical characteristics. Collapsing sex and gender reflects the changing expectations of being able to accurately describe a person's identity beyond a rigid demarcation of two binary sexes. In fact, it is the preferred approach of the Queensland Human Rights Commission.

Our community is gender diverse and our current rigid systems often result in discrimination and distress. There can be no denying that. The changes in this bill will have an enormous impact on lives. Some of our community's most vulnerable people will be positively impacted as a result of these changes. This is an opportunity for us as legislators to validate identities and create a more inclusive and fairer state where everyone is valued and able to engage more equitably. We do not stand to lose through these reforms; we only stand to gain through them. Every single one of us has value, and no single one of us has more value than the other. We as leaders have a responsibility to create a better, fairer Queensland, and this bill does that. That is why these reforms have my complete support.

Sitting suspended from 12.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (2.00 pm): I have heard members of the government who support this legislation say it is important not to label people and they have then turned around and labelled opponents of this bill as extremists or fringe. That means the gay mum of a young girl who contacted me in opposition to this bill, according to Labor members opposite, is an extremist or a fringe element of the community and should not be listened to. Parents who are genuinely concerned for the rights of their young female children are worried that they will not have any support if they raise concerns about biological men having access to women's toilets. That means others who have raised a range of genuine issues about this legislation will have Labor government members saying, 'Don't listen to them. They're fringe and they're extremist.'

I put to this House that, if we are truly going to be tolerant and genuinely listen to the different voices, those sorts of labels are going to shut down the very people who not only need to be heard but also need in many circumstances our support and protection. People's lived experience—where they may have faced domestic violence or security issues around their personal space—should not be ignored because Labor government members have said that they are extremist or fringe.

I have heard the government and the Attorney-General say that they do not believe there is evidence to back up people's fears about having biological men accessing women's safe spaces. They are simply not listening. They are not listening to the many women who have lived experiences and have faced genuine issues around perpetrators who have taken away their ability to feel safe. These women have a genuine need—as do many women in our community—to women-only safe spaces. The government are not listening because they are hypocrites. They preach tolerance and then they practise intolerance.

Having compassion and understanding for transgender people and gender dysphoric children is important, but achieving that should not come at the expense of women's rights—and that is where this bill fails. Women have had to fight for their rights over the generations for women-only spaces and services for good reason. Today this state Labor government undermines the rights of women by providing for gender self-identity in this bill—where a biological man can self-identify as a woman. This has cascading impacts when read in combination with anti-discrimination laws. This state Labor government is ignoring the voices of women from diverse political and social backgrounds who have expressed genuine concerns that this bill undermines the fundamental rights of women, particularly the right for women to have women-only spaces and services.

I have received correspondence from people from across a spectrum of backgrounds and from a variety of ideological backgrounds. It has come from people who you might say may not always have common ideology but who share a common concern with this legislation. As I have mentioned, I have been contacted by gay constituents who want this bill opposed and they have expressed their concerns. I have been contacted by straight people who have also expressed their concerns. As I said, these people come from across a spectrum of backgrounds and very different backgrounds. Why don't their voices count when we listen to Labor members who want to label them and say they should not be heard?

Women have a right to be safe and they also have a right to feel safe—and that is what has been fundamentally missing from a lot of the defence the government has put up for bringing this forward. Not only do you have the right to be safe, you also have the right to feel safe. People who have lived experiences where they have not been safe are now being told they have to put up with a biological man accessing women-only safe spaces or else they will be labelled as being intolerant. That just does not cut it; it does not make them feel safe. Members on the other side say that they should feel safe because they can quote this or that study, but there are other studies that dispute the government's claims. However, there is no disputing a woman's right to feel safe and that is why I particularly speak strongly on behalf of those diverse constituents who have put forward their concerns to me.

Having a biological man who has self-identified as a woman or who claims they identify as a woman accessing women's safe spaces, such as women's toilets or women-only jails or DV shelters, is a risk to women's safety and a risk, as I have said, to their right to feel safe when they are in a women-only space. If you have ever talked to women who have faced abuse or violence, you would know that their right to feel safe matters as much as being safe. This has been totally ignored and belittled by some of the government's dismissals of women's concerns.

Why doesn't the government get this? Dismissing women's concerns about their safety is like blaming women; it is putting it on them and saying, 'It's your fault if you have concerns about your safety.' It is somehow the women's fault and the government is downplaying their very real concerns. I have heard nothing from the Attorney-General that in any way provides the safeguards or the satisfaction to those very real concerns. Having biological men in women-only spaces is not okay and this bill will make it harder for women to have those rights respected going forward after what I have heard from Labor members opposite. There is also the issue around girls sport and a range of other matters. As I have said, we need to have compassion and understanding for children, particularly gender dysphoric children, and how they are best supported, but this bill is not the way to achieve that.

I want to quote from some letters I received from constituents. It does concern me that their views somehow are not on the agenda of this government. This particular constituent said—

For every law-abiding transsexual/transgender person, there are probably many more non-transgender predators who would love this legislation, in order to get access to women's spaces. You may think that this is unlikely, but just consider the obsessive forces driving paedophiles and many sex offenders and voyeurs, and maybe you can comprehend that they are quite prepared to do a bit of pretence, to get what they want. Most of these people would never make any use of the legislation to actually change their birth certificate, but once you make it known that changing gender involves really nothing more than self-declaration, it changes the culture. It makes it seem acceptable for men to use the women's change rooms for example, merely by saying they feel womanly. Predators will be quite prepared to pretend to be women, in order to seek out their prey—be they women or children. This is already being seen in regions that are further along this track.

The letter goes on—

The current gender ideology dogma has become that for a man to "be" a woman, they do not necessarily need hormones or surgery or anything. They don't actually even need to make any attempt to look like a woman. Just a self-declaration of "womanliness" is enough to truly "be a woman" and to allow free access to spaces that are currently reserved for women and girls. Can you appreciate the safe-guarding problems here?

To also quote from another constituent, a gay mum of a young girl said—

Sex self-ID would be disastrous for women and girls—we essentially lose all female-only spaces—as self-ID means any male could self-declare a special 'identity' and, without having undergone any surgery or hormone treatment, gain access to all spaces designed for females only.


Another letter goes on to quote—

The argument that 'this won't happen' cannot be made. The things I have cited above have happened around the world, and many of these events are not rare. Another major objection ...

It goes on to state—

People making rational objections to this legislation will predictably be smeared as being 'transphobic' and 'bigoted'. It is not transphobic or bigoted to be concerned—

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (2.10 pm): At its core, this bill is about two things: firstly, it is about ensuring that Queensland's registration services remain relevant, responsive and contemporary by modernising its practices; and secondly, it is about allowing our registration services here in our great state to better recognise our diverse community and to make sure that our registration services are promoting diversity and equality.

On the issue of modernising, since 2004 when the current bill was enacted, a lot has changed. Over that time we have had significant operational changes at the registry such as increased online applications, along with an increased need for appropriate data use, protection and the prevention of identity theft and fraud. This bill will result in improvements in the operation of the registry, increased fraud prevention and clarify the information collection, use and sharing powers of the registrar. This is important stuff when you consider the import of the register.

Turning to the second aim of this bill and the part of the bill that has attracted most of the debate that we are seeing in this chamber today, which is around allowing our registration services to better recognise our diverse community, particularly as it relates to trans and gender-diverse members of our community. I represent a community in Bundamba that is incredibly diverse. It is an incredibly tolerant community. Our diversity is one of our greatest strengths. We need to ensure that as community

representatives we are taking action to back up our commitment to promoting diversity and inclusion in our local communities. It is through reforms such as the ones that are contained in this bill that we can take those words and turn them into actions that will actually drive real change.


Trans and gender-diverse people, under the reforms in this bill, will no longer be required to undertake sexual reassignment surgery to formally register a change of sex. The current system and the current act unnecessarily medicalises the recognition of a person's lived identity. It is also very important, as part of this debate, that we acknowledge that surgery is not always wanted nor appropriate for trans people. It is incredibly inaccessible and very expensive—up to \$100,000—and it is incredibly invasive. The reforms that are in this bill are about making sure that a person's legal identity matches their lived identity. A birth certificate has a deep social and emotional resonance for people.

Some speaking to this bill have made reference to the submission of the Human Rights Commission. I have had a look at that. That submission supports this bill, stating that it—

... delivers reforms which are essential to ensure the privacy, freedom of expression and equality before the law of people accessing Queensland's birth registration system—in particular, trans and gender diverse people and diverse families including same-sex families or same-sex parent families.

I acknowledge that the submission also makes recommendations around other ways to perhaps improve or change the reforms, but it is very clear that the Queensland Human Rights Commission supports this bill, as does the Queensland Family and Child Commission.

I do not propose to take my full speaking time because I know that there are a lot of speakers who would like to contribute to this debate, but I would like to conclude my contribution by acknowledging the presence in the public gallery of a lady by the name of Tuisina who is a Darra local who has come here to support her community. When I stand up to support this bill, I am standing up to support people like Tuisina, and I am standing up to support people in our community who support all of the diversity that exists in our great community. I can only commend this bill to the House in the strongest possible terms.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (2.16 pm): This is an historic moment for Queensland. This bill will allow intersex, transgender and gender-queer people greater control over their personal documentation and identification. In doing so, this bill is a prominent and public recognition of the diverse, physiological, social and gender spectrum on which we all sit. I want to thank and congratulate the trans and gender-queer community, the intersex community, the broader LGBTQIA+ community and all of their allies and supporters who continue to fight for recognition and respect of diversity.

Two years ago, I was incredibly proud to sponsor a petition to parliament from Maiwar local, now fellow Greens member and dear friend, Esther Vale, calling on this document to reform documentation laws to better recognise trans and gender-diverse people. In her petition, Esther wrote:

People should have the right to legally register as they self-identify. This means removing the requirement for a person to undergo sex reassignment surgery to change the sex listed on their birth certificate. The sex marker should also be changed without 'annotation', as there is no reason for these documents to out people.

In its response to Esther's petition, the government committed to update our registry laws. While this bill was introduced nearly a year later than promised, it will bring Queensland into line with other states, and I am incredibly grateful and proud to see that happen.

This is an important bill for non-binary and gender-queer people. By creating an opt-in approach for including sex markers on a birth certificate and allowing people to choose a gender marker other than male or female, we recognise that a binary understanding of gender, based on simplistic, physiological categorisation, is insufficient to describe the complexity of human biology, thinking, relationships and social behaviour.

It is an important bill for intersex people. By passing this bill, we acknowledge that not everyone is born with physical features like genitals, chromosomes or hormones that neatly fit a binary category. Intersex people are incredibly common. For every 200 children born, approximately three will have genital, chromosomal or hormonal characteristics that do not match what is considered typical for the rest of the population. This bill acknowledges that people who are born intersex have the right to decide for themselves what this means for them and who they are and to have this legally recognised in their documentation.

This is an important bill for trans people. By removing the requirement for surgery before changing a gender marker on a birth certificate we acknowledge that gender is not definite and immutable but ambiguous and nuanced. Each of us has a right to documentation that reflects who we are and the relationship we have with ourselves and the community around us.

It is an important bill for families. By giving more options for the terminology to register parents on a birth certificate we recognise that not every family is just one father, one mother and their traditionally conceived children. Our communities include many such families but also include families with queer partners, families whose children are born with the aid of IVF, families whose children are birthed by transmen and non-binary people.

This important legal recognition for intersex, queer and trans people and their families has been a very long time in the making. Thank you to Professor Noah Riseman from the Australian Catholic University for including in his submission a brief history of the struggle, which I think is very important for us to reflect on as lawmakers.

Many cultures across the world and for thousands of years accepted people transitioning gender roles or had additional gender roles other than just man and woman. In this country 'brotherboy', 'sistergirl' and 'two-spirit' are common English translations of First Nations words and concepts which were used to describe members of the community well before colonisation. The moral panic and toxic culture war over trans people's lives is much more recent.

In the west it was only around the end of the 19th century that we started to see moral panic being pushed by bigots over what had, until that point, been considered a pretty constant and accepted part of human communities. Since then the struggle for queer liberation has been concurrent with the struggle against racism, sexism, imperialism, capitalism and the struggle for workers and ordinary people.

In the eighties in Queensland the acts of the right-wing Bjelke-Petersen government included, amongst the general suppression of workers and the left, gross discrimination against queer people. Openly queer people were barred from the Public Service and up until 1991 gay men in Queensland could be sent to prison for seven years for having consensual sex. It was a coalition of workers, queer activists, Aboriginal activists, unionists and anti-racists that not only secured an end to the Bjelke-Petersen government but ended gay criminalisation and won the introduction of anti-discrimination laws. However, trans people fell outside the remit of these anti-discrimination protections. It was around this time in addition to trans people fighting for the same right to protection that was being afforded to others on the basis of gender, sexuality, race and religion that trans people and their allies across the country also began to push for changes to documentation laws.

As early as 1979 birth certificate revision for people who had undergone gender-affirmation surgery was a standing item for the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General. This is not a recent trend or a fad, as some like to claim and have claimed in this debate. In 1992 Kerri Petrie, founder of the Australian Transgender Support Association of Queensland, made a submission to the Electoral and Administrative Review Commission into a proposed human rights bill calling for trans people to be allowed to make changes to their documentation regardless of whether they had undergone gender-affirming surgery. The commission endorsed Petrie's submission stating, 'recognition of an individual's right to determine their own sex is paramount and should not necessarily be dependent on a willingness to suffer onerous medical intervention'. That is from 1992.

Activists eventually won protection for trans people under the Anti-Discrimination Act and the right for those who had had surgery to update their details. In 2014 other jurisdictions around Australia began recognising trans people who had not had surgery and their right to appropriate documentation. In Queensland we are now finally removing the surgery requirement as well as exemptions in the Anti-Discrimination Act that allow employers to discriminate against trans and gender-diverse folk and sex workers on the basis of outdated, prejudiced ideas that they are somehow inherently unfit to work with children.

I reached out to Esther, the campaigner who gathered more than 10,000 signatures for this cause, for her thoughts on the bill. I think it is important that her voice is heard at the end of decades of struggle by trans people for these changes. She said—

It's not easy being trans when you have to face discrimination, hatred and legal gatekeeping. We just want the same opportunities to live a good life as everyone else without being put into undue stress and hardship. The common-sense change to allow certificates to match who people are without requiring surgery lowers one of those discriminatory barriers, and lets people focus more on living their life than jumping legal hurdles.

Of course, there is still more this bill could have done. For example, submitters like Intersex Human Rights Australia raised concerns that requiring parents of intersex children to register a sex within 180 days could incentivise pre-emptive, premature surgery and recommended that the limit be

removed altogether. Equality Tasmania and the LGBTI Legal Service recommended removing the two-parent limit on a birth certificate for families where, for example, a lesbian couple wishes to also recognise a sperm donor as a parent.

In Esther's petition she also noted that the cost of making a change to one's birth certificate functions as a prohibitive trans tax. Although this bill creates a legislative basis for exercising conventions around case-by-case fee waivers, too many people will still be prevented from accessing accurate documentation due to the prohibitive cost. That is why I intend to move amendments to scrap fees for accessing and updating key identity documentation like a birth certificate, and I will table a copy of those amendments, the statement of compatibility and the explanatory notes now.

*Tabled paper:* Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022, amendments to be moved by Mr Michael Berkman MP [\[855\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022, explanatory notes to Mr Michael Berkman's amendments [\[856\]](#).


*Tabled paper:* Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Mr Michael Berkman's amendments [\[857\]](#).

At a time when Queenslanders are already struggling with rising costs of living and financial stress, this is just one way we can make sure our most vulnerable do not fall further behind. They may be a mother and child leaving an abusive relationship, a refugee who has fled war or someone who has had their home destroyed by flood or fire. Regardless of their situation, almost no-one is changing or replacing these documents for fun and they should not have to face \$200 fees or filling out more forms and paperwork to request a waiver on top of everything else.

In their submissions Equality Australia, Amnesty International and ATSILS all supported waiving fees to remove financial barriers to accessing up-to-date documentation. The Greens amendments would ensure this barrier is removed on a universal basis because we believe documents that are essential to participating in public life should be free. Lack of accurate documentation prevents people enrolling in school, obtaining a driver's licence, getting a job, opening a bank account, accessing government benefits and applying for private and public housing. ATSILS note in their submission that First Nations people are 10 times more likely than the rest of the population to suffer from legal invisibility due to this. By removing these fees and making documentation services free, we can ensure that the intent of this bill is fully realised and that all Queenslanders can have up-to-date and accurate documentation that reflects their identity and allows them to participate in public life.

I thank Labor for listening to the community and supporting a bill with so many positives. I, again, want to thank all of those who have campaigned and fought for these rights over the years. Thank you and congratulations. We are with you for whatever comes next.

*(Time expired)*

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (2.26 pm): I rise to support the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill, landmark legislation based on respect and recognition for diverse Queenslanders. With the changes in this bill, trans and gender-diverse Queenslanders will be able to update their gender on their birth certificate without the need for surgery. Instead of having to repeatedly out themselves when applying for work or education or to access services, they will be able to access birth certificate and other ID documents that align with their gender. That simple change will create less risk of discrimination in the everyday scenarios that cis people take for granted. The bill also ensures that birth certificates better recognise the many kinds of families in Queensland and allows parents to describe their relationship to their child on legal documents in ways that are true to that family.

I call on all members to support the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill as an opportunity to make a real and positive impact on the lives of so many Queenslanders, especially young Queenslanders. Ultimately, inclusivity is not an abstract concept; it has real impacts, and our actions in this House have real impacts. Young Queenslanders are watching us. They are watching this debate to see if their members of parliament respect them or if they make up excuses and objections or invoke hateful stereotypes like we heard from the member for Maroochydore.

Most of us were young once, perhaps with the exception of the member for Callide. I am sure that many of us remember the terrible things that routinely happened to young people who were different: the abuse, the beatings, the shunning. Where I grew up young people who did not conform had no choice but to hide their truth or to leave.

Community members have had a lot to say about this bill and overwhelmingly I have found that they have been supportive, especially young people. Their only question is why it did not happen sooner. However, I understand that in some of our communities, especially for some older people, the


cultural shifts we have seen around gender in recent decades have been challenging. I do accept and hear that. I want to say to those people, though, that the Queensland we live in now is a better, kinder place than the Queensland of the past and that our children and their children are better off for that kindness. What I absolutely cannot accept, though, is people who seek to characterise their hatred of trans people and their discomfort with gender diversity as somehow standing up for women.

Women continue to face a lot of risks to their safety. We face a significant lifetime risk of assault, sexual assault and DV. What the evidence shows supremely clearly, though, is that it is not trans people who assault and harm us as women. If you are actively fostering intolerance towards trans people, you are not protecting female spaces and identities; you are being hateful. Of all the significant issues that women face, you are preoccupied by a threat that is not even in the top one thousand.

I wish that we had seen some courage from LNP members, even in quiet support, for this bill. Instead we have seen and heard pettifogging, process objections and the LNP's shambolic shamefaced refusal to support these important reforms. We have heard disgraceful contributions from the member for Everton, the member for Maroochydore and others. What the LNP fails to recognise every single time these matters come up for debate is that Queenslanders are the experts in their own lives and identities. Who are we in this place to stand in their way? No wonder so many young people reject the LNP in increasing numbers. Young people want governments to get their barriers to their happiness and their mental health out of the way of themselves and their peers—not try to find excuses for maintaining a harmful status quo.

This bill is a step towards building a more inclusive Queensland that embraces the diversity of its citizens and that cares about addressing the barriers that they face. Change like this does not come without courage and conviction. I thank everyone who campaigned for these reforms over such a long period of time, particularly members of Rainbow Labor. I commend the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill to the House.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Before I call the next speaker, can I do a general reminder to all members not to walk in front of the speaker on their feet when members are getting water. In regards to the debate, I know that many of the people making interjections at the moment are on the speaking list, so I would ask you to restrain yourself and wait for your opportunity to contribute to the debate and I will ensure there is an orderly debate for your contribution, as well.

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (2.31 pm): From the outset, I and my LNP colleagues stand for a Queensland that is free from discrimination and a Queensland where respect flourishes and all people are valued. Any and all vilification of discrimination against trans people is completely unacceptable. That respect extends to this debate. That being said, we hold a number of reservations regarding this bill.

Firstly, I take issue with the consultation period for this bill—it was far too short for such a significant piece of legislation. I note that there were three rounds of consultation on some of the concepts on this bill, but the bill we are debating today is substantially different from the consultation draft that was sent out to specifically selected bodies for discussion. When public holidays and the Christmas period are accounted for, the consultation period on this bill was only about two weeks. As the Queensland Law Society remarked—

The reforms proposed in the Bill are significant and will have wide-ranging implications for Queenslanders ... It is in all our best interests to ensure proposed laws work as effectively and efficiently as possible, and this requires meaningful and robust consultation with stakeholders. Short consultations held during the Christmas and New Year shut down period will not yield the best legislation for the people of Queensland.

Stakeholders felt rushed and were unable to adequately prepare but, despite this hasty process, there was significant public interest in this topic. The committee received 385 submissions: 170 were supportive of the bill but notably, 208 were not. That is an overwhelming majority taking issue with this bill. A wide range of issues and unforeseen consequences that had not been properly considered or addressed by the government were highlighted. One such issue commented on by several submitters—Pride in Law, Australian Christian Lobby, Multicultural Australia and the Queensland Law Society—was the unintended consequences that will flow from the bill's conflation of sex and gender. In summary, the QLS stated—

Previous consultation drafts of the Bill contemplated that sex and gender would be distinct concepts with different meanings and protections, where a person who registers a gender would not be deemed to have changed their biological sex for legal purposes ... The distinction between sex and gender is consistent with the *Australian Government Guidelines on the Recognition of Sex and Gender*, as well as other Australian bodies, the World Health Organisation, and other international jurisdictions, such as the United Kingdom and Canada, all of which acknowledge a distinction between sex and gender.

Yet, the bill in its current form brings the concepts of sex and gender together. The Tasmanian Law Reform Institute, which has undertaken a significant amount of work in this area said—

... there is increasing acceptance that sex and gender are different concepts, and that neither concept is combined to binary classifications.

It goes on to say—

However there is often a lack of understanding of the breadth of sex characteristics and gender identity.

For the minister to imply that there is universal acceptance of the proposal put forward in this legislation to combine sex with gender without distinction is plainly incorrect.

Another issue of concern raised by Jigsaw Queensland is around the changes to parenting descriptors and the impact of this on adoption searches. They made the point that the accurate recording of biological parentage is important to their members and clients and stated that there should remain an effective documentary trail of evidence connecting a person's current and past identities.

Given the significant number of concerns raised with aspects of this bill, the committee recommended that an audit be undertaken to identify any amendments required. It is telling that the committee had to recommend this. The reality is that unintended consequences should have been looked at by the government before bringing this legislation before the parliament.

The committee also heard from parents of children who identify as trans or have gender dysphoria. It became abundantly clear that these parents share grave concerns about the healthcare services offered to their children, particularly if the child is also dealing with mental health issues. My colleagues and I want to ensure all children are given the support they need to thrive in an age-appropriate framework, but the approach in this bill that allows children under the age of 16 upon application to the Children's Court to change their gender on a birth certificate if the child's parent or parents do not consent to the change, is concerning.

The recent study titled *Developmental pathway choices of young people presenting to a gender service with gender distress: a prospective follow-up study* studied the developmental pathway choices of 79 young people who had presented to the New South Wales Children's Hospital Westmead gender clinic. Ultimately the study concluded, 'In the era of evidence-based medicine, the evidence base pertaining to the gender-affirming medical pathway is sparse and, for the young people who may regret their choice of pathway at a future point in time, the risks for potential harm are significant.'

The Attorney-General in her second reading speech said, 'The bill does not change the ability of parents or persons with parental responsibility to seek the necessary supports for their children' and went on to say, 'The bill before the House today is about creating an accessible process for legal affirmation.' Therein lies the problem. This bill is firmly planted in the affirmation model of care, whereas the committee heard overwhelming evidence from loving parents trying to best support their children who are identifying as trans. These parents want this government to support the option of individualised care. This bill does not do that.

The number of children receiving puberty blockers by the state-run clinic, Queensland Children's Gender Service, has dramatically increased since the gender-affirming model was adopted. In 2014, it was two children; in 2021, it was 70 children; and at its height in 2018, 171 children were receiving puberty blockers from the state facility in Queensland. It is my understanding that the evidence points to children who receive puberty blockers in Tanner's stage 2 of their development and then subsequently go on to use cross-sex hormones—around 98 per cent of all children on puberty blockers—will be infertile and will not have the capacity for sexual pleasure. Males who take oestrogen for one year will be rendered permanently infertile. Females who are taking testosterone will have a reduction in their fertility and experience vaginal atrophy and risk requiring a hysterectomy. Cross-sex hormones have a range of side effects, for example cardiovascular risks for females on testosterone, stroke and cancer risk for males on oestrogen. Puberty blockers cause a young person's bone density to stagnate, and they also have cognitive and emotional impacts.

With all these very serious and life-changing consequences in mind, I want this parliament to hear the voice of one of my concerned constituents. This loving mum wrote to me and stated—

We attend a psychologist and she is gender affirming. Every time we go she speaks to me alone and tells me how awful I am for not supporting medical intervention.

...



I love my child beyond my own life and I have cared for them every minute of their whole life. It really hurts me that I cannot find support, or that I am seen as transphobic. All I want is individualised care. I am not a no to transgenderism; I just think there should be a process of care.

...


I talk to anyone that will listen and most people don't even know transgenderism is such a huge and growing issue, but all are shocked that children who are renowned for being confused as teens, trying to figure out who they are and how they fit in the world and undertaking risky behaviours to fit in with peers are given the freedom to make these life-altering decisions.

...

They can't get a piercing, tattoo, drink or drive because we deem them not capable until 18, but they can make these huge forever decisions without parental involvement. I do believe this Bill will cause harm to our children and beg you to reconsider it. Support parents to care for our children.

This story is just one of many that highlights the problems with this bill. Parents are deeply concerned about the infringement of parental rights proposed by part 5. By entrenching in law a legal process for affirmation for children, this bill is failing to listen to the voices of thousands of loving parents who want individualised care for their children. I support trans and gender diversity, I support women and I support all of their rights to be safe in our community and to have recognition of their legal identity, but I take issue with the way this bill is drafted in its application to children and in particular children under the age of 16. The majority of submissions that were received were opposed to the bill, and in particular the majority were opposed to the part of the bill that deals with children. I cannot support the bill because of its current drafting and all of the consequences I have outlined in this contribution, and in particular because of its application to children.

I want to leave the Palaszczuk government with the following questions: what is the Palaszczuk government doing to protect Queensland children with gender dysphoria from harms that may follow from the ongoing prescription of puberty blockers from the state-run facility Queensland Children's Gender Service? I call on the Queensland government to conduct a systemic review of the evidence for the use of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones for the treatment of gender dysphoria in children and adolescents.

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (2.40 pm): I begin by acknowledging the work of the former attorney-general and our current Attorney-General. I want to thank the committee and I also want to thank our good friends in Rainbow Labor who have advocated for this for so long, and what a wonderful day this will be for so many of those proud activists and proud members of our great party. I also want to thank one of my staff members, Austin Allen. Austin has a diverse range of friends and I called upon Austin and asked him to enable me to meet with his friends who identify as trans people. It was wonderful to have Marcus Monagle and Reina Johns come into the office on a Saturday afternoon. We sat down and had a great conversation. I also want to acknowledge Sasha Walters and the contribution that he has provided to me to read out later.

Marcus and Reina shared with me their stories along the journey. It is a self-journey, and I think that is what we really need to understand. I want to acknowledge the member for Macalister and her contribution earlier today when she said that this bill is not for everybody but it is for the people whose lives it is going to change. That is what is so important about this and that is why I felt it was so important to listen to Marcus and to Reina. They described their journey. They described the difficulty of their journey and the difficulty in taking their family along the path with them. They spoke about the psychological pathways that they have to endure but also the positive health supports that have been provided to them through the gender clinic in Brisbane. They also acknowledged and Reina especially spoke about the negative interactions that she had had with her GP when first reaching out to have this conversation and have these discussions about how best to become the person that she believes she is, and I thank them both for their courage to come in and have those conversations.


Marcus shared with me the difficulty that he faced at the workplace where he was constantly asked time and time and time again to explain why on the birth certificate or on the driver's licence or on any other form of identification at that time it would recognise the sex was female when Marcus was saying, 'Call me Marcus. That's who I am. That is who I am. I am Marcus.' There was also the difficulty that Marcus experienced in then having to leave that workplace later on. That is why this bill is important because we need to create a safe place for everyone in Queensland and a safe place for all Queenslanders. I want to share a quote that Sasha has provided for me to read out today—

The ability to change my sex on my birth certificate without needing to undergo surgery would be indescribably helpful. While being able to access hormones in Australia is difficult in itself, it is affordable. Prices for hormones typically range from \$7-\$40, whereas surgery is not in any way, shape or form affordable and can range from \$5000 to \$50,000 depending on what you need done.

This puts myself and many other transgender individuals in danger, as we can afford the hormones to look the opposite sex but not the surgeries to have our documents match up. Having this discrepancy between appearance and documents leads to discrimination in all areas of life, such as in the workplace, finding housing and when attempting to seek medical care.

It also impacts us socially, as I have personally experienced bathroom harassment where I had my ID taken from me and thrown on the floor because it wasn't sufficiently 'matching' for the person. It would change my life for the better and ensure that myself, and many other transgender and gender diverse individuals, are able to move throughout society much more safely.

I thank Reina, I thank Sasha and I thank Marcus for their conversations. There are many more avenues I could go into around this bill. I could be critical of the criticisms that have been put forward, but I want to leave this in the positive words that Marcus, Reina and Sasha have provided because, as I mentioned earlier, the member for Macalister put it so well: this is a bill for people who are seeking the voice and seeking their safety through this legislation. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (2.45 pm): I start by stating that I do not agree with and nor will I be supporting this bill. We are faced with some significant issues in Queensland right now. We have families with their backs to the wall financially; people on the streets because of a lack of affordable housing; the cost of living; electricity prices skyrocketing; a health system in crisis, particularly in regional Queensland; and youth crime that is out of control and costing lives. Yet here we are debating whether or not to allow gender identity to be changed on one's birth certificate to apparently redefine 'sex' as either male or female. This bill is poorly conceived, misleading and confusing. As pointed out in many of the submissions against this bill, the European Institute for Gender Equality provides very extensive definitions of 'sex' and 'gender'. 'Sex' refers to the biological and physiological characteristics that define humans as male or female. It states—

Gender refers to the social attributes and opportunities associated with being male and female and the relationships between women and men and girls and boys, as well as the relations between women and those between men.

My point is that, biologically, we are born male or female. In very minute circumstances, there are hermaphrodites. We cannot escape this fact. No matter what legislation, argument, opinion, political persuasion, research or study are presented, we are born male or female. That is it. I do not agree with any changes to the registry—none whatsoever. However, if the government was serious about pursuing this ideology, it would have made more sense and been simpler to keep 'sex' as male or female and just include an additional line for gender identity on the birth certificate, so your sex remains male or female but your gender identity is whatever you want. The average Queenslanders could not care less what a person identifies as in this new day and age. However, to change a legal document to satisfy one section of society is ridiculous and could lead to serious legal ramifications and social issues. One of these I wish to highlight is outlined in the Australian Christian Lobby's submission, which states that this bill—

... provides a legal pathway for male access to female-only spaces ... and is viewed by many in the community as controversial and dangerous.

As also pointed out, Queenslanders have every right to question the granting of access for biological males to female-only spaces. This is neither transphobic nor irrational, and anyone who uses those words to shut down or criticise debate today is out of order. The submission goes on to state—

Men's sexual violence against adult women ... is a pressing reason to reject the entry of males to sex segregated women's facilities. The problem of creating a 'right' for men to enter women's toilets is that some men have a clear interest in the sexual excitements that they can access by violating women's right to ... dignity in such places.

As highlighted in a speech to the Queensland parliament in December last year, the former attorney-general said—

We also know that some groups will try to cloak their transphobia in the guise of women's safety—making claims about trans women accessing women's spaces, including change rooms or even domestic violence shelters.

To counter this, and as stated by the ACL, I also believe this comment was inappropriate and designed to gag concerned feminist groups from expressing genuine concern on this sensitive issue. In fact, a submission from a clinical psychologist with 50 years of clinical practice states very clearly—

My experience with sex offenders taught me that they are very good at what they do, they are drawn to places where they can access their victims, they will use any ruse to target their victims and they never feel guilt or empathy.


The submission further states—

This proposed bill, in my view, is a gift to sex offenders of any level of seriousness.

A man who identifies as a woman is legally allowed to access any female spaces: refuges, lesbian groups, change rooms, sports and so on, and a woman's right to complain is denied. We have also seen in recent years a concerted push to allow males who identify as transgender to compete in

women's sports and competitions. This is after decades of women fighting for their rights and recognition as equals in the sporting world. Now the government wants to open the door and tear that down to allow biological males to legally compete against women. Even women who argue against this are labelled and branded transphobic. Fortunately we have seen some sanity prevail with the World Athletics body banning transgender athletes from competing against women and we have seen Basketball Australia follow suit. I have no issue with transgender athletes competing in sport, but they can fight, just as women did, for their own specific competitions.

The concerns outlined in my speech and in many of the submissions to the bill are legitimate ones and should not be tossed aside or demeaned through name-calling in this debate. Again I repeat that I believe that this is a poorly conceived bill that will only cause further long-term damage to the wider community and which I will not be supporting.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.51 pm): I proudly stand to support the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022 before us today. There are many things that I could say about what this bill can deliver, but I will start by talking about the contributions that I have been listening to from the members opposite. Why are they so obsessed with how women are defined? Why do they want to constantly control how a woman is defined? Why does feminine identity pose such a threat to the LNP? And why does the LNP want to be the arbiter of gender? As the member for Macalister says, I think this says more about them than it says about anything else.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr KELLY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): Before I deal with your point of order, member for Greenslopes, member for Nanango, any further outbursts like that and I will warn you under the standing orders. The same goes for all members of the House. Member for Greenslopes, what is your point of order?

**Mr KELLY:** I found some of the commentary from the member for Kawana to be unparliamentary and I would ask that that be withdrawn.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will take some advice and I will take it in silence. There is no point of order.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I do not need your assistance, member for Nanango.

**Mr WHITING:** We can see the LNP struggling to say relevant things in this debate. We see so many pauses. We are seeing many searching for the words to say. We hear so many bad arguments from the other side. I say to them: if you cannot make a decent argument, why not accept that you are wrong? I say to those opposite: you are in an ideological cul-de-sac.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member on his feet is constantly referring to the term 'you' and I ask you to draw the member back to the debate where we should be addressed appropriately.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Bancroft will put his comments through the chair.


**Mr WHITING:** I say to the LNP that they are in an ideological cul-de-sac. I say to them they cannot go forward. I say to them: reverse out of there—get out of there; you have nowhere left to go in this debate. Once again the LNP is dealing with absolutism—that is a man, that is a woman and never shall these definitions cross or alter—but we know that such absolutism does not last when someone you love, someone from your family or your friendship circle, cannot fit neatly into those definitions. Boxes are broken and we need to accommodate that. That is true love. I say to those people in this chamber that their hard and fast positions will change when they do have to accommodate the people that they love.

I have heard members opposite today obsess over issues such as medical intervention for young people. I say to those members stop focusing on this as a problem. I say to them trust people to have the agency to make their own decisions. The best that they can do is just give them unconditional love. That is all that they have to do.

**Ms Pease:** Open your hearts!

**Mr WHITING:** I take the interjection from the member for Lytton: open your hearts. Finally, I want to say thank you to someone in the gallery today, someone who from the age of 12 has been making their own decisions about their own path and their own identity in life. I am talking about Caden Neate.

I have spoken of Caden in this place before. Caden is an example to all of us of personal courage and conviction. Since an early age—and I have known him since he was four years old—I have seen him take control of his own life and his own identity. I have seen him speak out, speak up—even as a student in high school—to defend the path he is on and defend the choices he has made. I say to Caden: your strength and determination are an inspiration for all who know you. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.57 pm): The Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill is an attack on women, it is an attack on women's rights and it is an attack on young girls. I note the Attorney-General who has carriage of this bill now was not the Attorney-General who introduced the bill. I am intrigued that the now Attorney-General who has carriage of the bill used to be the Attorney-General, and if it was such a priority of the government why did former attorney-general D'Ath not champion this reform when she was the attorney-general and she had the power to do it? Are we seeing the bill being debated today because the now Attorney-General is in the right faction of the Labor Party and attorney-general Fentiman was in the left faction of the Labor Party? If the Attorney-General who has carriage of it now had the courage of her convictions, why was this bill not introduced when she, for many years, was the attorney-general?

As I said, this bill is an attack on women, it is an attack on women's rights and it is an attack on children's rights in Queensland. There are two aspects of this bill that concern me the most and they are contained in part 2 and part 5. Addressing my concerns in relation to part 2, the committee report states—

To provide for an inclusive approach, the Bill proposes to retain the term 'mother' in the context of how a child's parent may be registered and uses the gender-neutral term 'birth parent' which refers to—

are you ready for this, Mr Deputy Speaker—

'the person, of any sex, who gave birth to the child'

Only one sex can give birth to a child, and that is a woman. They are being degraded in this bill by now being referred to as 'birth parent'. What happened to the old Labor Party that would defend and stand up for women? Where are the feminists in the Labor Party? Where are the Emily's List members of the Labor Party defending women and defending women's rights, which have been eroded? Where are the Labor Party women standing up and saying, 'No, we don't want to be called "birth parent". We want to be called "woman". We want to be called "mother".' This bill erodes that. I place on this record that the committee report states—

Some submitters raised concerns that the proposed parenting descriptors (being mother/father/parent) would reflect something other than biological parentage on the child's birth certificate. The Coalition of Activist Lesbians Inc commented that 'only biologically female people give birth to human babies'.

That is a scientific fact.

Part 5 of the bill is even more concerning. It is the new framework for acknowledgement of sex. It says essentially that once a year a person can go to the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages and apply to change the record of sex as their identity on their birth certificate. As it says in the committee report, under the framework a person will be able to nominate a sex descriptor of their choice—male, female or any other descriptor of a sex such as trans, transman, transwoman, agender, genderqueer or non-binary. The registrar will be required to refuse the application if the descriptor nominated is a prohibited sex descriptor, and it goes through some of those. That can occur once every 12 months.

As it says in the committee report, the most extensive changes proposed in the bill occur in part 5, which is the part that concerns me the most. The report states that it includes 'provisions relating to the requirements for altering a record of sex on the relevant child register'. During the inquiry the committee received 385 submissions. Of those submissions, 338 commented on part 5 of the bill, with 151 for the proposed amendments and 187 against. Of the submissions received on part 5 of the bill, the majority were against this particular part of the bill.

I will go through some of the submissions but firstly I want to address the issue of women's sports, which is also being debated today. This is a huge issue internationally. Women have fought for the right to participate in sports that have been long regarded as men's sports. Women have fought for the right to have their sports and to play the same sports. Now, the women are fighting—guess who? Men, again! They are fighting men in sport. They have long fought for the right to participate at an equal level—along with their female counterparts, sporting counterparts and friends—and now we see, internationally, that men are competing in women's sports yet the Labor Party women are silent on that.

**Mrs McMahon:** Yep.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take that interjection. They are absolutely silent on it. Everything that the feminist movement fought for is being eroded by this bill. Men are now playing sport and competing against women and—guess what? The men are winning the competition!

**Mrs McMahon:** Where?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The member for Macalister asks, 'Where?' I will get to that. I thank her because that is where I was going to go next in the debate. I will quote some Australian women sport stars. Raelene Boyle is an Australian track legend and three-time Olympic silver medallist. She says—

It's ridiculous. Of course they are going to be bigger and stronger. That's just the way it is. It doesn't matter how much oestrogen is taken. They still have higher levels of testosterone. It's difficult for people to train so hard—

**Mrs D'ATH:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order under relevance. I ask that the member be brought back to the bill. If the member can find somewhere in the bill that talks about decisions around whether trans people can compete in a particular sport and what side they support—

**Mr BLEIJIE:** It's in the committee report.

**Mrs D'ATH:** In the bill.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Bush): Members, I will hear the point of order in silence. I will take some advice.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana and members, I ask that there is no quarrelling while I consider my decision. Member for Kawana, if there is reference to sporting activities in the report then I will allow it. I would encourage you to come back to the other aspects of the bill and the report.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** My concern with part 5 of the bill, which relates to identity, is that when someone changes their birth certificate to identify as male they will be able to take that and participate in female sports. That is why the issue is raised in the committee report and it is why many members have spent so much time on it today. Raelene Boyle, Dawn Fraser, Emma McKeon, Emily Seebohm and Caitlyn Jenner—everyone knows Caitlyn Jenner—have opposed the idea that men can compete in women's sports. Caitlyn Jenner opposes that. You are then attacked, just as I am now being attacked by the member for Macalister, when people call you—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Because you talk about the rights of women they accuse you of being transphobic and all sorts of other insults. That is fine; people are used to it. This morning, JK Rowling tweeted that Johns Hopkins University has changed the definition of 'lesbian' to 'a non-man attracted to non-men'. Under the woke stuff we now see, a lesbian cannot even be properly defined as a 'woman' according to that university and institutions across the state.

In its submission, the Women's Forum Australia states—


We are a national organisation with supporters from across Australia ...

...

Like similar legislation passed in other jurisdictions ... sex as a legal concept would effectively be abolished with grave social, health, legal and other repercussions.

They go on to say that the legislation will have harmful implications for women and girls. Did the member read all of the submissions? There are hundreds of pages of submissions from women's groups—groups that usually the Labor Party would be quoting from. Usually they would be quoting from every feminist organisation and every women's organisation but, no, they are silent on all of the women's groups. They are completely dismissive of the women's groups. Not only are they dismissive of the women's groups; the women's groups say that former attorney-general Fentiman did not even give them the time of day and refused meetings with them to talk about women's rights and girls' rights.

The LGB Alliance are against it. The Coalition of Activist Lesbians Inc. are against it. The Feminist Legal Clinic are against this bill. International Women's Day Brisbane Meanjin are against it. FamilyVoice Australia are against it. The Women's Action Alliance Canberra are against the bill, as is the Australian Christian Lobby. On every group the Labor Party would generally come in here and quote from to support women and back women they are silent. The LNP will give women a voice. The LNP will give children a voice. We will protect women's and children's rights in the state of Queensland.

 **Mr HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (3.08 pm): I rise to contribute to the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022. Recently in this country we saw bona fide and ardent Nazis protecting their turf in Melbourne, coincidentally, at the same rally as anti-trans activist Kellie-Jay Keen-Minshull was speaking. That is a tragic marriage of conflicting ideas by every measure.

These types of speakers and some of our submitters were terribly keen that their voices be heard—and fair enough—and heard they were despite certain smokescreen objections around consultation time frames et cetera. Sadly, these same people were not as keen to listen. I find that disturbing, particularly from submitters who would normally be striving for equity on any other day.

My contribution today is different to my normal contributions in that very few of the words will be my own; instead, I asked three trans people whom I am blessed to call friends to give me their words so that I might relay them in this House. I will start with an exchange I had just last weekend with the organiser of the Sunshine Coast Mardi Gras. Mr Neil Car uttered a single sentence that will stay with me forever, more so because it has clearly been lost in the disingenuous ideological haze thrown up by the LNP. Neil said simply, 'Jason, this bill will save lives.' Those opposing this bill should reflect upon that. From Jamie, a man I worked with for a number of years, we have this—

When I started my transition I was lucky enough to have already had a reproductive surgery to qualify me for changing my gender on my birth certificate. Unfortunately what held me back from being able to get it done was the required 12 months on hormones and living this life to be able to go ahead with it. This was horrendous when presenting for job interviews. Here I was a trans man who presented as male and was passing, having to out myself when they saw my birth certificate. It was so embarrassing and demoralising and it can be so dangerous as you don't know who you are outing yourself to. You don't know who is going to react negatively to this. This is information that you shouldn't have to provide, you shouldn't have to 'out' yourself at a job interview. As I provided earlier I was lucky enough to have had the surgery but there are so many that are not so lucky.

There are studies done on the trans community that show a higher rate of unemployment even though a high percentage have a tertiary qualification, rather than out themselves in an interview trans people don't want to put themselves into a situation where they will experience the discrimination or even the danger.

Having to sit across from interviewers and see the looks on their faces when they learn about you is demoralising and embarrassing. This has happened to me many times. During my most recent interview, at the start of the interview it was going really well but as I sat in front of a male supervisor and a female executive from Manpower, the demeanour of the male supervisor changed as soon as the information came to light. It was humiliating. So this merry-go-round of unemployment and mental health issues keeps going. Many cannot afford surgery but don't want to apply for jobs, so they can't save the money for surgery and the cycle continues.

This is a huge problem for self-esteem which contributes to the suicide rate in the trans community. I wanted to be a productive member of society but I felt like I was being held back by my birth certificate, by discrimination, and by my own self esteem. Not wanting yet another moment etched into my memory of yet another look of horror from the person sitting across from me which is an irrelevant piece of information and not connected to whether you are capable of doing the job or not.

It's time for a policy to change birth certificates needs to come into line with the ability to change Medicare, drivers licence, and passports. Please help eliminate discrimination towards trans people.

Jamie, this government has heard you. From Lea, the youth parliament member for Caloundra, I have these words—

The 17th of March, 2021 is a day that I will remember for the rest of my life. I sat there, in the early hours of the morning in the SCUH (Sunshine Coast University Hospital) inpatient psychiatric ward. My journey to this point had been fraught with challenges of depression and anxiety, but also with a feeling that I myself just couldn't comprehend. It was during this hospital admission where someone had first brought up the term 'transgender'. 'Someone whose gender identity or gender expression does not correspond with their assigned sex at birth'. This simple sentence, immediately clicked with me, and it was at that point, that I realised for me to survive, I needed to change, that I needed to accept myself for who I am and who I was meant to be.

My name is Lea. I'm an 18-year-old transgender woman from the Sunshine Coast, a proud former Caloundra State High School student and also school captain. The Births, Deaths and Marriages Reform Act would significantly impact on my life. Under the current laws, an individual must have undergone gender affirmation surgery in order to change their legal gender. For so many transgender people surgery is something that we either cannot afford, or simply do not want. Some say that being trans is a choice. But it is not. It is who I am.

I've been living as my true, authentic self for over a year now and I have been so humbled by the incredible support of my loving parents, my sister Olivia, my best friends Georgia, Eva, Lily and Ella, my school and the wider community.

For the government to recognize me for who I am, and not for who I used to be, would make me feel safe, recognized and celebrated. To those who oppose this bill, I say this: I am a woman. I already use the female bathrooms and wear my favourite dresses and skirts. This bill will change none of that, but the transgender and the LGBTQ community as a whole, are deserving of love, kindness and respect and most importantly recognition. We are simply human beings. Human beings who deserve the dignity of being recognized as their true selves.

Lea, this government has heard you. From d'Arcy, the former youth member for Caloundra, we hear this—and d'Arcy joins us in the gallery today—

When it comes to being trans my identity is often referred to as an 'illness' and I as a person is referred to as 'sick', the corresponding supposed evidence for this argument is 'science'.

I believe the best way for others to understand exactly how important the Births, Deaths, and Marriages Act and how crucial it is to the livelihoods of trans people is to use that same analogy.

That is to say that if being humane is not enough, perhaps playing into a cruel figure of speech is the way for others to understand.

The scenario is that: 18% of Queenslanders including myself (as per the 2018 census) are supposedly infected with an illness known as gender diversity with deadly side effects including but not limited to public discrimination, gender dysphoria, increased rates of domestic violence experiences, homelessness, suicide, and severe imposter syndrome.

Imposter Syndrome is the internal doubt a trans person must face in their pursuit of personal liberation, understanding who they are, accepting themselves, and not only living but thriving. This bill is in no way a cure, to refer to the illness analogy but it could be more accurately defined as a vaccine or a paracetamol.


The passing of the Births, Deaths, and Marriages Bill means all transgender people, regardless of age have the opportunity to be exactly who they are, who they want to be, and exactly what Queensland needs them to be ... alive.

This will stop every trans person from having to feel like two different people, as though they are an imposter in their own life. They can just be who they are.

Passing this bill means that if I had a time machine, I could tell four-year-old me to stop crying every night because it will be ok.

Gender diversity is not an illness, it's a difference. Difference is beautiful, let us be beautiful. Pass this bill in its entirety and save the lives of any, pass this bill and society becomes beautiful and our future becomes bright.

d'Arcy, this government has heard you. To Jamie, d'Arcy and Lea I say this: I have given you a voice—and through this you have given voice to thousands of trans people in Queensland—and it is for them that I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (3.17 pm): I rise to give my contribution to the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022. From the outset I ask the question: does anyone even know where their birth certificate is? Half the people in this House would not even know what drawer in the house it is in and probably have not had a look at it since they got a driver's licence. When was the last time members carried around their birth certificate? For some reason, right now in this state we seem hell-bent on changing our birth certificates and the way things are registered on birth certificates. When were members last asked to bring in a birth certificate—unless perhaps applying for a government job—when applying for a job?

I worked in the construction industry for 10 years. Never once did they ask to see my birth certificate. My driver's licence? Maybe. Guess what? Right now we will be hung up by and debating in this House today what it says is the sex on your birth certificate because people lie awake late at night thinking about what is on that birth certificate. I do not know who these people are. They are not approaching my office. I have people approaching my office on a number of issues—they are affected by the cost of living, the rising rate of crime in the city of Townsville and a number of issues—but no-one has ever once walked into my office and said, 'Nick, I have this real problem with what my birth certificate says.' I am very sorry, but this must be a Brisbane issue because it does not seem to be an issue in Townsville or in Hinchinbrook.

This bill creates an array of issues. Firstly, I will address the rights and safety of women.

**Ms McMILLAN:** I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Bush): Member for Hinchinbrook, I will ask you to take your seat while I hear the point of order.

**Ms McMILLAN:** The member—

**Mr Dametto:** Come on, spit it out.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Hinchinbrook, I remind you not to yell across the chamber while I am taking a point of order. If you do that again you will be warned.

**Ms McMILLAN:** I ask the member to authenticate the issue around birth certificates and being able to find them and the substance of his argument because every child needs a birth certificate to enrol in school. I would ask him to authenticate some of that evidence.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Mansfield, there is no point of order. Members, this is a debate that is going to draw different opinions and I think it is important that they are heard, to the degree that comments are not unparliamentary.

**Mr DAMETTO:** Madam Deputy Speaker, thank you very much for your ruling. Let us talk about the confusion in the health sector in relation to the changing of sex on a birth certificate. It can be confusing for health practitioners if someone presents as a different sex to what is on their birth certificate or their medical records or what they previously identified as on their medical records. This can cause a significant amount of confusion when diagnosing people, especially when they have

suffered trauma or suffered a heart attack. There are different symptoms. No amount of oestrogen or testosterone can change the symptoms for a person born male or a person born female when it comes to a heart attack. The reality is that that will be confusing for some medical practitioners. They are stressed enough with the amount of work on their plates right now.

There is also a risk posed to crucial and accurate data collection in this state that is used for informing public policy. The bill trivialises the importance of sex identification and aims to permit three changes to the sex on people's birth certificates. That is also confusing. It will also impact single-sex schools given that people can change their gender on their birth certificate up to three times. A teenager will be able to go from one single-sex school to the other depending how they feel at the time. I will go into that a little further as we get into the debate.

The Legal Affairs and Safety Committee considered the bill and recommended that it be passed. That is interesting to note because there were 370 submissions made on the bill and a majority were against the bill.

**Mr Sullivan** interjected.

**Mr DAMETTO:** The reality is that that is what is in the committee report. Just copy and paste, member.

**Mr Sullivan:** Correct.

**Mr DAMETTO:** Attack the committee and not me on those grounds.

The objectives of the bill are to strengthen the legal recognition of trans and gender-diverse people; better recognise contemporary family and parenting structures; facilitate improvements in the operations of the registry; support fraud prevention and minimise misuse of the life event system—that is interesting because as people are transitioning from one sex to another they could use that as an opportunity to commit fraud or crimes and to create confusion; and clarify the information collection, use and sharing powers of the registrar.

I make reference now to young people. When a lot of people in this House were growing up people were either male or female. We then saw the reality of gay and lesbian people. As we move to being a more progressive society new things start to pop up. A child going through school now not only gets sex education, which we all did—males and females have sex and babies come out, if you have unprotected sex you can have babies and that sort of thing; that was pretty simple for a child—but they have to figure out whether or not they are gay or lesbian. That adds some complexity to the teenage years, which are complex enough. Now we have gone as far as some places having transgender people reading storybooks to kids in primary school. This is confusing for kids going through some of the toughest years of their lives. It adds complexity.

It is being pushed on us now that we must accept children being allowed to make decisions, but when it comes to the Youth Justice Act in Queensland those opposite are saying children under the age of 18 do not have the cognitive ability to know right from wrong when committing crimes and stealing cars. They are going to give these same young people the chance to make a decision whether or not to cut their penis off or take drugs that alter their sex as they go through puberty. That is incredible.

This legislation is giving children the ability to change their sex on their birth certificate whether or not their parents agree. Parents are losing control of their children. There are more influences than ever trying to sway their decision-making as they go through their teenage years. I have had mothers come up to me—this is the quiet majority—

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr DAMETTO:** I know it scares people. There is a quiet majority of people who come up and tap me on the shoulder after they hear things like this being said. They will say, 'Nick'—how are you supposed to refer to yourself in the House; they call me Nick—I am very happy that you have put your hand up. There are a lot of people out there who respect what you are saying.' When we say this sort of thing at a P&C meeting or in social groups we get cut down. People get cut down if they have conservative views on sex in this day and age. There are a lot of people in my electorate who have Christian and Catholic views. If they bring that up all of a sudden they are ostracised by the minority who have the ear of everybody. These people deserve to be represented in this House as well. That is the quiet majority.

**Mrs McMahon:** Minority; I think you mixed it up.


**Mr DAMETTO:** Come up to Hinchinbrook on that sort of thing.



The committee recommended that Queensland government agencies undertake an audit of Queensland legislation within their remit to identify amendments as a result of the introduction of the Birth, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill. How long is that going to take? This is going to trickle through.

A birth certificate is like a VIN number on a car. It identifies what happened at birth. People are born either male, female or hermaphrodite, as the member for Hill rightly pointed out. He made a great contribution and he gave a great suggestion regarding an amendment. We could add a line in. Let us not confuse sex and gender. Sex is what someone is biologically and gender is what they identify as. There are all these new identifiers that people can add to the back of their birth certificate. Where does this stop? Eventually will we recognise people who do not recognise themselves as human? I am an animal today, a cow tomorrow and a budgerigar the next day; I do not know. This is something that would never have been debated in this House 30 years ago. I hate to think where we are going to be 30 years from now with our progressive society.

I stand up in this House for people in Queensland with some conservative values—those who have tapped me on the shoulder and said, ‘Thank you for pushing back against this.’ I am happy for adults to do exactly what they want to make themselves happy. That is a beautiful thing. Do not push this on our children and do not push this through our school system. This change to the births, deaths and marriages legislation has real implications. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (3.28 pm): I rise to make a contribution in support of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill today, and I am so very proud to do so. I begin by thanking both the current and former attorneys-general, the members for Redcliffe and Waterford, for their shared advocacy on this very important piece of reform. Both members have taken a clear and unequivocal position on this bill, supporting our trans and gender-diverse community. I am so proud to be part of the government that is backing this bill.

A birth certificate is a foundational document. It is a document we use all the time. For our trans community, it is at best deeply unpleasant to present this document and at worst shocking and upsetting. Members of this House know that this legislation will have a real and positive impact on members of our community. I want to share the story today, with her permission, of a brave young woman from my community who is here today and has been an unintentional advocate for this legislation simply through her lived experience.

My young constituent came to meet with me, along with her father, to let me know about her support for this bill because of the profound and positive impact that the passing of this legislation is going to have on her life. We had a long and broad ranging discussion on lots of things from how school was going to what sport she played in her spare time, but what stayed with me from everything that we spoke about that day was this: she said, ‘Every time I show my birth certificate it feels like an unintentional outing.’

I have to say that I have probably handed over my birth certificate dozens of times in my life and I have honestly never thought about it before. I think that is in large part because my birth certificate matches my lived identity and experience. Every time this young woman has to enrol in a sport or enrol in school she has to hand that document over. She hates looking at it herself but, even worse, she does not necessarily get to choose the strangers who read this information.

I suspect the reason she feels this trepidation in sharing this document is that unfortunately not everyone has been kind about her transition. Like many trans youths, she has experienced bullying in her school and in her community and naturally she and her family are very cautious about who they share this information and the birth certificate with. That is why I have not shared her name or her age or her suburb because, sadly, some parts of our community still are not safe for young trans and gender-diverse kids. That is what we seek to change with this bill, slowly but surely.

This young lady is grace personified and has done a service whether she realises it or not, although I hope she does, to every Queenslander who wants to have their identity documents match their lived experience. Can I recognise the trauma—because there is no other word for it—that comes from coming to your local member and pouring your heart out for an hour or more on an issue that matters to you more than anything and asking your local member to support that legislation. That takes incredible bravery, incredible guts and incredible grace. I only hope that this legislation honours her bravery and her grace in the way that she deserves. I am so proud to be her local member. I commend this bill to the House.



**Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (3.32 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022 on behalf of my electorate. Having listened to many constituents and to stakeholders who are impacted by this bill, it is clear that the proposed legislation is complex, contentious and, I believe, ultimately flawed.

All Queenslanders, no matter what gender or designation they prefer, deserve to be treated with respect. That is the underlying premise of my concerns about this bill. The opposition will be opposing this bill not because we are opposed to modernising legislation and reflecting changes in society, as those opposite would have you believe. We are opposing this legislation because we do not believe this is the correct framework to provide the legislative protections our diverse Queensland population deserves.

The BDMR Act has been in place since 2004 when it established Queensland's life event registration system. However, in those intervening years, our society has changed and so too has the policy and operational environment in which we live. The LNP understands the need to better accommodate Queensland's diverse society, including those starting families through various fertilisation and pregnancy options. We also appreciate the greater awareness of the trans and gender-diverse community. At the same time, the government registry that records and reflects those changes has also changed—increased computerisation and data procedures have been developed to support the registry. Of course along with that comes the need to ensure data privacy and protection as these personal details are potential subjects for increasing identity theft and fraud.

Since 2004 there has been a review, with discussion papers and round tables in 2018, 2019, 2021 and 2022. The LNP believes that this replacement bill is a clumsy instrument. Existing provisions already allow changing of sex on birth certificates where a person has undergone sexual reassignment surgery. Already the act provides that the child's parent, or one of the child's parents, must be registered as the child's mother or as the child's father. No more than one person may be registered as the child's mother or as the child's father. No more than two people in total may be registered as the child's parents. For same-sex parents, one can be named mother or father and the other 'parent'. The definition of 'birth' in the other act means that where a person has given birth to a child that person must be recorded as 'mother'.

The bill proposes to increase the flexibility around the registration of parenting descriptors to better reflect contemporary family structures. This includes any combination of mother, father and parent and allows for the term 'mother' as well as the gender neutral term 'birth parent'.

During the lengthy review and discussions of this bill before its introduction, many stakeholders raised concerns about the current conflation between sex and gender. They had many legitimate concerns that introducing a rigid framework like the one proposed will have unintended consequences. The LNP shares those concerns.

As a quick examination of other jurisdictions will show, there are varying approaches in different states. The LNP does not believe that the conflation of these terms has merit and has the potential to adversely affect the very communities it seeks to assist. We fear that the concerns of stakeholders about the truncated consultation and consideration times for this very complex legislation is being realised. More than 385 submissions were received over the consultation time—over the Christmas holidays. While the topics included in the bill have been discussed for a long time, this consultation period was inadequate and leads to the impression that all views are not being included or respected.

As the Queensland Law Society noted, the reforms proposed in the bill are significant and will have wide-ranging implications for Queenslanders. The society went on to state—


... to ensure the proposed laws work as effectively and efficiently as possible, robust and meaningful consultation is required. Consultation held during the Christmas and New Year shutdown period will not yield the best legislation for the people of Queensland.

A longer period of consultation may have resulted in alternative approaches that could have benefited many members of Queensland's diverse communities. Similarly, the views of women who made contributions to those discussions need to be heard. They have expressed fears that changing nomenclature may provide opportunities for predators to enter women's spaces or endanger the safety of women. We fear that those comments from particular groups were largely ignored and their concerns could not be adequately addressed. Again, due to the short and relatively inaccessible consultation process, due attention may not have been paid to these views.

The LNP also has serious concerns about provisions of the legislation when it comes to children. We have seen recently the approach to children experiencing gender dysphoria being closely examined and approaches across the world have not been settled. Particularly in the UK, the chaos of the last few years has played out in court, and in the media, resulting in serious distress for many families.

While it is suggested that the approach in this legislation will not 'medicalise' children, it still allows children under 16 to make significant decisions about their future which will have social and cultural impacts that will prove to be long lasting. The LNP wants to ensure that all children are given the support to thrive in an age appropriate framework. The bill's provision for children aged 12 to 15 to be able to apply for the change without their parent's permission goes too far. The medical community, and society more broadly, is still learning about how best to support children experiencing gender dysphoria. This legislation is pre-emptive in adopting these provisions.

Let me be very clear: the LNP opposes the bill. We also oppose any vilification or discrimination against the trans community. It is completely unacceptable. I also acknowledge that for many watching and following this debate these discussions will be very personal and could be difficult at times. We do not want to cause more harm. The LNP is committed to ensuring all Queenslanders are respected and valued. Therefore, we are taking these steps very seriously to ensure we get the right framework. Our great state should be free from discrimination, and people should be free to live safely in their communities. Our concern is that this Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022 does not provide the right framework.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Alger—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (3.39 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022. I want to begin by acknowledging all those in the gallery today who have been supporting this work for many years. Each of us is having a human experience that, if fully realised, would support the living of a whole, healthy and authentic life full of love, respect and value. The idea that there are many who feel they have to hide who they are from the world, that their very existence, health and humanity is not supported—or worse, is seen as a threat or something that is less than; less deserving, less valued—to me is absolutely unacceptable. That is why this bill is so important. This bill will create monumental change for trans and gender-diverse Queenslanders. Simply put, as we have heard before this reform will save lives.

By modernising Queensland's birth registration to better recognise our diverse community we will also ensure that a person's legal identity matches their lived identity. This bill will ensure that registration services remain relevant, responsive and contemporary. It will strengthen the legal recognition of trans and gender-diverse people and better recognise contemporary family and parenting structures. It will also facilitate improvements in the operation of the registry, support fraud prevention and clarify the information collection, use and sharing powers of the registrar. The bill will also allow the registration of multiple combinations of parental descriptors to better reflect Queensland's diverse family structures. These descriptors include any combination of mother, father and parent. This reform will make a difference for Queensland families and ensure that birth registrations better reflect the diversity of families across the state.


The most extensive change proposed by the bill is a new framework for acknowledgement of sex. Under the current act a person is only able to change their sex on their birth registration if they have undergone gender-affirming surgery. This important registration change is currently not available to trans and gender-diverse people who are unable or chose not to undertake surgery. The bill removes the requirement to undergo gender-affirming surgery in order to update their sex on their birth registration, and I think that is right.

In recent months and years the LGBTIQ+ community, in particular trans and gender-diverse people, have faced increased discrimination and attacks. In countries across the world, including our own, far right extremists are leading anti-trans rallies and fuelling transphobic hate. That is why our government's commitment to equality for LGBTIQ+ Queenslanders is so important. We cannot let these divisive far right voices detract from the importance of advancing equality and strengthening legal protections in this state. I remind all members making contributions to the debate on this bill that it does not take much for the words of elected leaders to be weaponised to inflict significant hurt to the Queenslanders this bill seeks to benefit, and I think that is something that everybody in this House needs to remind themselves of. Your words as elected leaders can be weaponised to inflict all kinds of pain and hurt on the people this bill aims to benefit.

Protecting trans and gender-diverse Queenslanders from harm includes changing the law to ensure that lived identities can match legal identities. The committee heard from trans and gender-diverse Queenslanders who spoke about what this change means to them. We have heard many of

those stories in the contributions of members from this side in particular. There are thousands of stories across our state. We have heard members of the Legislative Assembly speak about trans and gender-diverse people in their electorates and what this change means to them. This reform is another step towards true equality for LGBTIQ+ Queenslanders. We know there is more to do and our government will continue to fight for LGBTIQ+ Queenslanders, celebrating our diverse communities and ensuring they can live freely.

I want to thank every person and organisation who contributed their lived experience to the committee hearing process. Their valuable and honest contributions made a real impact and ensured the committee considered the lived experience of LGBTIQ+ Queenslanders. I want to thank the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee for their important work and detailed consideration of the bill. I also want to thank the attorneys-general, both present and past, for their leadership in this space. In conclusion, to all transgender diverse and LGBTIQ+ Queenslanders I say this: you are seen; you are heard; you are valued; you are loved. Now with this bill your lived identity can match your legal identity. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (3.45 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022. The purpose of the bill is to amend Queensland's life registration system in light of social, policy and operational changes which have affected the way the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages delivers its services. One of the main objectives of the bill includes altering the process and reasons for which an individual can change their gender on their birth certificate.

Firstly, I would like to thank the members of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee for their consideration of the bill in the short consultation time over the Christmas holiday period during which 385 submissions were received. It is notable that 159 were supportive of the bill and 181 were not. Currently, the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act allows for a person to apply to change their sex on their birth registration where they have undergone sexual reassignment surgery to alter their reproductive organs to change their sex or to connect or eliminate ambiguities about the sex of the person. As of April 2022 there have been 210 changes of sex on birth records which have all been for adults. This bill seeks to remove the requirement for a person to undergo sexual assignment surgery in order to alter their record of sex.

I am cognisant that some Queenslanders have not been respected for their lived identities, and my concerns with this bill do not undermine this point. A large number of submitters sought to make confidential submissions, with over 140 of the 385 submissions received being anonymous or with names withheld. What is significant about these figures is that they clearly point to the fact that this bill addresses matters which are sensitive in nature and indicative of trepidation on the part of those opposed to the bill to speak out publicly.

The Queensland Law Society raised concerns about the lack of certainty around how the framework will operate in practice. Yet again the Palaszczuk Labor government has failed to engage in proper consultation, and this will only be at the cost of Queenslanders. Further, the number of women's groups that expressed concerns about this bill should not be dismissed, particularly their concerns about what this means for their safe spaces, including: bathrooms, same-sex schools, refuges, prisons and other spaces. They also raised issues with the lack of consultation. Evidently, this is a significant legislative change with widespread community interest. The government has an obligation to listen, and proper consultation for a sensitive bill of this nature is imperative. Entirely dismissive of these concerns, Labor has proceeded with this bill.

I acknowledge those opposite, whom I have heard during this debate proudly supporting the social agenda being imposed on Queensland by this government. In her second reading speech the Attorney-General highlighted how this legislative change enhances the government's affirmation model, but as legislators we must ensure legislative changes will not harm those we are trying to help. Medical professionals working with children at the Queensland Children's Hospital have some serious concerns about the affirmation model being forced on them by the social agenda of this government and have been demanding an independent review of the dangerous practice and associated outcomes at the Queensland Children's Gender Service, or QCGS.

Gender dysphoria and cross-sex behaviours in children are known to be rare. Before this government model the incidence of childhood cross-sex identification in male children was reported to be one in 10,000. In female children it was one in 27,000. Today the prevalence of gender dysphoria in children is reported to be one to four per cent. The sex ratio has also changed dramatically. It is now predominantly teenage girls who report gender dysphoria, which is evidence of a social contagion.

In 2022 the Queensland Children's Gender Service engaged with 922 children. There were 616 new referrals, 80 children were placed on puberty blockers, with 102 children placed on cross-sex hormones. In stark contrast, the number of children in Queensland administered puberty blockers in 2014 was two. By 2018 this had risen to 171. Compared to other states, at this time, there were 34 in New South Wales, 35 in Western Australia and 30 in Victoria.

The affirmation model involves using a child's preferred pronouns and supporting them to socially transition and consider taking puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones and eventually have surgery to change their body to the gender they perceive themselves to be. Parents are told it is important to affirm their child in order to prevent their child dying by suicide. The suicide rate among children with gender dysphoria attending the largest gender clinic in the world—GIDS at Tavistock in the United Kingdom—was 13 per 100,000. This suicide rate is similar to other children and adolescent mental health clinical populations. The suicide rate in the general community in Australia is as follows: adolescents aged 15 to 17, 8.9 in 100,000 in 2021; and children aged 14 and below, 0.7 per 100,000 in 2021. Prior to the affirmation model, 60 to 90 per cent of children with gender dysphoria became comfortable with their own body after going through adolescence.


The use of puberty blockers causes 98 per cent of children on them to subsequently take cross-sex hormones. The two extensive studies that have been conducted on puberty blockers have not shown any improvement in mental health outcomes from their use. It is a fact that children who receive puberty blockers in Tanner stage 2—usually at about the age of 11—and then subsequently go on to cross-sex hormones will be infertile and will never have the capacity for sexual pleasure. Males who take oestrogen for one year will be rendered permanently infertile. Females taking testosterone have a reduction in their fertility and experience a number of other serious side effects increasing their risk of requiring a hysterectomy. Cross-sex hormones have a range of side effects, including cardiovascular risks for females on testosterone, and stroke and cancer risks for males on oestrogen. Puberty blockers cause the young person's bone density to stagnate at a time of life when bone density increases. They also have cognitive and emotional impacts.

There are questions that senior medical professionals at the Queensland Children's Gender Service want answers to, and they have asked me to ask these questions on their behalf. They have been demanding the medical director of the Child and Youth Mental Health Service call for an independent review into the practices and outcomes of this service, but they fear their concerns are being ignored because of political pressure and a potential conflict of interest with the manager of the gender clinic, who is the managing director of the Child and Youth Mental Health Service and also the child and adolescent mental health adviser to the Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch. They have questions to the Attorney-General and the health minister specifically about this legislation and how it supports the government's affirmation model, and they are as follows.

Given the growing international understanding that the research evidence supporting the use of puberty blockers in children with gender dysphoria is very poor—to the extent that the UK now plans to restrict the use of puberty blockers for gender dysphoria to children enrolled in clinical research trials only—what is the government doing to protect Queensland children with gender dysphoria from harms that may follow from the ongoing unregulated, off-label prescription of puberty blockers by doctors in the Queensland Children's Gender Service? A recent study by researchers from the UK Gender Identity Development Service found that the social transition of children with gender dysphoria was not associated with any improvement in mental health outcomes. The researchers who developed the original Dutch protocol which involves giving puberty blockers to children on the cusp of adolescence also specifically warned against the social transitioning of children in their research paper.

Recently, one of Australia's leading medical indemnity insurers—MDA National—informed medical providers that 'due to the high risk of claims arising from irreversible treatments provided to those who medically and surgically transition as children' they will not indemnify healthcare workers who prescribe gender-affirming hormones to any patient under the age of 18. Does the Queensland government have any plans to conduct a systematic review of the evidence for the use of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones for the treatment of gender dysphoria in children and adolescents? It is known that children and adolescents attending gender clinics have high rates of adverse childhood events, including exposure to trauma and being placed in out-of-home care. How many children with gender dysphoria currently under the protection of the minister through the department of child safety are being socially or medically transitioned? How many children in public schools in Queensland are being socially transitioned without the knowledge of their parents? If there are no records of this, why not?

These are the questions that senior medical professionals at the Queensland Children's Hospital want answers to. Any real or perceived conflict of interest on the medical director of the gender clinic should not allow the silencing of serious concerns raised by these senior medical professionals. These medical professionals who have dedicated their lives to helping children deserve answers to their legitimate questions, and I am sure all Queenslanders do too.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (3.55 pm): I am so proud to rise in support of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022. I am very pleased to once again be able to acknowledge the trans and gender-diverse people and their allies who are in the gallery today to see this bill pass. It was such a privilege to work with so many fantastic advocates while developing these reforms, and I look forward to continuing to work with each of them in my new portfolio of health. At the core of this bill is ensuring that Queenslanders' legal identity can match their lived identity. We know that for too many trans and gender-diverse people their identity documents can be a source of great angst. These reforms will improve the lives of so many Queenslanders and remove barriers to engaging in society as their full selves.

It was such a privilege to meet with so many community members during the development of these reforms and to hear their personal stories. I want to thank everyone who I met with, who emailed my office or who made submissions as part of the committee inquiry. To Roz, Emily, Hugo, Krissy, Joe, D'Arcy, David, Jeremy, Ymania, Jennifer, Charlie and everyone else who shared really personal reflections and stories, thank you so very much. These reforms are the result of your advocacy, and these reforms are for you. Queensland will be a better place with these changes in effect. It will be a safer, more inclusive, fuller place.

I am proud to be contributing to this debate as the first Minister for Mental Health in Queensland. We know that LGBTIQ+ people experience worse mental health outcomes than the general population, and trans and gender-diverse people experience worse outcomes again. This bill will not fix all of the complex issues that lead to mental health challenges. This bill is not a panacea. No-one is saying it will be, but it is not an exaggeration to say that this bill will help save lives. We know that gender affirmation is one of the most impactful ways to improve mental health outcomes for trans and gender-diverse people. By giving people a genuine avenue for legal affirmation without the need for medical affirmation, we will change lives.


This bill is not focused on medical transition or interventions for trans and gender-diverse people. In fact, it is about removing the need for surgery to restore trans people's bodily autonomy. While medical options are not appropriate or necessary for everyone, for some they are vital. Queensland Health is dedicated to supporting trans and gender-diverse Queenslanders in line with best practice approaches. This includes through the Queensland Children's Gender Service—a statewide service that works with young people and their families. The Queensland children's gender clinic provides life-saving health care, and I am so excited to be able to work with the team there. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the stakeholders who have spoken with me about a boost to resources for the gender service. I am committed to working with groups like Transcend and PFLAG to reduce wait times for young people so they can access gender-affirming care sooner.

Much has been said about what these reforms will mean for women. I want to be clear that I define a woman as someone who identifies as a woman and that the Queensland government defines a woman as someone who identifies as a woman. Despite repeated claims to the contrary, there is no evidence from any jurisdiction to suggest that women will have fewer rights or be less safe as a result of these changes. Trans people have been able to access single-sex spaces for over 20 years, and the sky has not yet fallen in. Nowhere else where similar reforms have passed has seen an increase in women experiencing violence.

In fact, the place where most women in this country experience violence is in their homes, and transwomen experience domestic violence at a far higher rate. These reforms will in no way ruin women's rights. They will not impact women's safety, but they will increase the rights and safety of our trans and gender-diverse Queenslanders.

I am beyond proud to be contributing to the debate on this bill. I want to again acknowledge all of the amazing trans and gender-diverse people and their allies who have been a part of this reform journey. From the activists and advocates to those who engaged in consultation and to those who shared their stories, thank you so much for taking a risk and putting your lives up for public scrutiny and debate.

I also want to acknowledge the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee for their consideration of the bill and working through the many submissions received during the inquiry, and the hardworking staff at the Department of Justice and Attorney-General who have been working on these reforms for many years. This bill is about improving legal recognition of and protections for LGBTIQ+ Queenslanders. Today we say to trans and gender-diverse Queenslanders right across our big state that the Palaszczuk government sees you, we hear you and we stand with you. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (4.00 pm): I, too, rise to contribute to the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022. From the outset, as my LNP colleagues have also expressed, it is important that we live in a Queensland free from discrimination, where individuals are respected and are free to live safely in all of our community. I acknowledge all of the people in the gallery today who have advocated to the government in relation to this bill. Whilst the politics of politics always gets in the way of issues—and we have heard that through some of the contributions from this chamber today—we are here debating a bill that could have unintended consequences, and that is what the submitters to the committee report have submitted. It is around the unintended consequences of a broadbrush approach and the rushed approach that the Palaszczuk government has taken in relation to this bill. We all have different lived experiences and this is a standard we must all uphold during this debate.

This bill will make key changes to the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act legislation which originally commenced in Queensland in February 2004. This legislation underpins so many of the most important facets of our lives: the births of our children, the passing of our loved ones and the celebration of marriages for our families and friends. That is why I am not surprised that this bill has created so much discussion within all of our communities because it deals with matters that will have wideranging implications and possibly, as I have stated, unintended consequences for many Queenslanders.

I have received a considerable amount of correspondence from my constituents sharing their views, and I thank each and every one of them who took the time to be considerate and put pen to paper or keyboard and provide their personal feedback.

What we know is that for a bill which proposes such considerable change, the consultation time was not adequate. The consultation took place over a very short time frame; in fact, over the Christmas holidays. While the Labor government say they have been consulting for many years, the bill in its final form, as we are debating right here today, is substantially different from the one proposed in the original consultation.

The bill was introduced in the last sitting week of the year, heading into the Christmas break. Then, surprisingly for a government that believes it is open, transparent and accountable, it closed submissions on 11 January. It was not just the LNP opposition that raised concerns about this short time frame. Organisations that would otherwise support this bill also raised the issue. We are concerned some groups have felt shut out from the discussions, and while we may not always agree with stakeholders, it is important to continue to hear all sides of the debate. We know that, of the 385 submissions that were received, the majority—in fact 208 of those submissions—did not support this bill.

I turn to part 5, that part of the bill which attracted the most submissions. Clearly, it is the most controversial because it removes the current requirement of the act that a person must have undergone sexual reassignment surgery in order to note that reassignment of sex on their birth certificate. Of the 385 submissions, 338 commented on part 5, and 187 of those submissions were against the proposed amendments.

The LNP opposition also believe that the current drafting of this bill may give rise to unintended consequences and, for that reason, we cannot support the legislation in its current form, in particular in relation to the framework being proposed for young people under the age of 18.

It is clear, from around the world, the approach to children experiencing gender dysphoria is not settled. In the UK, we have seen the chaos of the last few years resulting in arguments on both sides of the debate to be aired in court and through investigations. While it has been suggested the approach in this bill does not lead to the medicalisation of children, it still allows children under 16 to make significant decisions about their future which will have cultural, medical and social impacts that we cannot minimise. We want to ensure that children, all children, are given the support to thrive in an age-appropriate framework. This approach allowing for children aged 12 to 15 to be able to apply for change without their parents' permission goes too far. Given we are still learning about how to best support children experiencing gender dysphoria, it is pre-emptive to introduce this provision to children aged between 12 and 15.

I also want to mention a mum from my electorate of Nanango who has been providing me with feedback in relation to her concerns about this bill. This mum also made a submission to the committee, and I would like to read part of that submission which shares her concerns about her own personal experience with her daughter who changed the sex on her birth certificate in Victoria. She states—


The legislation in Victoria and proposed here in Queensland allows birth certificates to be re-issued with a new 'sex'.

There is no mention that the person has changed sex from that recorded birth.

This is heart-breaking (speaking as a parent) for the parents concerned, whose names appear on the document and is factually incorrect—reverse writing of history and removing all legal trace.

While this may not be the feeling of all parents of young people who wish to alter their birth certificate, it is the experience of this mum, and we must recognise that it is important to acknowledge the concerns of all. This is what we mean when we talk about the unintended consequences of these changes.

I very quickly want to share my concerns in relation to women's rights. We have heard many contributions, including one from the other side of the chamber, trying to tell me that I am not allowed to voice concerns as a female. I did not quite understand that argument, but anyhow. Rights that we, as women, have fought so hard for, for so many generations, are now being challenged through this bill—again, an unintended consequence. It does seem contradictory that on one hand we talk so much about women's safety, yet this bill once again may introduce unintended consequences in relation to safe spaces for women such as bathrooms, single-sex schools, women's refuges, prisons and other spaces. Information presented to the committee noted a lack of evidence of predators using changes in this bill for these reasons, but I think we can all agree that these concerns should not be dismissed.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (4.08 pm): I rise to support the bill before the House. As a very proud parent of a non-binary adult child, I say that identity is very important. Identity means everything to many members of the LGBTIQ+ community. Being able to, if you do not identify as cisgender, stipulate who you believe you are, your place in this world and what that means to you is what this bill is all about.

It does not matter what others think. It is what the individual thinks that this bill is trying to protect. It does not matter what I think or what anybody else thinks. It is about what members of the LGBTIQ+ community believe they are. If they believe that that is their standing in this world, then they should be able to make their mark like everybody else in a respectful and proper way.

My adult child will be the beneficiary of this legislation and I applaud it every step of the way. I do not give a damn what others in the community think. If that is what makes them happy, if that fulfils their identity, if that is what they require in this world to walk proudly, to be part of a great Pride movement, then I support it 100 per cent.

We are the last jurisdiction in Australia to bring this in. In terms of all these concerns that have been raised, none have been evident in the other states. Why all of a sudden is Queensland going to be facing all these concerns that are being raised when there is proof in every other state—even Tasmania—that this is not happening?

**Honourable members:** Ha, ha!


**Ms GRACE:** I say that because I am married to a Tasmanian, and it has a conservative government that supports this. If every other state and territory can live with this and find no concerns, why are there so many being raised in this House at the moment?

There are safeguards in this legislation. I commend the current Attorney-General and the previous attorney-general for using the evidence that currently exists around the country. We always take the best in Queensland because we have the best LGBTIQ+ community there is. Mind you, they are pretty good in the other states as well.

As a proud parent of a non-binary adult child, I say it is a journey that they are on. As a very proud parent, I am very happy to walk along that journey with them. If the journey includes being identified in the manner in which they want to be identified—and this bill is going to give them that opportunity—then that is the only thing that matters. It does not matter what others think. It does not matter what concerns or made-up issues are raised. If people are comfortable in themselves and they have the strength of who they are—if they identify as cisgender, good luck to them; I do not feel threatened by anyone who does not. I do not feel threatened by anyone who claims to have another identity than the cisgender given when they were born. They have a right, the way I do, to have an identity in the manner in which they see fit and that does not affect anybody else.



It is not an easy journey. It has not been an easy journey for my adult child, either. I believe Michael and I were put on this earth for the sole reason of supporting my wonderful 'Bear'. We could not be more lucky than to have adopted a child who is my adult child. I often say sometimes we believe in God; sometimes we do not. However, I say there was a God up there when they placed that wonderful human being in the care of Michael and me. If this legislation gives them more comfort, if this legislation provides the identity that they need, then, as a very proud parent and a supporter of the wonderful LGBTIQ+ community, I wholeheartedly commend this bill to the House. I do that for no other reason than it gives those who need that identity the chance to have it. Well done, Attorney-General. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (4.14 pm): I rise to speak on the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022. By way of background, the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act was enacted on 1 February 2004 and established Queensland's life event registration system. Over the past almost 20 years since the commencement of the act, there have been significant changes in the social, policy and operational environment that have influenced the delivery of services by the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. While the opposition wants to see a Queensland free from discrimination and believes any vilification or discrimination against trans people is completely unacceptable and should be called out, as honourable members have already heard, we will be opposing this legislation.

Queensland has experienced various social changes that have prompted calls for the life event system to better accommodate the diversity of the state's society. Changes have included the increased use of fertilisation procedures and a growing awareness of the transgender and gender-diverse community. Coming from a scientific background as a dentist, I have always backed scientifically supported changes, including for stem cell research in the 52th parliament as shadow health spokesperson.

The bill before the House aims to make changes to a number of issues including birth registration, parenting descriptors, change-of-name requirements, change of sex, women's rights and safety, conflation of sex and gender, and self-declaration versus medicalisation to alter record of sex. The registry has undergone significant operational changes to improve its services. Changes include: implementing online application processes for certain services, an increased focus on appropriate data use and protection and prevention of identity theft and fraud. This aims to ensure that life event registration systems are not misused for fraudulent purposes.

As we have heard from others, a number of Australian jurisdictions have already removed the legislative requirement for individuals to undergo a reassignment procedure in order to change their sex on their birth registration. These jurisdictions include the Australian Capital Territory—the ACT—South Australia, Northern Territory, Tasmania and Victoria. Jurisdictions have different frameworks in place regarding sex/gender changes on birth registrations. Tasmania and Victoria rely on the self-declaration model, allowing individuals to self-identify their gender. In contrast, the ACT, South Australia and the Northern Territory require a statement from a doctor or psychologist confirming that the person has undergone sufficient clinical treatment, which may include counselling in relation to their gender identity.

There are several issues that the opposition stakeholders have identified in the bill with the most controversial being, as we have heard from others, part 5 which deals with change of sex. This removes the requirement for sexual reassignment surgery to note a change of sex on the birth registration. The proposed framework includes different pathways for individuals based on their age, involving self-declaration, administrative processes and court involvement. Whilst there are arguments for and against a self-identification approach to gender transition as opposed to a medical/surgical approach, the bill still allows children under 16 to make significant decisions about their future which will have social and cultural impacts that we cannot minimise. The opposition has also raised concerns about the young age at which children can make significant decisions about their sex without parental consent and the potential medicalisation of children with gender dysphoria.

I want to refer to an article on AP News from 5 March 2023 titled 'How common is transgender treatment regret, detransitioning?' The article examines a review of 27 studies involving almost 8,000 teens and adults who had transgender surgery, mostly in Europe, the US and Canada. Of this group, approximately 80 people expressed regret. For some, regret was temporary, but a small number went on to have detransitioning or reversal surgery. As a result, there is a potential that our already struggling health system will be put under even more pressure as a result of this government not getting this

legislation right. We also heard from the member for Nanango, who spoke about the issues in the UK where the major facility that was doing this type of work had a stop put to it, and that was something that received significant coverage. I table that Lindsey Tanner article from 5 March 2023.

*Tabled paper:* Media article, dated 5 March 2023, titled 'How common is transgender treatment regret, detransitioning?' [858]

Further concerns have been raised that the proposed changes might allow biological males access to women's single-sex spaces, potentially compromising the safety of women and children. The focus of these concerns is not on trans individuals as being more likely to offend but on the potential misuse of the proposed freedoms and the ability of individuals to enter spaces that correspond to the opposite gender.

Earlier this year, we saw the Scottish government announce that all transgender offenders entering the Scottish prison system will be sent to jails that match their birth gender, in a reversal of the Scottish Prison Service's previous inclusion policy. I refer to an article in *The Guardian* dated 10 February 2023 titled 'Trans prisoners in Scotland to be first sent to jails matching their birth gender'. This issue was amongst a couple of issues that cost Scottish first minister Nicola Sturgeon her job. I table a copy of that article.


*Tabled paper:* Article from *The Guardian*, dated 10 February 2023, titled 'Trans prisoners in Scotland to be first sent to jails matching their birth gender' [859].

The article outlines the public outcry after a transgender double rapist was sent to a female prison. Queenslanders do not want to see these types of unintended consequences happening in our community. As others have mentioned, it should be noted from the 385 submissions received by the committee that 181 were not supportive of this bill. Issues raised by stakeholders included the short time frame for consultation—a common trait that we have come to expect from this government.

As the shadow minister for multiculturalism, I note Multicultural Australia's submission that the bill fails to recognise the distinction between sex and gender, removing the legal distinction between these concepts. They went onto say that further consultation and consideration of this aspect of the bill is required. The opposition believes that this specific legislation falls short in providing the necessary clarity and safeguards. Whilst we understand the importance of addressing the concerns and needs of transgender individuals, we believe this bill is not the right approach. The opposition firmly believes in providing the necessary support for all children to thrive within an age-appropriate framework, however, allowing children between the ages of 12 and 15 to apply for gender changes without their parents' permission goes too far.

Given that we are still in the process of understanding how to best support children who are experiencing gender dysphoria, introducing this provision prematurely is concerning. The opposition shares concerns raised by multiple stakeholders regarding the conflation of sex and gender in this legislation. The potential unknown consequences of this conflation have not been sufficiently addressed or demonstrated through evidence. Whilst different states have adopted alternative approaches to sex and gender, the Opposition believes that further consideration is needed before making such significant changes.

This government needs to listen to the concerns raised by women's groups regarding the impact of the bill on safe spaces such as bathrooms, refuges and prisons, to which I have already referred. The member for Nanango made that point eloquently in her contribution. These groups have raised valid points concerning the potential traumas experienced by victims of domestic and sexual violence and emphasised the need to ensure protections for both cisgender women and transgender individuals. As mentioned from the outset, the opposition opposes this legislation due to concerns about the lack of clarity on sex and gender, provisions regarding children and unresolved issues within the bill. By opposing this bill, the opposition seeks to ensure various matters raised in this bill are thoroughly considered, respecting the views of all Queenslanders.


 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business, Minister for Training and Skills Development and Minister for Youth Justice) (4.22 pm): I rise to speak on the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022. Madam Deputy Speaker Bush, I note your earlier comments that there would be many diverse views on this bill, and I congratulate you on the gracious way in which you have acknowledged that. Sitting in the chamber today I, along with I think every member on this side of the House, have found much of the argument and commentary upsetting and personally offensive. I accept that this is a debate and we listen to each other's opinions. However, I want to acknowledge that regardless of the offence that any of us might take—some more than others—

there are people in the gallery today who are hearing these views, who are likely to have suffered more social exclusion, more discrimination, more harassment, more violence and who are likely to be more vulnerable as a result of who they are than most of us.

For the people who are sitting in the gallery today to hear these views, to have bravely come here today knowing that this was going to happen—that what you have been hearing and experiencing for most of your lives was going to ‘happen on steroids’ today, I say on behalf of all on this side of the House, that I am sorry that you had to hear this in this House—no matter how brave you are, and how much you knew that would happen. To hear arguments which imply that if you are a transwoman you are therefore a pervert, or someone who is more likely to perpetrate violence against other women—I am sorry, but I do not even know what to say about that.

I rang a friend of mine who is a transwoman. Her name is Jo and she worked for me a few years ago. I said to her, ‘What would you like me to say for you?’ I asked her how she was going and she said, ‘I have had it on but I have had it on mute, because it is actually just too difficult to listen to; it is too confronting’. She said, ‘I have had my passport changed over and had my driver’s licence changed over and actually, that is pretty easy. You have to get a letter from someone to say that this person wants to be recognised as having a different identity to what they originally had on those documents.’ For you and me to have our passport changed or to get a new licence, the worst thing that could happen is that we might have to line up at Queensland Transport—as lovely as those staff are—for an hour or two, or in a passport office. Jo had to go and seek a letter from the appropriate person to discuss her life journey; to discuss why she wanted that change and why it was important to her. To have to justify who she was to get a driver’s licence and passport was the most traumatic experience she said she has ever had.

Jo said a birth certificate—possibly a document you use less—is imperative, as it currently stands, to seek surgery in order to justify changing your birth certificate. This means people who are incredibly vulnerable are much more likely to be unemployed and to suffer financial difficulties—that is what the research shows. People who live and work in Queensland have to travel to another state to do that to justify who they are. That is not the community that I want to live in; that is not the community that we as members of parliament should uphold. We should be a community where everybody is equal and everybody is respected. This issue is fundamentally about respect—you should be whoever you want to be and nobody should question that, or make you do anything more than ‘just be yourself’. I wish Jo was standing in my place to say this but she said, ‘I want the same rights as everybody else; to engage in Queensland in the very systems that are designed to protect and enable us all. I want to have those same rights as anybody else.’ That is why I support this bill, because every single person deserves that.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (4.29 pm): I rise to speak on the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill. This bill deals with registering some of the most significant events in a person’s life. A reasonable person would think that these events are so natural to the human condition that registration would not cause as much angst and concern in the community as this government is creating. According to the explanatory notes, the changes in legislation are necessary because—

... there have been changes to the social, policy and operational environment which have affected the way the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages (the registry) delivers its services ...

The bill will make operational changes at the registry, including online applications processes for certain services and the development of several new data products and services to support the registry’s status as an entirely self-funded entity. It also makes changes regarding an increased focus by government on appropriate data use and protection and the prevention of identity theft and fraud so that registration systems are not misused for fraudulent purposes. One issue that is causing concern is that the explanatory notes also reference that changes are necessary because of social changes to more appropriately accommodate the diversity of Queensland society—for example, increased use of fertilisation procedures and greater awareness of the trans and gender-diverse community.

It is hard not to be cynical about this government’s motives. It is hard not to think it is trying to distract from its mismanagement of multiple portfolios. It is hard not to think that it is more interested in recreating our society because it dislikes and mocks the values and expectations of ordinary Queenslanders. It implies that problems exist when they occur rarely and claims changes are necessary in the interests of inclusivity and recognition of diversity. Let us look at the current system. Currently it is already permitted to change the sex listed on a birth certificate where a person has undergone sexual reassignment surgery. Currently, no more than two people in total may be registered as the child’s parents, with one person registered as the mother or as the father. For same-sex parents, one can be

named 'mother' or 'father' and the other as 'parent'. Currently 'birth' is defined that where a person has given birth to a child that person must be recorded as 'mother'. The government says it wants to change those descriptors to better reflect contemporary family structures. These include combinations of 'mother', 'father' and 'parent' and uses the gender neutral term 'birth parent'—a term which many mothers find offensive because it reduces their value and cherished role to purely give birth. A mother, just as much as a father, is so much more.

I have received dozens of emails, phone calls and correspondence from constituents concerned about this bill. The most controversial part of this bill removes the requirement that a person must have undergone reassignment surgery to change the sex on their birth registration. The government claims that this requirement unnecessarily medicalises the recognition of a person's lived identity. In other words, it is based on who you identify as. There are serious concerns that this change would give biological males access to women's single-sex spaces such as in prisons, changing rooms, shelters, rape crisis groups, women's sports, single-sex schools or whether a female can request a biological female doctor, nurse or health practitioner. There are already examples where this has occurred overseas. This is not an accusation that trans people are more likely to offend; this is a very sound concern that you cannot prevent someone of the opposite sex entering these organisations, using these spaces, competing in events, misusing the freedom these spaces provide and taking away the ability to make choices about who you want to treat you.

It is wrong of legislators to deliberately or, more shamefully, cynically conflate the issue regarding sex and gender. These are two different concepts. The government is deliberately unclear on 'sex' and 'gender' in this legislation. These concerns are held widely throughout the community. Professor Koopman of the University of Queensland stated—

... biological sex is the term that describes whether a person has the anatomical (that is, physical) features of a male or female, or a combination of both—

and that—

gender relates to a person's psychosocial sense of themselves as a man, woman, a combination of these, or neither of these.

Stakeholders such as the Queensland Law Society stated that the distinction needed to be made between 'sex' and 'gender'. Multicultural Australia said—

... the Bill fails to recognise the distinction between sex and gender, removing the legal distinction between these concepts.

The Australian Christian Lobby referred to the distinction between 'sex' and 'gender' in definitions from the World Health Organization and the European Institute for Gender Equality. As I said earlier, I have received dozens of pieces of correspondence from constituents opposed to this bill. One constituent wrote, stating—

Birth Certificates are historical documents that should provide accurate, factual data documenting the birth of the person described ... The ... Bill will essentially legalise the falsification of birth certificates. The outcomes for women's sports, women's safety, and long fought-for women's rights are disastrous and unacceptable.

Another wrote—

The conflation of sex and gender is a major flaw of the bill. Biological men can never become women. It is one thing to allow people to change their gender, which is a social construct, but it is completely unscientific, dangerous, and inaccurate to change their sex.

The recommendations ... appear to be steeped in political bias. ... Think of the consequences if your daughters or granddaughters are confronted in a women's changing room or toilet ...

Another wrote—

Biological males are not women and can never be women. It is unscientific and dangerous to allow men to change their birth sex to 'female'.


This bill, which will allow anyone to change their legal sex, has far reaching implications for female-only spaces, vulnerable children, and freedom of speech.

Another constituent wrote—

I am a mother and grandmother to two wonderful daughters and four granddaughters who are school age and beyond. I am appalled at what is developing in not only the sporting sector where men are being allowed to not only rob women of their hard-earned dedication and the rewards of their field but are now being allowed to be incarcerated in women's prisons, share the women's locker rooms, etc ... what next?

This has got to stop. It's just ridiculous.

Everyone deserves to be respected, but this debate is not about that. This is not an issue about making moral judgements regarding trans people; this is about a clear and concise, truthful and sensible approach to registration. I oppose the bill.

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (4.36 pm): So many Queenslanders have fought for the recognition of trans people, intersex people and rainbow families in our births, deaths and marriages certificates laws. It is a privilege to stand here on their behalf to welcome the passage of a new Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act. Thank you and congratulations to the LGBTIQ+ community and those who have stood with them in the fight for documentation rights and the rights for every person to be legally recognised as who they are. Those of us who are not intersex or trans, those of us who feel at home in the gender roles assigned to us at birth and those of us whose families would be considered pretty typical already enjoy these rights, but not all Queenslanders do. Homophobia and transphobia are scourges that need to be fiercely erased from the face of the planet. I have seen up close in someone I was very close to the depths of anguish that come from not being able to live a life that is fully your own, not being able to fully realise your most authentic self, living in fear and denying your own real identity in sexuality. People suffer needlessly for years from this kind of pain and, to be frank, people die from this kind of pain. I hope that this bill is one more small step towards a world where no-one has to go through this kind of anguish.

Many Queenslanders that I speak with want the same things for themselves and their families—a safe place to call home, time with family and friends, a safe climate, a living wage, meaningful work or opportunities to take part in their communities and to feel safe and included, and a sense of belonging in our homes, communities, schools and workplaces. It should be our job in this place to fight for these things: to fight for the right to education, employment, health care; to fight for safe communities free from violence and discrimination; and to fight for everyone, regardless of gender, ethnicity, sexuality, disability or income, to be able to live full, dignified lives. It is worth remembering that the fight for legal rights is not something new. In living memory First Nations people were not counted as legally human and could not vote. In my grandmother's generation women had to get permission from their husbands to work or have bank accounts. Up until a few years ago, queer people could not marry. We look back on these indignities now with horror, but at the time the expansion of rights that the majority took for granted to those who had historically been denied them were fiercely contested by reactionaries and those who benefit from everyday people being divided.

The moral panic, the fearmongering, the paranoid warnings of those who oppose these changes never eventuated. We will look back on the changes in this bill and feel horror that there was ever a time when people could not make sure their documents and ID reflected their true selves. It is sad and, frankly, revolting that there are a small paranoid few, including people prepared to stand alongside Neo-Nazis, who seek to deny others the right to a life of dignity. Rather than going after the real criminals in this country, the fossil fuel corporations, the real estate moguls hoarding property, the companies stealing wages and jacking up the cost of basic things like food, we have seen a reactionary minority attack other ordinary people out of fear, hate and paranoia. The big companies exploiting people, the real estate lobby profiting off the housing crisis and the fossil fuel companies destroying the planet all benefit from a world where we are divided.

For those of us who are comfortable in the gender we were assigned at birth and raised in, we get to feel joy and a sense of gender euphoria. We get to present, dress, talk, live and love in a way that reflects who we are and we have documentation that reflects that as well. When we go to a bar or travel or apply for a job we never need to think twice about how we present ourselves and what is shown on our ID. Trans people should be able to have this sense of joy and sense of self as well.

The bill also makes important improvements to documentation for intersex people. Unlike most people, intersex people are born with genitals, chromosomes or hormones that mean they do not fit into a simplistic binary categorisation of sex. Just like every one of us, they have absolutely no say in how they were born. Because intersex people do not fit into a binary categorisation of sex, many come to a different understanding of their sex and gender than that that was decided for them at birth. Some identify as trans, some do not, but it is absurd to think that anyone else would have a better idea about who they are than intersex people themselves. Just like everyone else, they deserve documentation that is accurate to them.

The bill also makes changes that allow for documents to better reflect the make-up of families. New parents are no less loving of their children if they are trans or queer and they deserve documentation that is appropriate and accurate to them, that accurately records who they are as parents and who they are as a family. For those people who will finally be able to update their documentation to properly reflect who they are, this bill will make a significant difference.

I want to share a few stories that have been generously shared with me. Jane from Brisbane says—

Living in my early 20s and not being able to change my gender identity on documentation has put barriers in my life that has put me in positions where people in positions of authority have a reason to discriminate against me.


Security guards at a venue consistently question the authenticity of my passport or drivers licence. I have applied and interviewed for jobs and been offered employment only to be given radio silence after I send through identification. This amendment will give so many people access to a safer society with less fear of discrimination.

Elisa from Moggill says—

This bill will give me and my friends the recognition we deserve. It will mean I'm recognised as a wife if I choose to marry. It will mean I'm recognised as a woman when I die and it means I'm not going to be outed every time I start a new job or apply for rentals.

I'm lucky to have supportive parents that have supported me all my life, but not all trans people do, in fact the majority don't. This bill will mean that we will be honoured in life and in death.


Again, thank you and congratulations to those who have fought for decades for these changes. I also want to voice my support for the member for Maiwar's proposed amendments to the bill which remove fees for birth certificates and other documentation services. We know how much Queenslanders are struggling with the cost of living. Eliminating these fees will ensure that everyone who needs to can make the changes they need to their documents as quickly and as easily as possible. It is an added injustice that many trans people experience disproportionate rates of poverty and homelessness and struggle to access employment. Those who most need documentation changes will be least able to afford it and least able to navigate the bureaucratic processes of applying for a waiver of fees. It costs around \$200 to change names on these documents. These fees will effectively deny some trans people the benefits of these amendments and will create further financial barriers because without accurate documentation it is harder to get employment or apply for government benefits. I encourage the government to take up these straightforward amendments from the member for Maiwar. To our trans and intersex friends, colleagues and comrades, we see you, we love you, we need you and I hope the passage of this bill makes life a little easier, a little brighter and more joyful.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (4.44 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the debate on the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022. As we have heard from the shadow minister, Tim Nicholls, we will be opposing the bill for a number of reasons. However, like most bills, there are some aspects that do have merit and I would like to take this opportunity to speak to one particular clause. The bill proposes to allow a person to apply to the registry to change their name if they are born in Queensland, were adopted and the adoption is registered in Queensland or have been ordinarily resident in Queensland for at least 12 consecutive months immediately before the person makes the application. Some exceptions apply, including applications relating to marriage or divorce or where the registrar is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances for accepting the application. I am interested in what would constitute an exceptional circumstance, especially in regard to children changing their surname. The bill states in situations where a child does not meet any of the eligibility criteria, the registrar must still accept an application if the registrar is satisfied there are exceptional circumstances for accepting the application.

In September 2022 the Condamine office was contacted by a constituent inquiring about Queensland laws surrounding name changes. This constituent has four children. Their biological father was convicted of sexually abusing two of them and spent time in jail due to this conviction. The mother has sole parental responsibility via a federal family law court order. However, to legally change her children's surnames in Queensland she still has to seek permission from the biological father.

In November 2022 a letter was sent to the then attorney-general, Shannon Fentiman, with a response received stating the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages administers legal changes of name by applying the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages Act. The letter advised that the application to change the surname required both registered parents even if one of the parents had been granted sole parental responsibility. There were some exceptions; however, these were limited.

I ask the minister if this amendment will allow a change of surname to be granted with only one parent applying due to the exceptional circumstances in which this Condamine mother finds herself. One would think that having the biological father convicted of sexually assaulting his own children would be a justifiable reason to permit this change of name. These children have already endured enough pain and they do not need to bear the name of the person who has caused them so much trauma in their young lives. Having the same surname would continue that trauma for the rest of their lives. If the minister could give some clarification on this issue while summing up it would be very much appreciated by the family involved.

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (4.47 pm): The LNP wants to see a Queensland with individual responsibility and where people have the liberty to make decisions for themselves. At the same time, we do not want to see a Queensland that sees the rights of parents to care for and to raise their children taken away from them. We also do not want to see a Queensland where the rights of one demographic are above the rights of another.

Labor talk a lot about their record of consultation, but this bill was crammed into the Christmas period when people are enjoying time away and are rarely paying attention to politics. In this very short consultation time the committee received 385 submissions. That shows that there was a lot of community interest, but I fear many Queenslanders did not have the opportunity to share their thoughts on this legislation. Supporters of this bill also made comment as to the lack of consultation. The Queensland Law Society stressed this in their own comments—

The reforms proposed in the Bill are significant and will have wide-ranging implications for Queenslanders. It is in all our best interests to ensure proposed laws work as effectively and as efficiently as possible, and this requires meaningful and robust consultation with stakeholders. Short consultations held during the Christmas and New Year shut down period will not yield the best legislation for the people of Queensland.

Of the submissions published, 159 were supportive of the bill, 181 were not supportive of the bill and one was unclear. Some components of this bill address genuine issues and it would have been great if, for once, this Labor government had actually focussed on doing good for Queensland without throwing in clearly divisive and politically motivated agendas.

I encourage Queenslanders to listen to the speech of the member for Kawana if they want to know how Labor have been ignoring women's rights groups in their progression of this bill as it is currently written. Not only are women's rights being ignored; parental rights are being thrown out the window and, in turn, the rights of children are being ignored. I come from an electorate where the government treats women as second-class citizens so I am always wary of policies that will further strip away the rights of women. Of course, I am referring to the fact that in my electorate there are 14 hospitals and not one maternity ward.

This morning a tweet from JK Rowling highlighted the fact that John Hopkins University has removed 'woman' from the definition of 'lesbian'. The university definition reads—

A non-man attracted to non-men. While past definitions refer to 'lesbian' as a woman ...

In changing the definition they have literally removed the word 'woman'. It is no wonder that Labor have not bothered delivering a birthing service in Callide for the last year when it seems they do not even know what a woman is.

Young people with gender dysphoria can often have complex mental health issues and, therefore, an application to change their sex descriptor must involve a significantly more rigorous process than that proposed by this bill. Clause 39 provides that a young person aged 16 or more may apply to the registrar to alter the record of their sex merely by making a declaration that they identify as the sex stated in the application and live or seek to live as a person identified by that sex. That statement needs to be accompanied only by a supporting statement by a person who is at least 18-years-old, has known the applicant for at least 12 months, believes the application is made in good faith and supports the application. The supporting person needs no qualifications whatsoever. Indeed, it could be a school friend as long as they are aged 18 or over. Given the likely social and emotional issues being experienced by the applicant, that is a woefully inadequate process with which to allow a person aged 16 or 17 years to change their sex descriptor.

For children aged under 16 there are broadly two pathways to changing a sex descriptor. First, the administrative pathway under clause 40 allows the parents or parent of a child under the age of 16 to apply to the registrar to alter the child's sex descriptor. Persons identified in schedule 1 may also apply on the child's behalf. Secondly, the court pathway allows a child aged between 12 and 16 years to apply to the Childrens Court for a court order directing the registrar to alter the record of the child's sex if they do not have parental consent or for one parent, or other eligible person, in relation to a child aged under 16 to apply to the Childrens Court for the relevant order.

For all those aged under 16, under clause 37, the key to both pathways is an assessment of the child by a developmentally informed practitioner who has a professional relationship with the child. Remarkably, a developmentally informed practitioner includes not just psychiatrists, psychologists and psychotherapists but also a number of persons who may have no demonstrated experience or expertise in these matters such as occupational therapists, speech pathologists, nurses, social workers or school guidance counsellors. These clauses clearly strip away the rights of parents, which is of great concern.

I would like to note a few key lines from a very well written newspaper article that was published recently. The article is titled 'We have lost our child to this insidious ideology'. The article begins—

It was a sunny weekend afternoon four years ago when Elizabeth discovered her 13-year-old daughter was binding her developing breasts with packing tape.

There is a bit more to it, but I wish to quote this part—

But Jack's mother was in no doubt she was not faced with a child who believed she was truly a boy, but with a girl who was desperate to hold back the march of puberty, her visceral disgust at developing womanhood taking place amid a peer backdrop of hypersexualised young teenagers obsessed with gender identity, increasingly exposed to pornography and immersed in online trans culture.

The article further states—

'I always felt like an outsider,' says Jack, who like a sizeable proportion of children being treated at gender clinics around the country, is on the autism spectrum.

Jack said that he knew he thought differently. The article quotes Jack's mother, Elizabeth—

Elizabeth says she 'never saw in my child a child that was a boy or in any way male.'

...

'I saw a female child who was afraid of womanhood.'

It is no wonder that a young girl could be afraid of womanhood when a government fails to deliver key female services through maternity wards in a lot of rural Queensland. The same article tells Bethany's story. You could say that this was an experiment on children. The article states—

A few suburbs from where Elizabeth is doing her best to keep her family intact, another Melbourne mother receives a phone call from an unknown number.

The caller is a teacher, Louise, who is crouching at the back of a dark empty classroom, the door closed and the lights switched off.

'Anna, I got your email, do you have a moment?' Louise says when the mother answers the call.

Earlier that day Anna had sent an email to her 16-year-old daughter's school demanding an explanation as to why she was apparently being referred to at school by a boy's name and why no attempt had been made to discuss the issue with the parents.

...

When Anna asked to discuss her child's social transition facilitated by the school, the principal ignored the email, and subsequent requests to discuss the issue. When Louise made the call to say she understood Anna's concerns, and indeed shared them, having become increasingly concerned at the way a growing youth trans subculture was 'tapping into an adult world of activism', concealment seemed essential.

'I was just terrified of being overheard,' Louise says.

Those are caring adults with genuine concerns for the welfare of children and they are scared to speak up. I table that article in full for people to consider.

*Tabled paper:* Article from *The Australian*, dated 26 May 2023, titled 'We have lost our child to this insidious ideology' [\[860\]](#).

I oppose this bill because of the grave concerns we hold for rights that are being stripped away and for the woke agenda that is being tied to what otherwise could be satisfactory legislation.



**Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (4.57 pm): I too rise to address the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022. In doing so, like others I want to be quite respectful in my contribution. I appreciate that just about everyone in this chamber has tried to do that regardless of the views that they want to express. I also acknowledge that those who have contacted my office, either for or against this legislation, have largely done so with a high level of respect for those who have a differing point of view. This is a challenging matter. I acknowledge that people listening to this debate and the discussions around this issue may find the points being made challenging and I want to minimise or not cause any harm. I do want to say that it is not appropriate for anyone to vilify or discriminate against anyone for any reason. That also goes for us as members of parliament.

On that note, I must take umbrage with the words used by the member for Algester when she suggested that anyone who disagrees with any element of this bill is from the divisive far right. What is clearly demonstrated through the contribution of the member for Algester is that she did not take one moment to consider the committee's report into this legislation. What the member for Algester would have seen is that on a number of matters a range of stakeholders from across what would be considered a political spectrum have concerns with this legislation.



I will restrict my contribution to the two parts that many on this side have already expressed concern with. The first is part 2, births. The bill proposes to facilitate the registration of multiple combinations of parental descriptors to better reflect contemporary family structures. These descriptors include any combination of mother, father and parent, for example, mother/father, mother/mother, mother/parent, father/father, father/parent or parent/parent. The bill limits the number of parents who may be registered to not more than two people.

To go back to the point I was making about the fact that this is not just the divisive far right as the member for Algeester suggested, the Coalition of Activist Lesbians Inc commented that only biologically female people can give birth to human babies. I am pretty sure the Coalition of Activist Lesbians Inc would not want to be considered as divisive far-right stakeholders. If we then turn to part 5 of the bill, which brings in a new framework for the acknowledgement of sex—

Debate, on motion of Mr Powell, adjourned.

## MOTION

### State Development and Regional Industries Committee, 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games



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

That the State Development and Regional Industries Committee (the Committee)—

1. Commence an ongoing public accounts and public works inquiry into preparations for the 2032 Olympics and Paralympics under section 94 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001;
2. In undertaking the inquiry and periodic report, the Committee will consider all public works to be undertaken for the 2032 Olympics and Paralympics and for each public work address the matters in section 94(2) for its reporting to the Legislative Assembly;
3. Report to the Legislative Assembly on its inquiry periodically, with a report once every six months, with the first report being due on Friday, 16 December 2023 and the second report being due on Friday, 17 May 2024.

This motion is about transparency. This motion is about accountability. This motion is about openness. I would hope that, if members of the Labor Party were true to their word about Olympic expenditure and being accountable to the parliament, they will support this motion to set up this inquiry, an ongoing inquiry of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee, into expenditure for the Olympics and the Paralympic Games in 2032.

Brisbane was awarded the Olympics in July 2021 and what have Queenslanders seen since? Not much, other than a lot of red carpet events, a lot of announcements—not much deliverables—trips, taking friends to important meetings who should not be at such meetings, and glitz and glamour. We have seen not much red ribbon cutting, but that will happen by 2032. We have seen a lot of glitz and glamour about the Olympics, but we have not seen too much delivery. We have not seen the rubber hit the road. Time is running out. Take, for instance, Sunshine Coast heavy passenger rail, a key piece of infrastructure that was announced as part of the 2032 Olympic bid. Where is it? There is not a dollar in the capital expenditure. I see the minister for tourism looks confused over there.

**Mr Hinchliffe** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take his confused interjection. I say to the minister that public transport is pretty important for an Olympic Games. The Sunshine Coast heavy passenger rail is pretty important to get—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! Pause the clock. Thank you for resuming your seat, member for Kawana. Put your comments through the chair. Minister, I note you are on the speaking list later, so I ask you to use that as your opportunity to inject yourself into the debate.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I am quite concerned that the minister for sport is confused as to what part the Sunshine Coast heavy passenger rail could play in the 2032 Olympic bid, considering the Sunshine Coast has Olympic venues where we would expect people and passengers to go back and forward from Brisbane, connecting Beerwah to Caloundra to Kawana and Maroochydore. It is a pretty important part of it, but this shows how dismissive the minister is of the Sunshine Coast passenger heavy rail and why there is not a dollar in the capital expenditure. If it is not here, it is delayed to the next budget. If it is not in the next budget, it will not happen before the Olympics. Luckily the LNP has committed our state's contribution—50 per cent funding—to the heavy passenger rail. It will not happen under the Labor Party but will happen under a Crisafulli LNP government. That is when rail will happen on the Sunshine Coast.

In the past couple of years we have had a lot of glitz and glamour and a lot of red carpet. What we have not seen is accountability and transparency around expenditure on the Olympics. When I talk about expenditure I talk about an announcement of \$1 billion for the Gabba. There was a big press conference at the Gabba—\$1 billion. Twelve months later, it was \$2.47 billion. What was the Premier's explanation when she was at the Gold Coast? When I talk about the glitz and glamour and the red carpet, I am being serious. When the Premier was at the Gold Coast, the media at the Gold Coast Olympic meeting were told, 'You get one question to the Premier; she will answer only one question.' Local journos could not interrogate the Premier on the expenditure, because the Premier afforded the media people of the Gold Coast only one question each as she did on the Sunshine Coast as well.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Well, she had to go somewhere. I sometimes say that she has to go to lunch, but in the last 12 months it seems she has to go to lunch, to a superyacht, to Sydney—I don't know—and to anywhere but Queensland it seems at the moment. This motion is about holding the Labor government to account. Its members think they can just spend this money, Queensland taxpayers' money, as though it is monopoly money without any transparency and accountability. This motion holds the government to account. This motion puts parliament in charge of the expenditure and requires a parliamentary committee represented by all sides of politics to integrate and grill ministers when they say the Gabba is going to cost \$1 billion but then blows out to \$2.7 billion. Are we just to take their word for it like the Premier said? Last time, the Premier blamed the Gabba blowout on the Ukraine war! It is time that the people of Queensland see where their money is being spent. The government needs to be held accountable. This is a committee process that is already established. It will be an ongoing process to ensure Queenslanders are getting value for money for the Olympics and can see where their money is being spent to ensure it is being spent on the right things. I urge the government to support it.

*(Time expired)*



**Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure) (5.05 pm): I move—

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

'already has the ability to undertake public works oversight within the areas of responsibility outlined within schedule 6 of the standing orders and notes that the following oversight functions for Olympic and Paralympic infrastructure exist, including:

1. the Brisbane 2032 Coordination Office which will regularly report back on the planning and delivery of Games infrastructure;
2. the Intergovernmental Leaders Forum;
3. parliamentary question time and estimates; and

calls on all members to:

1. support the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games which will provide economic and social benefit to Queensland and a strong legacy for the people of Queensland; and
2. support keeping progressive coal royalties, which means more cost-of-living relief, better services and Queensland's Big Build.'

Queensland is embarking on the biggest decade of infrastructure delivery in our history. Yet again tonight, the LNP is trying to wreck it. We are investing \$89 billion over the next four years to build the infrastructure our growing state needs. Over the next year we will deliver \$20 billion worth of infrastructure, supporting 58,000 jobs. This work will generate jobs, improve services, protect our lifestyle, grow economic investment, boost our regions and help secure a future for our kids. It is all part of Queensland's Big Build. The best bit? More than half of that investment is in regional Queensland.

Hosting the 2023 Olympic and Paralympic Games is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to focus that investment and deliver it for all Queenslanders to enjoy. The games is the catalyst for bringing forward infrastructure and urban development plans, delivering better community facilities and more housing, infrastructure that will benefit our communities far beyond 2032. But the truth is—and this goes to the LNP's motion tonight—they have never supported our ambition to host the Olympic and Paralympic Games. They have never been that honest—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order, members!

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, member for Nanango!

**Dr MILES:** We never have to scratch the surface very far to find that they do not really like it. They do not think our state is worthy of what Brisbane 2032 can bring—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, member for Nanango! Order, member for Gregory!

**Dr MILES:**—and that is what this motion goes to. Members of the LNP do not support the Olympics and the Paralympics and they do not think Queensland can do it. That is the fundamental disagreement here tonight. That is what we just saw in the outrageous words of the member for Kawana.


**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, member for Kawana, you have had your contribution! Order, member for Nanango!

**Dr MILES:** The fact is all of Queensland will benefit from Brisbane 2032, including upgrades to sporting venues in Cairns and Toowoomba. New venues such as the Gabba and the expanded Woolloongabba Priority Development Area will deliver massive urban renewal including more housing supply. Just like the Commonwealth Games and Expo 88, Brisbane 2032 will change Queensland for the better.

The LNP have said they would cap the costs of our critical infrastructure projects. When costs have gone up, if we cap the funding of those projects we either have to cut entire projects or cut back the projects that we have committed to. The Leader of the Opposition has outlined \$10 billion worth of infrastructure that he would cut, including projects that are critical to the delivery of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. They have said they would cut Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3 and the transformative CopperString project set to change our electricity grid and deliver the critical minerals of the future.

Those opposite have been clear that they will cut these projects, but they have not been clear on whether they will keep our progressive coal royalties that allow us to fund the Big Build and the cost-of-living relief that we delivered in the budget yesterday. With progressive coal royalties Queenslanders can have the Brisbane 2032 games, they can have the Big Build and they can have better services. We need the Leader of the Opposition to tell us one way or the other whether he supports progressive coal royalties that will allow us to fund and deliver the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (5.10 pm): It is a privilege for me to be able to rise this afternoon and support the motion moved by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. 21 July 2021 was a great day for Queensland. It was a great announcement. It took leadership and management to get us to that point. In 2015-16 then lord mayor Graham Quirk and the Council of Mayors South-East Queensland showed great leadership in bringing together a feasibility study and putting on the agenda the Olympics for Brisbane 2032. That was great leadership.

This motion has been moved tonight because we are concerned about the management of this project. As the Deputy Leader of the Opposition said, time is ticking. 2032 is only nine years away. There have been so many shifts and changes, there has been lots of glitz and glamour, but we want to get real things done.

I talked about the leadership of then lord mayor Graham Quirk. The Council of Mayors have continued that. They are calling for infrastructure to be delivered—north and south and out to the west through my area; road, rail and water infrastructure. What about water security for Queenslanders? Wouldn't it be terrible if 2032 comes along and Queenslanders and those visiting cannot get a drink? Seqwater has said that their modelling indicates we are going to run out of water in 2031. What is the plan and what are the infrastructure solutions? Is there going to be a raising of Wivenhoe? That would be very sensible. It was put on the table in 2014 under a LNP government. What is the plan? As I said, time is ticking.

Sir David Higgins knows a thing or two about the Olympics. He was the boss of the London 2012 Olympics and delivered the Olympics a billion dollars under budget and on time. That is why he was knighted. He is a Queenslanders. He said on 18 March that he is a bit concerned about the model that this government has. 'It is a talkfest,' he said. There are 22 members on this body—five from the state government, five from the federal government and local government representatives. He said it would be a talkfest.

This is a classic example of the difference between the Labor government and an LNP government. Labor governments put themselves in charge and then outsource work to consultants—in this case Deloitte for \$800,000 to tell us that it is okay to bring it back in house. If anybody is interested in real politics, have a look at the series on the ABC called *Utopia*. There is a new series out now. If members go back to series 2 episode 7 there is a board of consultants who say to government, 'If it is fifty-fifty, which way would you go?' They gave the answer, 'Well, we want it to happen.' I think there might have been some conversations within this government with Deloitte, which is pretty close to the organising committee.


It is one thing to talk about announcements, but it is another thing to deliver infrastructure. That is why I support the motion moved by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. It is a good motion. It is about making sure that the risk of the Olympics being delivered over budget and not on time is well managed.

I challenge my fellow members of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee to vote for this motion because it is a sound motion. We have a track record of being able to deliver bipartisan approaches. Bipartisan approaches are very important because when there is a change of government in October 2024 this side will have had something to do with the management and control of the process and can then keep the ball rolling. The fellow I was talking about before, Sir David Higgins, actually suggested that. What a great idea to have a bipartisan approach. I challenge my fellow members of the committee to vote for the motion.

I recognise that in his contribution the Deputy Premier said, 'We have some oversight.' Yes, we do, but only if Labor members support it. Let us see a motion like this put to our committee to deliver meaningful control. It is all right to have transparency and accountability, but let us deliver an Olympics that is going to be a great thing for Queensland. It is going to be great in terms of an infrastructure legacy. As the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has said, there will be two decades of tourism opportunities—some leading into the games and some after. This is a good motion and it should be supported.

**Mr POWELL:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. According to standing order 94, 'Relevance of amendments', every amendment must be relevant to the question which it is proposed to amend. I submit that the last part of the amendment moved by the Deputy Premier referring to progressive coal royalties, cost-of-living relief, better services and Queensland's Big Build does not in any way form a level of relevance to the original motion and therefore should be ruled out of order.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): I will take some advice and I will take it in silence. I will warn anybody who does not follow that guidance. Thank you for the point of order, Manager of Opposition Business. I have consulted with the Clerk regarding that. My view is that the original motion as put relates to how the Olympics is funded and the financial oversight of that. In relation to the amendment, part 2 speaks to the manner in which the Olympics will be funded. To that end, I find that it is relevant to the original motion.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (5.17 pm): Here we go again! I was the transport minister in the months before the Commonwealth Games. What did we get from those opposite? We got total hysteria. The M1 was not going to work, the transport plan was going to fail, everything was going to go to pot. What actually happened? On the first day of the Commonwealth Games the transport plan worked beautifully.

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** The member for Chatsworth had egg all over his face, as did the Leader of the Opposition. They tried to scare everybody, and none of it eventuated. Here we go again! They did that two or three months before the Commonwealth Games. Here they are nine years early this time. Nine years before the games and we have these silly political games from an opposition that spent most of the short time they were in government trying to wriggle out of the Commonwealth Games—getting legal advice. It makes me wonder what kind of Olympic and Paralympic Games we would have if the LNP were in power? We would not have it for a start because Cross River Rail was fundamental to our successful application. They cut it and then they promised to cut it again. In 2017 they promised to cut it again.

When it comes to cutting, those opposite are gold medal experts. In fact, it is worth thinking about what the games would look like under them given their obsession for cutting. We would probably have the 80-metre sprint. We would probably have the opening ceremony conducted by the member for Kawana with bikies in pink jumpsuits. We would probably have one-on-one basketball. We would probably have the 'bicathlon'—all because of the cuts. However, I digress.

Mr Deputy Speaker, if you want to see a lot of the infrastructure for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, all you need do is to look up a copy of QTRIP because a lot of our investments for the games have already been announced and are already funded. The planning for the Sunshine Coast direct line, for instance, is underway. Now that we have a federal government that is interested in the Sunshine Coast, unlike the lazy Sunshine Coast LNP MPs—

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order, member for Kawana!

**Mr BAILEY**:—we have the planning underway to do the necessary work—after a decade of nothing and a whole term of nothing. The Leader of the Opposition was there in the Newman government when they cut, cut and cut.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Order, member for Coomera!

**Mr BAILEY**: Twenty-two of the 34 members of the opposition today are former members of the Newman government. They have not changed. They are all still there. Look at them!

**Mr Nicholls** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY**: The member for Clayfield is still there.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Order, member for Clayfield!

**Mr BAILEY**: He melted down three times in the last week before the state election. He is the meltdown master.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Order! Members, the level of interjections is excessive. I will start to warn people. I have indicated to a number of members by name that you are straying into territory where I may consider warning you. I ask that you heed that warning if I am naming you in that way.

**Mr BAILEY**: When we came to office there were no preparations of note for the Commonwealth Games. There was no light rail planned or funded by the Newman government. The Commonwealth Games would have been a disaster without light rail stage 2 connecting with heavy rail to give people from Brisbane a public transport option to get to the games.

Whenever those opposite talk about public transport, we know they are in opposition because when they are in government they never fund public transport; they only cut it. Cross River Rail—cut. Did they do anything about a Sunshine Coast direct line? No. The Newman government had every seat on the Sunshine Coast. What did they achieve? Nothing. We have the amateur thespian over there—

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Order, member for Kawana!

**Mr BAILEY**:—who was busy embarrassing them in the legal fraternity. He was not delivering for the local community.


**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Pause the clock. Member for Kawana, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Mr BAILEY**: We know they will cut. That is what they do. They have said it themselves. The shadow Treasurer said he has \$10 billion in cuts all ready to go. The member for Chatsworth said he has billions in savings. He is 'pruning'. They have said it themselves. It does not make any sense for them to be attacking us when we know how to fund infrastructure through progressive royalties. We have loyalty to the progressive royalties, but they do not. We know that they would cut them too.

We know they are not interested in infrastructure for the games, for a growing population or for the state in any shape or form because they have not changed. Twenty-two out of 34 opposition members are Newman government leftovers. Look at them over there—sad and sorry and bitter. Nothing has changed. The former member for Mundingburra is leading them. He is just the same as the sorry old leaders before him. I commend the amendment to the House.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (5.23 pm): It is great to follow the ‘Minister for on time and on budget’—a minister who dictates that members who say that projects will be on time and on budget be called some nasty name. Yet he is the one who goes out there and says, ‘Everything is on time and on budget.’

How is Cross River Rail going for the minister? Is it on time? No. Is it on budget? No. How is the second M1 down the Gold Coast looking? It has blown out. It is not on time and not on budget. How is light rail stage 3 looking for the minister? It went from \$700 million to \$1.2 billion. What do we see happening down there? Nothing much is happening. It looks like it is going to be over two or three years late. This is the ‘Minister for on time and on budget’—a minister who completely reinvents history at the end of the day. That is what the Labor Party does. When things do not suit them they reinvent history.

The Deputy Premier comes in here and moves an amendment which states that the committee has oversight of these things anyway. The committee system clearly does not work. Otherwise, we would not need to move this motion because we would be able to get this reference through the committee. Instead, the committee is controlled by the Labor Party and the Labor committee members will not let us do anything.

Would it not make sense for the State Development and Regional Industries Committee to look at every piece of infrastructure that is being built by this fiscally incompetent government—to look at the value that it offers the people of Queensland, to look at the results, to look at the construction and the contracts—to see that those things are being done fairly? We have already seen this minister introduce BPCS in most of the contracts. That is what has caused these massive blowouts. Quite seriously, these things need to be looked at. They need the Auditor-General looking at them and they need parliamentary oversight. That is simply what this motion seeks to achieve.

The Deputy Premier has moved to amend this motion to talk about progressive coal royalties funding infrastructure. How many times are they going to fund infrastructure with this one-off sugar hit? They are going to fund kindly for all kids. They are going to fund all of the housing projects. They are going to fund all of the hospitals. They are going to fund all of the Olympic infrastructure. They are going to do all of that on this one-off sugar hit, when their own budget says this is not going to continue any longer. They are going to leave a big black hole in the budget because one-off sugar hits just do not work.

**Mr Fumer** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Ferny Grove, if you want to engage in the debate, you will need to be in your own seat. That is general advice for all members.

**Mr HART:** We really need to have oversight of Olympic infrastructure. The government has already come out and said—it was written on the back of a coaster or in a press release—that the Gabba was going to cost a billion dollars. The committee that I sit on—in fact, I asked the question—asked the Auditor-General: was this billion dollars in the business case? There was no business case; it was a press release.

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Miller, cease your interjections across the chamber.

**Mr HART:** Then we find out that one day it is a billion dollars and the next day it is \$2.7 billion—just a minor blowout, just a little increase.


**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, member for Miller and member for Gregory! Cease your quarrelling.

**Mr HART:** That is what we are going to see with every project involved with the Olympic Games when these fiscally incompetent ministers on the other side have control of them. We have already seen the government swallow Building Queensland. We saw that happen years ago. It has disappeared into the murk.

The whole reason the government wants to put all of these infrastructure builds inside the government is to avoid any scrutiny at all because it cannot stand any scrutiny, yet it was elected on the back of being an open and transparent government. What have we seen? We have never seen any openness and transparency from this government. All we see is the reinvention of history and incompetence. That is what we see.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (5.28 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the amended motion moved by the Deputy Premier. I do want to thank the LNP for mentioning our committee so generously in their motion. I think it is recognition that we do a good job. Look at the inquiry we did on the OIA last year and the inquiry that we are doing at the moment on the impact of climate change on Queensland agricultural production. Thank you for your compliment. This parliament does not need our committee to do what is in this LNP motion. We have this covered. The Queensland government has the structure to complete the infrastructure and oversee it.


The Brisbane 2032 Coordination Office has been established to coordinate the delivery of these games. The coordination office is endorsed by games partners, including IOC Vice-President John Coates. The coordination office is responsible for the delivery of key infrastructure. It follows the signing of an historic intergovernmental agreement on funding between the state and federal governments. Let's not forget that 84 per cent of the venues in the Brisbane 2032 games master plan are either existing or temporary. The new venues we will build range from the epic Gabba rebuild and the Brisbane Arena to community sports complexes throughout the south-east. That includes the Moreton Bay Indoor Sports Centre, which is to be built at Petrie. It will house Olympic and Paralympic boxing. Afterwards that venue will live on to cater for many indoor sports in our area. I would also point out the accolades and compliments we received for running the 2018 Commonwealth Games, which I think show exactly what we can deliver as Queenslanders.

The real question here is whether the LNP truly supports Queensland's Olympic and Paralympic Games. Do they really support the benefits of the games? The member for Lockyer has delivered probably the most fulsome endorsement of the games of anyone on this side over here. I keep saying that they really do need him on their front bench. We know that Queensland's games will deliver a huge benefit to Queensland, including \$8.1 billion in economic and social benefits to Queensland and more than \$17 billion worth of benefits to Australia as a whole. They are going to create over 91,000 jobs in Queensland and almost 123,000 jobs Australia wide. Let's not forget the global broadcast reach of more than five billion people across 200 nations around the world. Not only that but Brisbane 2032 will also deliver a \$4.6 billion boost in tourism and trade for Queensland. The LNP needs to state whether it thinks this jobs bonanza is worth supporting. It is getting harder to hear anyone from the LNP state that they support the games or talk about how they will deliver such strong benefits to Queensland.

It has been said this week and tonight that the games and other infrastructure will be partially funded by progressive coal royalties. Once again the LNP need to put it out there and say whether they support our progressive coal royalties regime. We know that progressive coal royalties mean Queenslanders can have more cost-of-living relief, better services and better infrastructure for regional Queenslanders. It means we can deliver the strongest direct cost-of-living support package of any Australian government. As we have already heard, that means \$550 to each Queensland household in the form of an electricity rebate.

I want to conclude by asking why you would listen to the LNP talk about infrastructure delivery. They really do not know how to deliver infrastructure. They do not understand that you need years of planning and design before you build. There is one thing I want to point out. I give you exhibit A: Barnaby Joyce and the inland rail project. They wanted to build it. They started without having any idea of where it went—

*(Time expired)*


 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (5.33 pm): It is about time to raise the bar a little bit. This has been without doubt one of the most dull, lack of heart and soul debates I have heard from that side of the chamber. We love the Olympic Games. In fact, I would even watch a mango roll down a hill against an apple. Anything from the member for Miller and I would be there competing every day. It is an absolute waste of time getting project management advice from the member for Miller, the transport and main roads minister. It is like getting a lesson in humility from the member for Woodridge. There is no way in the world we can tolerate sitting here listening to undergraduate dross. I have to say that probably the only time I have agreed with the Premier was when she said the backbench has no talent. It must be galling to the member for Logan that he was short by seven votes from pipping the member for Ferny Grove. That just says it all.

Between today's date and 23 July 2032 there are 3,328 days until the Olympics are actually in this fine state. The problem we have on this side of the chamber, which is why I am supporting the motion as originally moved by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, is that there has been a lot of conversation and little action. There has been no movement at the station, and it is concerning. I will tell you why it makes perfect sense to formulate this committee.

There is a report here in relation to the 2010 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi. It is well known what a basket case the preparation of that particular sporting event was. They had a public accounts committee that tabled its report on exactly what the pitfalls were and where it went wrong, so this body in fact does exist in the western world. The other thing is that a little organisation in Queensland—in fact, it happens to be Queensland's largest club and it is not the left wing faction of the ALP, I can assure you of that—called the RACQ has come out with a statement in the last 48 hours. RACQ general manager of advocacy Joshua Cooney said, 'In nine years, this city is going to host the largest sporting event in the world, so we need to build infrastructure that can cope.'

In relation to project management, I only have a couple of minutes left. I could probably be here for two hours going through why we have distinct concerns about the lack of ability of the ALP—the democratic socialists who think they know the real world of project management—to deliver. I always like to have proof points, particularly for the sports minister, who might be taking an early holiday. No doubt he will have plenty of time to watch lots of Olympic events in the years to come because he may have some time on his hands after the next council election. That is what the good oil tells us, but we will wait and see.

Let's go through the medal tally when it comes to the member for Miller's budget blowouts, and then I will move on to some of the other competitors on that side of the amateur Little Athletics club. We will start off with my particular favourite, the member for Miller, who as we all know was called foolish by the CCC. It is a bit like when I give out prizes at the rifle range, the old target and then the new target. The old target for Gold Coast Light Rail was \$700 million. That blew out to \$1.2 billion. That is only a 72 per cent increase, mind you. We can go to Cross River Rail. It is quite sage to say that when the Premier jumped up she almost invoked her Sydney Olympic poise. When they made the announcement, 'And the winner is', with bated breath, 'Brisbane!', up she jumped doing the old 'woo hoo' and away she went. We were the only people in the running, mind you, but the fact is she jumped up and said, 'That's great, because we've got this fancy underground train kit and it's only going to cost \$5 billion.' If only! We do support Cross River Rail. What we do not support is a bit of kit that is going from \$5 billion up to around \$9.37 billion. That is a figure that just came out of thin air, didn't it? Not. I will speak more about that tomorrow when I get my opportunity. That is as much as I can say.

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (5.38 pm): I rise to speak against the opposition's motion and in support of the minister's amended motion. Mr Deputy Speaker, you might know the names Anna Meares, Cathy Freeman, Joel Coughlan, Mark Knowles, Jamie Dwyer, Duncan Armstrong, Hec Hogan, Bradford Cooper, Kenrick Tucker and Glen Housman. These men and women are all Olympians and Paralympians from Central Queensland, and our region is incredibly proud of their achievements.

Central Queenslanders are tough. We produce champions. Maybe it is something in the water—I do not know—but I am excited about our prospects of producing Brisbane 2032 Olympians and Paralympians, maybe even a gold medallist. I know our region is optimistic of our chances too, particularly given that recently 22 young Central Queenslanders have been shortlisted for the YouFor2032 program—a talent identification program to ensure more Queenslanders are identified in the lead-up to the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Brisbane, Queensland. This program will give these young Queenslanders the potential opportunity to participate in Paris 2024, LA 2028 and ultimately Brisbane 2032. Hosting the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games is an opportunity to help regional cities secure more international sporting and entertainment events over the next nine years and beyond. I am determined that regional Queensland will benefit from every opportunity.

The amended motion calls on members to support the games, but it also calls on members to support keeping progressive coal royalties, which means more cost-of-living relief, better services and Queensland's Big Build. I support progressive coal royalties, as does everyone on this side of the chamber and as do the majority of my community. Progressive coal royalties mean that the royalties generated from our resources—Queenslanders' resources—go back into good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle.


Working in mining, quarrying or gas is a dangerous job—one of the most dangerous jobs any Australian can do. I want to thank the mine, quarry and gas workers of Queensland, and in particular those who live in my electorate of Keppel, for their skills, expertise and labour and their blood, sweat and tears which have gone into extracting the resources for which the royalties are paid and from which we have been able to deliver the biggest surplus of any government in Australia's history. I want to give a shout-out to my friends Aaron Gosper, Trent Nelson, Dan Bowman, Bryn and Ellie Cronshaw, Darren Blackwood and Mitch Hughes who all work in mining and have helped deliver this surplus through their work. We can deliver our state's biggest cost-of-living program and our state's biggest building program and deliver lower debt because of one simple reason: progressive coal royalties.



It is time for those opposite and all political parties to make a public declaration on whether they support progressive coal royalties in their entirety or not. At the 2020 election the LNP committed to a 10-year freeze on all coal royalties to 2030. If the opposition had their way, Queenslanders would have missed out on \$5.7 billion in progressive coal royalties in this year alone and \$1.5 billion across the forward estimates. A total of \$7.2 billion would have been completely obliterated if the LNP had their way. So I am asking: what would the LNP have cut out of this budget to pay for their royalty freeze? Would they cut—or should I say ‘prune’—the \$550 electricity rebate? Would they cut free kindy? Would they cut the increase to the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme? Would they cut the new Moranbah Hospital in the electorate of Burdekin?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Resume your seat, member for Keppel. I am going to take some advice. Member for Keppel, your contribution seems to be straying very far from either the motion or the amendment. I bring you back to the substance of either the motion or the amendment.

**Ms LAUGA:** It is not enough to say that you support the cost-of-living measures without supporting progressive coal royalties. You cannot have your cake and eat it too. For as long as there is a Labor government in this state, we will keep progressive coal royalties, but will the LNP publicly support coal royalties in their entirety and all that they deliver for Queenslanders by voting in support of this amended motion? Tonight is your night: put your money where your mouth is, admit you were wrong to promise a royalty freeze and back the Palaszczuk government’s progressive coal royalties. No more of this evasion, vagueness, ambivalence or ambiguity from the LNP. I call on those opposite to come clean and vote in support of the amended motion and back our government’s progressive coal royalties tonight.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (5.43 pm): How afraid is this government of accountability, scrutiny and transparency? Well, apparently a lot, because the Deputy Premier has moved a motion to say that the parliament will not have access through a parliamentary committee so there can be true scrutiny of the infrastructure and services that have to be delivered in the lead-up to the Olympics. This government is scared of integrity and it is scared of transparency. We have heard these tame little poodle chairs of the government committees saying, ‘We don’t want to have a committee that looks at the Olympics and provides that scrutiny.’ That would be a committee doing its job in the true tradition that Fitzgerald said parliamentary committees should be doing—that is, holding the executive government to account. No, we have got tame poodles of chairs of committees—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Maroochydore, I would encourage you to use correct titles. I also believe you have used some unparliamentary language and I ask you to withdraw.

**Ms SIMPSON:** I withdraw. Mr Deputy Speaker—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hang on. You can withdraw, but I have not given you the call yet. You have the call.

**Ms SIMPSON:** The government chairs of the committees are not only tame with regard to doing the bidding of this Labor government; they gag committees regularly and then we do not see the minutes of those committees showing their acts to gag the efforts of non-government members to hold inquiries because they bury them for 30 years. That is an abuse of process and it is an abuse of the committee system. We also see an abuse of the estimates process when those chairs and some of the Labor backbenchers try to run down the clock and stop scrutiny.

That is why it is outrageous for the Deputy Premier to move this motion to remove the opportunity for a parliamentary committee to inquire into and keep account of this executive government in the build-up to the Olympics. Queensland deserves to have an Olympics legacy that serves all of Queensland, not just the Premier’s ego and not just those who will have one or two hero projects while the true legacy of opportunity is lost because this government is incapable of building infrastructure in a timely way and on budget.

I want to address a concern I have which came about through a contribution of the Coordinator-General and Director-General of the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, Mike Kaiser. He joined by live video the Sunshine Coast Infrastructure Summit on 2 June 2023. I am going to table a transcript of his contribution so members can read that in greater detail.

I do not blame Mr Kaiser; I blame the government that he is wedded at the hip to serving. The only legacies he could talk about in his contribution to that infrastructure summit were lifestyle, health and sustainability. I am trying to think what else he said. It was certainly our First Nations design and

accessibility. They are lofty things to aspire to but there was no detail and that is the problem with this government. He is just a mandarin of this government. What we see is a government that has no plan they are willing to stand up and be proud of and see the accountability measures.

We have very tame committee chairs—I was going to say an unparliamentary word about some of our chairs—who are just doing the bidding of this government. The government do not want to have a program of the Olympics. We need to see a transport program that connects all of South-East Queensland. We need to see the rail to Maroochydore, which was part of the documents that the council of mayors put forward, along with a visionary program to have a true legacy of transport. We need to see a legacy of development of sports facilities for the state that are not just about elite sports but about grassroots sports and the development of our young people into the future.


We need to see all of the services that Queensland should have as a true legacy. We cannot have any more of this cover-up. We hear the government talk about—what are they calling it?—the Big Build. It is the big con because unless they stop the cover-up there is no big build. It is a big cover-up. That is why I strongly support the motion as moved by my colleague the member for Kawana and our deputy opposition leader. We want accountability and we want an Olympics legacy that serves all of Queensland. We do not want any more big con of this government.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Member, you indicated you were going to table something. Do you have it?

**Ms SIMPSON:** Yes, I have it.

*Tabled paper:* Excerpt, dated 2 June 2023, from videoconference recording of contribution by the Coordinator General and the Director-General of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, Mr Mike Kaiser, to the Sunshine Coast Infrastructure Summit [861].

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (5.49 pm): I rise to speak and support the Deputy Premier's amended motion. I have to say I was a little surprised by the opposition's motion as it looked like they were giving themselves actual work—unnecessary work, as it turns out, but nevertheless work. It is clear they have their heavy hitters on the State Development and Regional Industries Committee in the form of the member for Lockyer and the member for Burleigh. I can see those two members going in really hard to interrogate the massive and complex infrastructure program of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. I can still recall the member for Burleigh Googling estimates questions the night before a hearing I attended, so, Leader of the Opposition, I would rethink that strategy.

What is this really about? We know that it is about undermining the Olympic and Paralympic Games, games that will deliver \$8.1 billion in benefits to Queensland, including a \$4.6 billion economic boost to tourism and trade, and \$3.5 billion in social improvements such as health, volunteering and community benefits. More than 91,000 new jobs will be created here in Queensland. Why do the opposition not support more jobs for Queenslanders?

Six new venues will be developed, including the Brisbane Arena at Roma Street, four community hub facilities and the Redland Whitewater Centre. Does the member for Oodgeroo support the new Redland Whitewater Centre? Eight existing venues will receive major upgrades, including the Gabba, Sleeman Sports Complex and Barlow Park in Cairns. Does the member for Chatsworth support a major upgrade of the Sleeman Sports Complex?

The significant social benefits derived from the games, including health benefits, volunteering, civic pride and social cohesion, sporting pathways generated for elite athletes, industry and government partnerships, enhanced community infrastructure, diversity and inclusion, and social licence—does the opposition not support any of these benefits that the Olympic and Paralympic Games will bring? If elected, would they continue with the 2032 games? This is the question that the Leader of the Opposition must answer.

Something that we do know is that the Leader of the Opposition and the LNP may say they support the games, but they will just continue to undermine and attack every effort to progress them. They say one thing; they do another.

This leads me to coal royalties as referenced in the amended motion. Does the Leader of the Opposition support our government's progressive coal royalties? They voted for them, but they have distanced themselves from that decision. Coal royalties are expected to bring in \$15.3 billion of revenue in 2022-23. The uplift from progressive coal royalties is projected to be worth \$7.2 billion over the five years to 2026-27. We recognise that a prosperous resource sector is good for jobs and it is good for Queensland, but it is also important to be honest and clear with the resources industry about the future

of coal royalties. Our Labor government is very clear. We will continue with our policy of progressive coal royalties. What is the LNP doing? If the LNP wishes to reverse these changes, it should also be honest with the people of Queensland about which projects or funds it will cut.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Please resume your seat, member for Jordan. Member for Coomera, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Mrs MULLEN:** There is \$1.06 billion towards CopperString 2.0. We already know that this project is on the LNP's cuts list. What about the \$7 billion towards the state owned pumped hydro for the Borumba and Pioneer-Burdekin projects? Well, I think we lost them at 'state owned'. Seriously, does the member for Gympie not support the Borumba project?

With regard to the \$550 million for the Fitzroy to Gladstone pipeline, does the member for Nanango, who I think is the shadow minister for water—she just screams water at us every so often, so I have just assumed—support this pipeline project? The \$440 million towards the Burdekin Falls Dam improvement and raising project—does the member for Burdekin not support this project? What about the Regional Economic Futures Fund, the Resources Community Infrastructure Fund, the Queensland critical minerals and battery technology fund? Will they all disappear under the LNP?

The member for Mudgeeraba is quick to exploit patient cases, but will she support the more than \$3.6 billion that we are investing in new or expanded hospitals, including in Moranbah, Mackay, Cairns, Townsville, Bundaberg, Hervey Bay and Toowoomba? Do the members for Toowoomba North and Toowoomba South support the new Toowoomba Hospital? The Leader of the Opposition and the LNP will not come clean with Queenslanders. They will continue to sit on the fence on myriad issues—the Olympics, the coal royalties, even treaty as we found out. I am pleased to see that even their own are not fooled. As one longstanding member of the LNP observed during the Fadden LNP preselection, 'David Crisafulli is ... also the best expert fence sitter I have seen in politics in 40 years.'

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (5.54 pm): Let's cut some of the subject matter of the future speakers and make it clear now: we support the Olympics! We love the Olympics! We wish the Olympics would come here every four years, and we support the projects that are necessary for us to have a successful Olympics. This is the reason we are having this motion. The reason we want this motion to get up is we want these Olympics to be the best Olympics ever. Therefore, we have to do something that is a foreign concept to the government, and that is to be accountable. I quickly looked up the definition of 'accountable': 'the obligation or willingness to accept responsibility for one's actions'. One other source says, 'Being completely responsible for what they do and must be able to give a satisfactory reason for it'. That is what 'accountable' is, and that is what we are going to do and that is what we want to happen right now because we have no time to waste.

The reason we want this is this government has a record of blowouts and making promises that are never completed. They make promises about the future, hoping that people will forget them or that they will lapse and they will make some sort of re-announcements if they are lucky enough to get back in. But there is one big difference about the Olympics: it is in 2032; there is a deadline. It is not going to change. We have to make sure that we keep the projects accountable because we know what this government is like when it comes to blowouts—and they have been mentioned by some of my colleagues already—whether it is Cross River Rail, whether it is Gold Coast Light Rail, whether it is the Coomera Connector, whether it is water projects. There has been blowout after blowout after blowout.


Here is the scary thing: over the next nine years, there is around about \$7 billion to \$8 billion worth of projects that we have to make sure are completed. I do not know about you, but I do not trust this mob. This mob's track record shows that they cannot be trusted when it comes to being on time and on budget. I already mentioned the classic example, the very big elephant in the room when it comes to infrastructure, and that is the Gabba refurbishment. \$1 billion was the original announcement—

**Mr Crisafulli:** On the world stage.

**Mr MANDER:** On the world stage—I will take the interjection from the opposition leader. The Auditor-General was asked, 'Where did that \$1 billion come from?' He said, 'I think it is from a media release.' No business plan and no study. An announcement had to be made. He was asked if the federal government knew about it and he said, 'Well, they will know about it now.' Then a year later they come out with this \$2.7 billion—\$2.7 billion—again, no transparency, no business plan, no idea what is happening. \$2.7 billion on a stadium. The Optus Stadium in Perth, which houses 65,000, three

or four years ago cost \$840 million. \$2.7 billion on a stadium that has 52,000 seats! Queenslanders deserve to know the rationale behind that and the business plan behind that and what is the timetable to make sure that that happens. The people in the cricket world, the people in the AFL world, East Brisbane State School—all of those people are wondering what the heck is happening and there has been a lack of transparency. That is one of the reasons that we need this standing committee to make sure we keep the government accountable.

The amendment that the government has brought in, quickly put together by the Deputy Premier, mentions the estimates hearings. We all know what, under this government, a joke the estimate hearings are. They insult us, and therefore insult Queenslanders, to think that that is the best way to keep the government accountable on \$8 billion worth of projects. We are committed to this motion because we have a vested interest. We have a vested interest because when we start opening some of those stadiums and some of those projects when we get into government next year we want to make sure that things are on budget and on time, and if we do not have this motion up, I do not trust the government's ability to deliver.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (5.59 pm): I support the Deputy Premier's amendment, I support the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and I support progressive coal royalties. These are some simple statements that I want to reiterate and make sure are very clear to everyone because there was some prevarication from the other side about a few things. I accept and acknowledge the absolute clarification—there were some good comments from the member for Lockyer and I like the clarification from the member for Everton. It is great to hear that the members opposite support the Olympic and Paralympic Games because there are some in this chamber who do not.

However, I did not hear any declaratory statements from those opposite about their support for progressive coal royalties. We can deliver our state's biggest cost-of-living program, deliver our state's biggest building program, including infrastructure for the 2032 games, and deliver lower debt because of one simple reason: progressive coal royalties. Based on the contribution of those opposite it is obvious they do not support progressive coal royalties, they do not support the cost-of-living measures, they do not support paying down debt and they do not support the infrastructure build that will contribute to our hosting of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Gympie and member for Gladstone, cease your quarrelling across the chamber.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** What we have heard from those opposite is a lack of acceptance that scrutiny and accountability are provided for, and they are provided for in the amendment. It absolutely is. Our existing systems and our parliament mean there will be scrutiny and accountability of this process. We heard from the member for Maroochydore a lack of recognition which is an abuse of the chairs of our committees. That is very hard to take, very unfriendly and inappropriate—not upholding the honour of those members.

We also heard from the member for Everton a definition of 'accountable'. It was good to see he could find a dictionary and it was good to see he could find a definition. The reality is if you open up a dictionary at the back and you find 'unaccountable', you will see a picture of the member for Everton. You will see the results of his impact as housing minister on housing in this state—absolutely unaccountable. If we are looking for new definitions, we saw some new definitions of 'the western world' from the member for Chatsworth. That was an interesting bit of education for us all!

There are a whole lot of realities and understandings about the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games that those opposite do not seem to have gotten their head around. We hear the moaning and screaming about 'nine years' and 'the clock's ticking'. We saw the member for Kawana screaming that the clock was ticking. The reality is that before the new norms process came in, host cities would only learn they were awarded the Olympic and Paralympic Games seven years out from a games. We are doing all of the work that is needed to set things up to ensure we get the best benefit from this opportunity.

We have heard figures from so many members about the economic impact, the jobs being created and the more than five billion viewers globally that the games will attract. With the eyes of the world squarely on Brisbane and Queensland in 2032, there will be an international platform to amplify

everything from healthy and active community initiatives to arts and culture, sustainability initiatives, inclusiveness, tourism, trade and business development opportunities. They are all ripe for the picking with that world global platform. We have to take advantage of this.

Very importantly, from my point of view there is the sporting perspective, and a big part of that is around some of the great sporting infrastructure that will be developed. For the benefit of the member for Maroochydore, who seemed to think this is only about elite venues, I can say that 54 new indoor courts will be delivered across South-East Queensland as a result of these programs. There will be upgraded sporting infrastructure in Cairns and Toowoomba, the things that will deliver fantastically. Also on that elite level, there will be the state-of-the-art, international-standard Gabba and Brisbane Arena that will deliver for decades in terms of Queensland sporting infrastructure. There is so much to deliver.

We have heard the braying from those opposite about the supposed failings of the government in relation to infrastructure delivery. All I know is that in all my time in this parliament, and having observed Queensland politics for a long time, those opposite have delivered nothing in terms of infrastructure with the possible exception of 1 William Street. That is it.

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

**NOES, 36:**

**LNP, 33**—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Watts, Weir.

**KAP, 2**—Dametto, Knuth.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

Pair: Ryan, Stevens.

Resolved in the affirmative.

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

Motion agreed to.

Motion, as agreed—

That the State Development and Regional Industries Committee already has the ability to undertake public works oversight within the areas of responsibility outlined within schedule 6 of the standing orders and notes that the following oversight functions for Olympic and Paralympic infrastructure exist, including:

1. the Brisbane 2032 Coordination Office which will regularly report back on the planning and delivery of Games infrastructure;
2. the Intergovernmental Leaders Forum;
3. parliamentary question time and estimates; and

calls on all members to:


1. support the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games which will provide economic and social benefit to Queensland and a strong legacy for the people of Queensland; and
2. support keeping progressive coal royalties, which means more cost-of-living relief, better services and Queensland's Big Build.

## BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from p. 1865, on motion of Mrs D'Ath—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (6.10 pm), continuing: I appreciate this debate is about to be guillotined, but I wish to add to it. Before the break I was saying that the member for Algester suggested that everyone who was opposing elements of this was divisive and far right. I was mentioning that many

were not. I want to mention that Louise from Mooloolah Valley, Maree from Glass House Mountains and Roslyn from Ocean View in my electorate who contacted me would be quite offended at that. I would encourage members to listen to the speeches made by the members for Clayfield and Ninderry, who gave more detail. I accept that I am now going to be asked to sit down.

**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (6.10 pm), in reply: In rising to reply to this debate, I again acknowledge the trans and gender-diverse community, particularly those who are joining us in the gallery here this evening. It is wonderful to see so many of particularly our trans community coming here to see this important debate and to see the passing of this legislation. I do not intend to use the time available to traverse all of the aspects that I already covered in my second reading speech. Many of the issues that were raised by non-government members have absolutely been addressed in the introductory speech, in the second reading speech, in the committee report and, of course, in the explanatory notes as well. However, there are a few things I want to point out.

I acknowledge the respect shown by the member for Clayfield in his contribution. He was thoughtful in saying, 'I completely endorse the findings that there is no evidence whatsoever that transwomen are any more likely to commit offences than any other women and the studies all show that to be the case'. I thank the member for Clayfield for saying that. The member goes on to say, 'there is no reason for fear of those things. The issue in relation to men seeking to take advantage of the laws, I think is equally, while a concern to many groups, not supported by the evidence in any significant amount.'

Sadly, there are many on the opposite side who did not follow that line of debate; who ignored the fact that there is no evidence and who continue to perpetuate the argument that by passing this bill we will actually harm women. A number of those opposite made that statement as a justification for not supporting this bill, despite the shadow Attorney-General saying there was no evidence to support that view. I find that extremely disappointing. Those who have had to sit and listen to this debate found that extremely disappointing, if not very confronting and upsetting. I am not here to apologise for the harmful comments made by others; I am here to say that those on this side of the chamber stand with you, hear you, walk with you and will pass this bill tonight.

There are arguments around children and the harm to children. We heard a number of members on the opposite side and crossbench say that this will harm children. In fact, the member for Currumbin said, 'This will do harm to our children'—those exact words. She also went on to state that our claims that this will save lives will end up showing that it has little impact. Often with laws like this you cannot measure how many lives you save, but we know that it will save lives. We know that not passing these laws will continue to harm the trans and gender-diverse community.

We heard that this bill has been rushed; it is pre-emptive; there has not been enough consultation. We heard from the member for Kawana, whom I love to quote. The member for Kawana—although he concentrated a lot on sport—questioned why I did not act on this when I was previously the attorney-general if this was so important to me. I say to the member for Kawana who was the attorney-general in the LNP government: the first thing that I did in my first year in 2015 as the attorney-general was reverse the damage the then attorney-general, the member for Kawana and now Deputy Leader of the LNP, did to the civil union legislation.

**Mr Bleijie:** I thought you wrote the youth justice laws first.

**Mrs D'ATH:** You laugh. Go upstairs after this debate and talk to the people whom this impacts.

**Ms Farmer** interjected.

**Madam Deputy Speaker** (Ms Lui): Member for Bulimba, order!

**Mrs D'ATH:** When those laws were introduced by a previous Labor government, within 12 months those opposite came in as a new government in June 2012 and sought to change those laws. Yes, you could still register your civil union, but you could not have a state sanctioned public ceremony. Who does that? Who is so petty that they take away the right to have a state recognised ceremony? Why did they do this? They said that this was a sign of good faith for the religious community.

The Australian Christian Lobby praised the amendments of the LNP saying, 'Homosexuals already had all the rights they needed before the bill was passed'—meaning the Labor laws. What rights were they? So that is what I did in 2015. In 2017, I got on with passing legislation to expunge historical homosexual convictions. We then went on to remove the gay-panic defence in the Criminal Code. In 2017, we started our journey on the births, deaths and marriages legislation, recognising that the

majority of Australians supported marriage equality. We changed our legislation to recognise trans persons in that legislation, recognising that there was more work to do. In 2018 we released a public discussion paper on the review of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Amendment Act 2018. I guess five years is rushed.

**Ms Farmer:** No, I think that is enough consultation.

**Mrs D'ATH:** There was plenty of consultation. The member for Noosa said 'we never heard anything', and I accept that, because people who are not impacted by discriminatory laws generally do not know about it because it does not affect their lives. The member for Southern Downs and others want to pipe up on this debate, but the reality is that they will get up tomorrow and life will go on the same—nothing has impacted them. All of the rhetoric that we heard during the marriage equality debate that 'this was going to devalue what marriage is about' did not happen. We are hearing exactly the same arguments in this debate: that women will feel less valued because of what we are doing.

**Ms Grace:** I won't!

**Mrs D'ATH:** No woman on this side will. When those on the opposite side and the member for Hinchinbrook talk about the silent majority, guess what? We used to hear about the silent majority when it came to marriage equality. Then they got to have a public say, and guess what? They are a vocal majority. We are representing that majority here today who support fair and equitable laws in this state. That is what we should be doing.

I am very proud that we are here debating and passing this legislation tonight. There have been comments from those opposite that it is complex, that there are potential unintended consequences and that there are some things they support in this bill. However, if the LNP was absolutely genuine about that—as much as it claims that the parliamentary committee process was rushed and it was over the Christmas period—the LNP had five months to consider any amendment it wanted to bring here to try to find a middle ground so it could support it. I honestly wish there had been a conscience vote on this because I do believe there were some on the other side who would have supported this, but the reality is that an LNP government would never have changed these laws. That is why it did not bring amendments forward. If it brought amendments forward and they were accepted, it would have had to vote for them and it does not want to.

I accept that there may very well be individuals, including the member for Clayfield, who may have wanted to support this bill, but the reality is that some of the speeches we heard here were absolutely abhorrent. The member for Maroochydore referring to paedophiles and sex offenders in this debate is just disgusting. With regard to the myth perpetuated through ongoing debates around women's safe spaces and that they were at risk in toilets and whatever else, again there is no evidence whatsoever to support that. The member for Hinchinbrook said that this must be a Brisbane issue. I feel for the trans and gender-diverse people in his community who feel like—

**Mr Dametto:** My door is always open to them.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I take that interjection from the member for Hinchinbrook, who said, 'My door is always open,' but people will not walk through that door when they know they are going to face discrimination. They will not walk through that door when they face bias like that and when they face deliberate ignorance.

**Mr Dametto** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): Member for Hinchinbrook—

**Mr Dametto** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Hinchinbrook, you are now warned under the standing orders.

**Mrs D'ATH:** If we really want to see what the LNP stands for, I do not need to go back to 2012 and what it did; we only need to look at what was said in this debate. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition, when interjecting on feminine identity when the member for Bancroft was speaking, said, 'It's just blokes in a dress'—that is what he said—and he called the bill an attack on women. That is the deputy leader who is going to go to the next election saying, 'Vote us in. You've got nothing to fear from us,' and I am sure we will hear that line again. The public has everything to fear from an LNP government, and we can guarantee that this would be one of the first pieces of legislation it would overturn. To reinforce that, the member for Everton said that the bill imposes the left's philosophical quest to change the very fabric of our societal norms which have served us well for centuries—centuries! I think he lives a century ago because that is the member for Everton's views—centuries!

Women could not even vote. Women had to leave the workforce when they got married. Are these the sorts of societal norms we have had over centuries that we should have just left in place? Put us back in the kitchen? That is how you look after women!

**A government member** interjected.

**Mrs D'ATH:** That is right: they had to modify this building because there were no female members and there were no female toilets. I am glad that societal norms adapted to the times—that we adapt, that we change, that we evolve, that we listen, that we learn and that we have understood that equality is about human rights. Another thing that the LNP opposed was human rights, and that is what we are talking about here today—the rights of individuals. If we take away all of the labels and names, we are human beings who deserve respect.

**Mr Dametto** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Hinchinbrook, you have been warned. I will now ask you to leave the chamber for an hour.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Hinchinbrook withdrew from the chamber at 6.24 pm.*

**Mrs D'ATH:** This is not a joke; these are lives. This is people just wanting to be who they are, be recognised for who they are and get on with their lives. There have been arguments that this is unnecessary, that we do not need to put gender or sex at all on a birth certificate, that we can put two different things. Then there was the argument from the member for Hinchinbrook, who said, 'We don't even use birth certificates for anything, do we?' Clearly the member for Hinchinbrook has not gone anywhere or done anything forever, because you have to produce that as an identifying document in so many parts of our lives.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mrs D'ATH:** Of course you need it, including to get into this place, and I am sure it was used with his application.

It was an extraordinary debate, but it was a serious debate in that I know that it was felt very deeply, and it did cause harm and hurt to those sitting in the gallery for this debate. For that I am deeply saddened and sorry that that occurred. For those on this side—and I know there will be some on the other side who cannot identify themselves—we are very proud of this legislation. Yes, people can talk about housing and education and health and crime and youth justice and all of those things, and some have said that there are more important things going on in society and that we should not be doing this. We are more than capable of doing all of that, and that is what we do. The Treasurer has just handed down a budget that put vulnerable people in our community front and centre. It is about looking after the people of this state first, because when you look after the people you look after the economy. That is how you build a strong economy, and that is what we do. You can have good, strong laws and economic laws. You can invest in health and education and housing and roads and renewable energy. You can do all of that, and you can have a social justice reform agenda that underpins all of that. In fact, that human right sits as an underpinning factor in every single piece of legislation that we debate and every decision we make and every service we deliver across government, and it underpins what we are doing here today.

The Palaszczuk government has a proud history of social reforms, and there are just a couple of points that I want to make before I finish. There has been a lot of concentration on part 5 around children and that we are allegedly harming children and the fact that we are letting under-16-year-olds have a say on their bodies, on their identity. What those opposite forget is that that is already entrenched in law. It is entrenched in law in a lot of decisions that young people get to make because it is an evolving capacity principle that exists at law, including in the termination of pregnancy legislation, where we allow young people under the age of 16 to make decisions based on their capacity to understand the decision they are making. In this case, as with termination of pregnancy, it is underpinned by medical advice as well. This bill does not allow a young person to just go off and randomly make a decision and get these changes made without any proper oversight. It is there in law already. It is known as a guiding policy principle. The evolving capacity of children is a guiding policy principle. It exists now. It applies to this bill as it applies to many areas of law in this state and has for some time. I respectfully request those on the opposite side to educate themselves about those laws in this state and what already exists.

There was a very sensible question from the member for Condamine, who asked about a mother in his community who is a sole parent granted custody under family law not having to go and get consent from a previous partner—the father—of the children and the process that people in such situations have to go through.



Despite getting sole custody, right now that mother would have to go off to the Magistrates Court. This bill we are debating today means that that mum will not have to. She has been granted sole parental custody by the courts and she can go straight to Births, Deaths and Marriages and have that surname changed to reflect her name that her children will carry and not have to worry about a former abusive partner or abusive parent and seeking their consent or justifying that before a court. That is another good reform in this bill.

*An incident having occurred in the public gallery—*

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): Sergeant-at-Arms, remove that person from the gallery. Can I please advise members in the gallery that you may watch the proceedings in silence.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I acknowledge that this bill also deals with overseas recognition certificates that are really important for those who have come from overseas. I finish on this: I have no shame in relation to this bill; I just have pride in my heart. I stand with those who are up in the gallery, those across Queensland, those whom we have lost who have lost the fight. This is for them and for every member on this side who supports this bill and understands the importance of really good reform around equality. This is just another step towards achieving that. Again I thank the committee and all of the submitters. I am very proud to commend this bill to the House.

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

**AYES, 50:**

**ALP, 48—**Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Madden, Martin, McCallum, McMahan, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

**Grn, 2—**Berkman, MacMahon.

**NOES, 34:**

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

**KAP, 1—**Knuth.

**Ind, 1—**Bolton.

Pair: Ryan, Stevens.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read a second time.

### Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 14, as read, agreed to.

Clause 15—



**Mr BERKMAN** (6.38 pm): I move the following amendment—

**1 Clause 15 (Application to change child's first name within a year of birth)**

Page 21, lines 25 and 26—

*omit.*

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

*Tabled paper:* Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022, explanatory notes to Mr Michael Berkman's amendments [\[862\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Mr Michael Berkman's amendments [\[863\]](#).

As I indicated in my second reading contribution, all of these amendments, a suite of 14 of them, are intended to essentially remove the potential cost barrier for making these changes to key identity documents like a birth certificate. We saw in a number of submissions on the bill, including from Equality Australia, Amnesty International and ATSILS, that there is support for waiving these fees to remove financial barriers to accessing up-to-date information. That is the entire purpose of these amendments. There is nothing more to it than that. It certainly does not detract from our full-throated support for the bill and everything that it intends to achieve. We simply believe that documents like this that are essential to participating in public life should be freely accessible to people. This is especially pertinent

at the moment. Everyone is very well aware of the cost-of-living crisis we find ourselves in the middle of. At the same time we cannot be fully aware of the circumstances in the lives of each and every person who may need to use these new laws. By taking these fees away and making documentation services free I would put to the House that we will ensure that the full intent of this bill is realised.

I sincerely apologise to the Attorney if I missed her addressing these proposed amendments while I was making my way to the chamber earlier, but I am interested to hear whether the government sees fit to support the amendments proposed. I am not aware of any complicating factors. They would simply allow for applications to be made for this documentation through the registry without fees of up to \$200 being paid.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for Maiwar for the amendments. The government will not be supporting the amendments. As the member knows, the charging of fees is a reality in accessing everyday government services. The fees currently charged by the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages are reasonable and proportionate and enable the registry to deliver services in an efficient, effective and economic way. However, there is also compassion and empathy shown to Queenslanders in appropriate circumstances. The registry has developed a fee waiver policy and considers fee waivers on a case-by-case basis having regard to the circumstances of each applicant. The registry currently waives fees for life event certificates provided to a range of disadvantaged groups in the Queensland community.

Examples of the registry's ongoing community engagement activities include the provision of free birth certificates to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children registered through its Closing the Registration Gap program and the provision of replacement certificates for those impacted by floods, cyclones, bushfires and other natural disasters. The registry will continue to participate in community outreach activities. The bill provides a clearer legislative basis for current practice by providing an express power for the registrar to waive fees for certificates and other registry processes.

The decision to waive a fee will be at the ultimate discretion of the registrar. In deciding whether to wholly or partly waive a fee, the registrar may have regard to whether the applicant is experiencing financial hardship, whether provision of the service or thing applied for would improve the applicant's circumstances and whether, in the registrar's opinion, waiver of the fee would be otherwise desirable in the circumstances. A person who applies to alter their record of sex under the proposed changes may be eligible for a waiver of fees where the individual is able to demonstrate financial hardship and immediate need.

Subject to the passage of this bill, the registrar will also explore other options, including charging only one fee where a trans or gender-diverse person applies for a change of name and alteration of sex as part of one combined application. This is consistent with the approach of the Victorian registry. I note in his contribution to the debate the member said that the current cost is prohibitive, but the cost has not actually been prescribed yet. It will be prescribed in regulation, so we are still to work out what the cost will be. Certainly I welcome the fact that the registrar will be looking at what is being done in other jurisdictions to reduce those costs where multiple changes may occur.

I know this is not what the member is particularly after, but at the end of the day we have government services that we have to fund. Those funds have to come from somewhere. Generally we operate on a cost-recovery basis. It is not about earning an income; it is about cost recovery so that every year we can provide the services that we provide through Births, Deaths and Marriages.

Non-government amendment (Mr Berkman) negatived.

Clause 15, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 16 and 17, as read, agreed to.

Clause 18—



**Mr BERKMAN** (6.43 pm): I move the following amendment—

**2 Clause 18 (Application of division)**

Page 24, line 2, from 'accompanied' to 'regulation'—  
*omit.*

I will not speak to this amendment or any subsequent amendment because they are directed at the same objective of removing fees for each of the different types of applications.

Non-government amendment (Mr Berkman) negatived.

Clause 18, as read, agreed to.

Clause 19, as read, agreed to.

Clause 20—

**Mr BERKMAN** (6.44 pm): I move the following amendment—

**3 Clause 20 (Application of division)**

Page 25, line 25, from 'accompanied' to 'regulation'—  
*omit.*

Non-government amendment (Mr Berkman) negatived.

Clause 20, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 21 to 25, as read, agreed to.

Clause 26—

**Mr BERKMAN** (6.44 pm): I move the following amendment—

**4 Clause 26 (Application to register change of adult person's name)**

Page 30, lines 16 to 19, from 'be—'—  
*omit, insert—*

be in the form required by the registrar and made in an approved way.

Non-government amendment (Mr Berkman) negatived.

Clause 26, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 27 and 28, as read, agreed to.

Clause 29—

**Mr BERKMAN** (6.45 pm): I move the following amendment—

**5 Clause 29 (Application by parents and others to register change of eligible child's name)**

Page 33, lines 27 to 30, from 'be—'—  
*omit, insert—*

be in the form required by the registrar and made in an approved way.

Non-government amendment (Mr Berkman) negatived.

Clause 29, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 30 to 34, as read, agreed to.

Clause 35—

**Mr BERKMAN** (6.46 pm): I move the following amendment—

**6 Clause 35 (Notation of change of name other than by registration)**

Page 39, lines 4 to 9, from 'by—'—  
*omit, insert—*

by a document, prescribed by regulation, that evidences that the person's name has been changed under the law of another State or other legal process.

Non-government amendment (Mr Berkman) negatived.

Clause 35, as read, agreed to.

Clause 36—

**Mr BERKMAN** (6.46 pm): I move the following amendment—

**7 Clause 36 (Re-registration of relevant event after change of name registered or noted)**

Page 40, lines 15 to 18, from 'be—'—  
*omit, insert—*

be in the form required by the registrar and made in an approved way.

Non-government amendment (Mr Berkman) negatived.

Clause 36, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 37 and 38, as read, agreed to.

Clause 39—

**Mr BERKMAN** (6.47 pm): I move the following amendment—

**8 Clause 39 (Application to alter record of sex of person 16 years or more in relevant child register)**

Page 43, line 5—

*omit.*

Non-government amendment (Mr Berkman) negatived.

Clause 39, as read, agreed to.

Clause 40, as read, agreed to.

Clause 41—

**Mr BERKMAN** (6.47 pm): I move the following amendment—

**9 Clause 41 (Form of application to alter record of sex of child under 16 years)**

Page 45, lines 2 to 5, from 'by—'

*omit, insert—*

by any other documents or information required by the registrar.

Non-government amendment (Mr Berkman) negatived.

Clause 41, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 42 to 49, as read, agreed to.

Clause 50—

**Mr BERKMAN** (6.48 pm): I move the following amendment—

**10 Clause 50 (Application for recognised details certificate for person 16 years or more)**

Page 53, line 14—

*omit.*

Non-government amendment (Mr Berkman) negatived.

Clause 50, as read, agreed to.

Clause 51, as read, agreed to.

Clause 52—



**Mr BERKMAN** (6.48 pm): I move the following amendment—

**11 Clause 52 (Form of application for recognised details certificate for child under 16 years)**

Page 55, lines 9 to 12, from 'by—'

*omit, insert—*

by any other documents or information required by the registrar.

Again I take this opportunity to emphasise that I do not mean in any way for these amendments to detract from the gravity of the circumstance, for anyone who is not familiar with the process.

Non-government amendment (Mr Berkman) negatived.

Clause 52, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 53 to 106, as read, agreed to.

Clause 107—

**Mr BERKMAN** (6.49 pm): I move the following amendment—

**12 Clause 107 (Correcting the register)**

Page 87, line 29—

*omit, insert—*

- (b) accompanied by the fee prescribed by regulation, unless the application—
  - (i) is made by an individual; and
  - (ii) for an application mentioned in subsection (2)(a)(i)—is in relation to a registrable event.

Non-government amendment (Mr Berkman) negatived.

Clause 107, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 108 to 111, as read, agreed to.

Clause 112—

**Mr BERKMAN** (6.50 pm): I move the following amendment—

**13 Clause 112 (Obtaining certificates from registrar)**

Page 94, line 18, before 'accompanied'—

*insert—*

for an application other than an application for a certificate about a registrable event made by an individual—

Non-government amendment (Mr Berkman) negatived.

Clause 112, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 113 to 130, as read, agreed to.

Clause 131—

**Mr BERKMAN** (6.50 pm): I move the following amendment—

**14 Clause 131 (Regulation-making power)**

Page 108, line 7, '; and'—

*omit, insert—*

other than a fee for the making of the following applications—

- (i) an application under section 15;
- (ii) an application mentioned in section 18(3)(b) or 20(3)(c);
- (iii) an application under section 26, 29, 35, 36, 39, 40, 50 or 51;
- (iv) an application mentioned in section 107(2)(a), if the application—
  - (A) is made by an individual; and
  - (B) for an application mentioned in section 107(2)(a)(i)—is in relation to a registrable event;
- (v) an application under section 112 for a certificate about a registrable event if the application is made by an individual; and


Non-government amendment (Mr Berkman) negatived.

Clause 131, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 132 to 182, as read, agreed to.

Schedules 1 to 3, as read, agreed to.

### Third Reading

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (6.52 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a third time.

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

**AYES, 50:**

**ALP, 48**—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Madden, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

**Gn, 2**—Berkman, MacMahon.

**NOES, 34:**

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

**KAP, 1**—Knuth.


**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

Pair: Ryan, Stevens.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read a third time.

### Long Title

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (6.57 pm): I move—

That the long title of the bill be agreed to.


Motion agreed to.

*An incident having occurred in the public gallery—*

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order in the gallery! I will ask those in the gallery to come to order.

## ADJOURNMENT


### Olearia Street, Flooding

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (6.58 pm): As members of the House are fully aware, early last year Brisbane was hit by a weather event like we had never before experienced. Much of Brisbane was devastated by floodwaters, and my electorate of Everton was not immune to that. In fact, sections of my community were flooded for the very first time ever and it was quite devastating. Water went into people's homes, of course sporting facilities were destroyed, and there was a lot of heartache. In fact, recently I spoke to some people in my electorate who still are not in their houses, working through insurance claims, and that has been very devastating to them. Tonight I bring to the House's attention an issue that is relevant to the floods in early 2022 pertaining to properties along Kedron Brook which have sustained damage as a result. There is a street in Everton Hills, Olearia Street, which abuts Kedron Brook. It is on the Moreton Bay Council side of the creek. The creek is actually a border between Moreton Bay and Brisbane. My electorate goes over both of those areas.

The problem is that property owners' yards have been eroded quite significantly. The council came in and put up barriers as a protection so that, literally, children would not fall into these holes that fall into the creek. It has caused them great distress. They went to the council because they thought that was their first point of call. After a lot of toing and froing from the council and then trying to work out which government department was responsible for it—and I thank the Minister for Resources who was very helpful in trying to get me to the right area—we eventually found out that the Deputy Premier and the reconstruction authority were responsible.

I am asking for some quick action on this. The Deputy Premier's department told us that a remediation study has been commissioned. This was back in March. The department said that it would be a matter of weeks before they would know what to do. That is now 10 weeks ago. I have residents on Olearia Street who are quite anxious and stressed about this issue. They are worried about another flood event. The flooding did not cause damage to their houses this time, although it came right up, but their yards are eroded. They are concerned that the same thing will happen again. They want the remediation to happen as quickly as possible. They actually want to know what is happening. I call on the Deputy Premier to please provide that advice.

### Redlands Community Cabinet; Hunter Valley, Bus Accident

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (7.01 pm): Two weeks ago we were able to host cabinet in the Redlands. The member for Springwood, the member for Capalaba and I had an absolutely cracking week with a whole range of opportunities to showcase all of the great work that the Palaszczuk government is doing in the Redlands.

We started the morning with Minister Ryan with a big breakfast for QFES and emergency services personnel to say thank you for all of the great work they do, whether they be our Volunteer Marine Rescue, our Night Ninjas in the homelessness space, our rural fireies, our QFES teams, our QPS officers or our Corrective Services officers. You name it, everybody was there to be thanked for everything they contribute to our community.

We then went on to the satellite hospital which is set to open at the end the August or early September. That is an absolute game changer for my island communities and the growing southern Redlands. Over \$46 million worth of investment brings health care closer to home for locals. The minor injuries and illness clinic will deliver ultrasounds and X-rays. It will be open for walk-ins from 8 am until 10 pm. It is going to provide a fantastic service. This will be in addition to the renal dialysis and chemotherapy services.

Then we headed up to the Redland Hospital. For all of the naysayers on the other side when it comes to the stage 2 expansion, I can tell them that the budget papers said it all yesterday. That has kicked off and is underway. There is \$150 million for a new mental health facility. The old one will be demolished. It unlocks the site with the old car park to do the full expansion. I am extraordinarily proud of the investment our Palaszczuk government is putting into health care. It is unprecedented. It has never been seen before. In the 10 years before I was elected there was nothing delivered there. This expansion is fantastic.

We then went up to Victoria Point State High School and opened the new \$11 million technology precinct that will have robotics, STEM and hospitality facilities. It is fantastic. We went with Minister Grace and the Premier. It was lovely to meet the students and teachers and see all of the great work that is going on in that school and the investment that the Palaszczuk government has delivered in that space. That was terrific.

With Minister Bailey we checked out one of the new ferry terminals that has only just switched over to operation. That is fantastic. The ferry terminals are transformative for our island communities and should all be completed by the end of this year.

With Minister Enoch we went to the Macleay Island Arts Complex. They have some exciting plans underway. There is so much that has been happening in the Redlands.


With Minister Scanlon we looked at new temporary crisis accommodation, being innovative in how we transform what was going to sit as an empty space into something that will provide crisis accommodation for Queenslanders who are doing it tough.

I am extraordinarily proud of every aspect of delivery in the Redlands. The level of delivery over five years is unprecedented.

**A government member:** A great local member.

**Ms RICHARDS:** Thank you. I conclude by offering my condolences to all the families and communities impacted by the Hunter Valley tragedy. In the Redlands we have been particularly impacted by the death of Andrew and Lynan Scott, very strong community members of the Redland Sharks footy club. So many people have been impacted. My thoughts and prayers are with family, friends and the community.

### Contempt of Parliament

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (7.04 pm): I want to bring to the attention of the House something that is very serious. I also want to bring it to the attention of the Commissioner for Police and her delegates and the Minister for Police and his delegates. What I raise is contempt of parliament. Standing order 266 states that ‘deliberately misleading the House or a committee (by way of submission, statement, evidence or petition)’ is an offence in this House.

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Mr WATTS:** If the member for Pine Rivers would just pipe down; I am not taking her interjections—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Order! Direct your comments through the chair, member for Toowoomba North.

**Mr WATTS:** I will certainly put my comments through the chair. This is a really important matter. It is about the transparency and functioning of this House and it deserves to be heard. She should be silent.

Section 57 of the Criminal Code, ‘False evidence before Parliament’ says—

A person who, during examination before the Legislative Assembly or a committee, knowingly gives a false answer to a lawful and relevant question put to the person during the examination commits a crime.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Toowoomba North, if you want to raise a matter of privilege you should mention it briefly and then write to the Speaker directly. An adjournment speech is not the time to run through that argument.

**Mr WATTS:** I have written to the Speaker twice on this matter and I have been advised to now raise it in the House, so I will. What I would like to say is this.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I will get some advice. Just to confirm: you are not raising this as a matter of privilege?

**Mr WATTS:** I am not raising this as a matter of privilege. I am told that the roster for the Police Service is held in ITAS—the Intelligence, Tactical and Analysis System—and it is accessible by any police officer or staff member with access to the system. A person with suitable access can obtain all information about the roster for all stations and establishments across the state via an easy-to-use dashboard. This information includes how many officers are rostered on and officers sick, absent or on courses. This information can be obtained via the resource sheet, roster or other reports within the system. It is extremely quick and extremely simple. For example, the time needed to add up how many general duties officers worked on each day in Toowoomba during a fortnight would not take more than 20 minutes. It also reports those sick and other things.


I am curious and I would like to remind the people who act as agents of the two people aforementioned, that when I asked a question on notice in this House and I referred to the number of rostered officers in January, the answer came back saying that the January roster commenced 31 December and ended 27 January, and the duty officer level—I will table this so people can read the details—basically fluctuated.

*Tabled paper:* Answer to question on notice No. 345 asked on 30 March 2023 [864].

*Tabled paper:* Answer to question on notice No. 18 asked on 21 February 2023 [865].

I asked a second question. The second question I asked was: will the minister advise the number of general duties staff who worked on each day in the 28-day roster from 31 December to 27 January at the Toowoomba police station? In that regard, I accept the QPS advice that diverting police personnel away from key community safety responsibilities for the manual examination of paperwork is not in the interests of community safety. What is, is knowing how many officers were on and why this government wants to hide it consistently.

### **Thank a First Responder Day; Townsville University Hospital**

 **Mr WALKER** (Mundingburra—ALP) (7.08 pm): I rise tonight in support of our hardworking health professionals and paramedics. Recently we had the Thank a First Responder Day. For the record, I thank all first responders for their service each day, especially our hardworking paramedics.

We continually hear from the opposition leader about ramping as a serious issue at the Townsville University Hospital. I hope the opposition leader is not getting his information from the member for Burdekin, Dale Last. The member for Burdekin would have absolutely no idea. He has never visited the hospital. He is an absolute disgrace, especially when his seat takes in the southern side of Townsville and he lives in Townsville.

The member for Burdekin comes in here talking like he knows firsthand what is going on at the Townsville University Hospital and does not have the decency to visit the largest hospital in northern Australia, let alone show genuine support for our health professionals, especially when this is the best-performing hospital in the state.


I recently attended the Townsville Hospital with the Hon. Emma McBride, Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health, to open the new 33-bed Acute Admissions Unit. A huge thank you goes to the federal Labor government for their continued support of our hospital and health professionals. That is right: this is the same hospital in which the Palaszczuk Labor government is investing over half a billion dollars. This is the largest investment since the hospital was first built and opened in 2001—an investment to provide world-class health services to the people of Townsville and across the region. This is the largest tertiary hospital in northern Australia.

This investment will provide an extra 143 beds, new theatres, extra services, a brand new helipad and more, to make sure the people of Townsville and right across the region get world-class service from some of the best surgeons and nurses in the world right here. We will continually invest in our health professionals to make sure we have a well-resourced hospital, good conditions and good paying jobs here in the region to help keep the best practitioners and our young people here so they do not go to the big cities. This investment in health will also assist our paramedics.

This investment also demonstrates, as promised, that we get our fair share of coal royalties for the people of North Queensland where the coal resource is mined. That is right: the people of Queensland should get a fair share of the coal royalties invested in the regions. It is the right thing to do. The Palaszczuk Labor government gave the commitment that the royalties would be invested in health, young mothers, those with a disability, our young people and our seniors here in Townsville—over half a billion dollars. That will deliver an additional 143 hospital beds and support 1,270 construction jobs. That is what Labor governments do.



### Goondiwindi, Crime

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (7.11 pm): I would like to rise in the House to speak about the matter of crime in Goondiwindi. This is something which members will be familiar with as I have spoken about it on many occasions before. I was contacted today by Councillor Susie Kelly—

**Mrs Frecklington:** Hear, hear!

**Mr LISTER:** I take that acknowledgement from the member for Nanango. She is a much respected councillor in the Goondiwindi Regional Council. She and her family were subjected to a home invasion in the last week or so. That was an extremely frightening experience. She has given me the authentic voice of the people of Goondiwindi who are struggling to sleep at night because every voice and every snap of a twig in the yard outside heralds the possibility of more offenders smashing a door in, assaulting the occupants and trying to steal car keys.

I will give an indication of a couple of events which I am advised occurred in the last 48 hours in Goondiwindi. I took the opportunity about 10 minutes ago to speak with the Goondiwindi police station to satisfy myself that no offenders have been identified or charged in relation to these offences. I hope that will satisfy any concerns about the sub judice rule.


At 12.10 am on 14 June, three offenders kicked down the door of a local motel room. They threw a chair at a 44-year-old male. The offender stole his wallet, computer and keys. The offender then departed in his white Kia Sorrento. At 1.52 am, four to five offenders forced the door to a local motel down and threatened the 77-year-old occupant to give up his keys. A struggle ensued during which the offenders hit the occupant in the head with a cooler bag and a glass jar. The offenders have not been located and the keys were left in the room on this occasion.

At about 2 am, unknown offenders entered a caravan park. A struggle occurred between the occupant and several offenders who grabbed the vehicle keys. Offenders went outside and attempted to enter the vehicle while the individual was still struggling with them. At 2.15 am, two unknown offenders attempted to enter a residence on Racecourse Road. The offenders were unsuccessful but left the scene. At 2.20 am, unknown offenders forced the door of a local motel room open. Offenders entered and removed the keys to a Mazda CX5 and the person's wallet. Offenders stole the vehicle. The vehicle was used in several other offences in Goondiwindi and Boggabilla. There are several more which I do not have to time to refer to.

When I hear commentary like what came from the Attorney-General today saying that Labor governments can balance things and deliver things like reforms for crime, better roads and social policy, I would say to them that they need to speak to the people of Goondiwindi, who are horrified that we have spent the last two days debating and quibbling about matters to do with birth certificates while people in Goondiwindi are dealing with this. We need to make sure that magistrates are able to lock up these offenders to stop the crime.

*(Time expired)*

### Ball, Mr RH

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (7.14 pm): On 23 May 2023, Richard Hamilton Ball passed away. On 29 May, Richard's family and friends gathered to farewell a truly one-of-a-kind figure—a concept of an idea that not even the most creative of thinkers could possibly characterise. He was a man of great adventure, of quiet reflection and consideration, of joyous celebration in sharing an idea long pondered over. He was empathetic, sympathetic, courageous, spontaneous and, for all that, still somewhat truly indescribable. He was a great teacher, a dear friend, a beloved son and brother—though, above all, a loving husband and father.


In terms of Richard's connection to the Labor Party, he was a fellow traveller, a progressive who valued his faith as it gave him the value to see the good in others and care for them and their lives. He would don shirts with the names of the candidates, put the corflutes on the fence, hand out how-to-vote cards and he supported me on my 2020 election day.

On the night of the 2020 election Richard came and watched the early results with me. We talked about the day, how he spoke to every single person that walked past and how he was very confident that he had single-handedly won the booth for us. Richard also shared with me that night that he had been having migraines and not feeling his usual self. Later that night Richard drove home to Hervey Bay with an excruciating migraine that only days later was discovered to be a large brain tumour.

Richard did not just outlive his initial terminal diagnosis; he long surpassed it. He found strength in his faith and in his family and made every moment count. Who else but Richard would think that a good time to start training for a marathon would be after a terminal diagnosis of a brain tumour? He did complete that marathon. What's more, he and Sera, his wife, had their second boy, young Alistair, AJ. They completed their perfect family—Sebastian and Alistair, Sera and Richard.

Mr Deputy Speaker, with your indulgence, I would like to direct the rest of my speech to Seb and AJ. Boys, as you grow older you will ask more and more people what kind of a person your father was. There will be no shortage of stories, of laughs and bright memories, and of sadness that he passed all too soon. Boys, your father made the most of his life, more than what some who live the span of a century could possibly do. He was a friend, he was a storyteller, he was an adventurer, he was bold and he was caring. Most of all, he loved his family, he adored your mother and the two of you completed his world. Vale Richard Ball.

### Social Housing

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (7.17 pm): This week it is more obvious than ever that the Labor government is in the pocket of the property development industry. Their 'solution' to the housing crisis is giving massive tax concessions to property developers for build-to-rent schemes with no guarantee that they will deliver any long-term affordable housing—no rent caps, nothing to stop no-grounds evictions, nothing to stop land banking of vacant homes and no public housing requirements for new developments. So why not? I guarantee every MP in this place is getting desperate calls from people across the state unable to afford a roof over their head, so why would the government's housing plan be handouts for private property developers? It is because they care more about those property developers' bottom line than they do about ordinary Queenslanders.


Those developers do not want to see more public housing. They do not want property prices to fall. They sure as eggs do not want to see a licensing scheme in place to rein in their dodgy activity. So I am sure they were pleased with the minister's response last week when the Developer Review Panel recommended an accreditation, disclosure and registration scheme for developers. If anyone missed it, Minister di Brenni put out a panicky, four-line statement to assure their developer mates that they had not committed to implementing any of those recommendations. If you read it, he is just about pleading with the Property Council to not be nasty to them for even considering the most basic, bare minimum reforms!

The panel's report even stresses that the proposed reforms are just for 'minimum standards', not a 'high-water mark'. This report simply said: that developers running multimillion dollar projects should meet basic fit and proper person standards and education requirements and comply with a code of conduct; that they should be clearly covered by fairness in contracting provisions in the QBCC Act to stop shifting risks onto builders, accelerating the insolvency crisis that has left people out of pocket and years behind when companies collapse; and that, if developers want to cut corners on building standards, leave workers injured and exploited or subcontractors unpaid, that should be on a public register.

Why is that so contentious? Tradies, contractors and subbies all have to be licensed, yet any random business can just declare themselves to be a developer and start putting up a 20-storey high-rise without basic checks and balances and leave behind a trail of destruction with no recourse for workers and buyers. We need to stop cowboy developers from exploiting a complex, unstable market and running off with all of the profits and none of the consequences.

Today I joined hundreds of CFMEU members, students and renters outside parliament to call-out Labor's failures on housing. The Greens have also been standing alongside the CFMEU as they call to rein in dodgy developers. I hope you are paying attention, Labor, because the more you put private developer profits ahead of workers and ordinary Queenslanders, the more you will have to hide from the crowds outside the gates, just like the Minister for Public Works and the Minister for Housing did today.

### Cooper Electorate, Small Businesses; Eco Forum

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (7.20 pm): I rise this evening to update the House on a couple of recent activities in the Cooper electorate. First, I want to thank those small businesses which attended our recent small business breakfast that was held in May in Small Business Month. The theme for that month was 'Smallbiz make amazing happen'. We certainly do have a bunch of amazing small businesses in our electorate.


We have The Junk Bar, a little kind of boutique bar in Ashgrove which does an amazing job of featuring local artists and up-and-coming musos. We have Colin Bushell, who is a local photographer. I think Colin is busier than I am. He is at every event that I go to, making sure he captures the moment for every community event. He is such a fantastic ambassador for our area. Kathleen Luck runs Brisbane Inner West Realty. I cannot talk too much about what Kathleen has been working on lately, but she is certainly going above and beyond to help families who are very vulnerable at the moment and she is helping to get their properties listed for sale.

We have about 7,000 registered small businesses in Cooper in a wide range of industries. I learned recently that about 1,000 people who are employed in the manufacturing sector live in Cooper. We have a number of microbusinesses, particularly in the creative communities and professional services, and there are a lot of people working in health care. We certainly have a wide variety of organisations.

We had around 50 local businesses attend the breakfast. I thank the Paddo hotel for hosting the breakfast and supporting us to put that on again. They are a fantastic organisation that give us a lot of support. Dominique Lamb, who is the Queensland Small Business Commissioner, came along. She is a dynamo of a woman. People were enthralled with her conversation in detailing the work of the Office of the Small Business Commissioner, particularly around dispute mediation. She went through all of the roles and services that the Queensland government offers for small business. It was a really fantastic discussion and it was great to host it.

We have our Eco Forum coming up. It is something that we host every year in July at The Gap State School, and we will be having it again there this year. The date is Saturday, 15 July. It will be running for most of the day and it kicks off at 10 o'clock in the morning. We have been blessed to have a number of ministers and keynote speakers come to that every year. This year we have been able to lock in the new environment minister, Minister Linard. Senator Murray Watt representing his portfolio is coming out to talk about how we manage that growing area around agriculture and preservation of space. We also have some fantastic local organisations, including the Queensland Conservation Council and WWF. Jerry Coleby-Williams usually comes, which reminds me that I need to text him and ask him if he is coming along. He is a fantastic guy from *Gardening Australia* who comes along and supports us every year. There is no cost to the event. The Gap Sustainability Initiative will be there talking about our platypus project. Make sure you come along.

### **Burnett Electorate, Miara Development**

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (7.23 pm): Today I speak on behalf of the township of Miara in my electorate. They are looking down the barrel of a development that is threatening essential habitat and 100-year-old trees. On behalf of the residents, I am asking the minister to call in this residential development as a matter of urgency to protect environmental state interests. It is noted that there are serious discrepancies found between the DA form 1 and the DA form 2. I cannot stress how important this is as there are plans by the developer to start clearing shortly. This development needs to better reflect the diversity of the region. I want to say that the community is not against development; they just want it done right.

I need to paint a picture of why this area is so significant. This historical estate was first created in 1884. This area was to be the township of Miara, with the aim being to house families working in the sugar mill and timber mill industries. Sadly, but not unlike many in bygone eras, both industries closed down—the sugar mill in 1908 and the timber mill in 1958.

When this development was undertaken, the land was unimproved and one of the last remnant tracts of old-growth trees. Now, 125 years later, the vegetation has regenerated and it contains flora and fauna that is 80 to 100 years old. The current proposal will remove 90 per cent of the vegetation and displace all manner of flora and fauna. Old-growth trees are essential ecosystems for life. Not only do they fix large quantities of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and create microclimates and irreplaceable habitats, they also are an important part of our communities and our combined cultural heritage. This is an historical area and it is important that we give this area the appreciation it deserves.

Under the development assessment mapping system, the entire estate in question is classed as essential habitat. This vegetation falls under categories A and B, containing endangered and vulnerable ecosystems. Category X on the regulated management map encompasses only the control of vegetation on current infrastructure and power line easements. The proposed earthworks for this development mean that this habitat will be lost and the Kolan River will suffer irreversible damage due to siltation.

Tonight I am asking for the minister's help. I am asking Minister Miles to call in this development as being in the public interest to protect the environmental state interests in this area. We have written to the minister's office this week and we hope this can be accommodated. The Planning Act 2016 is the principal law regulating planning and development in Queensland. It provides the framework for local governments. As stated in *The Queensland Law Handbook*, no previous development application can supersede this legislation. In the context of the law, the historical zoning and planning is therefore in question. I want to reiterate to those in the area that we do acknowledge that you are not against all development and that this area can be developed and probably should. However, because of the river ways, the waterways and, more importantly, the diversity of the vegetation, we believe this should be called in and reviewed. We ask SARA and other agencies to give this review due diligence.

### Thuringowa State High School, Theatre Restaurant



**Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (7.26 pm): I rise tonight to talk about Thuringowa State High School, which for 35 years has done a theatre restaurant. It started in 1988 with a variety performance. Just a few weeks ago, my wife and I got to go to this year's performance of *The Vampire Strikes Back*. Forgive me while I use some of the lead actors' vocal pronunciations, but this is the story this year—

Drago, the evil Vampire of Kneewucker, comes to Earth to kidnap Penelope, to hold her for ransom to gain the unit of uranium he needs to destroy the land of Thuringowa.

When Drago arrives on Earth he finds his rocket is low on energy, which forces him to seek a new energy source. He steals Frankenstein's monster, Bolts, to use him as a human battery. He then goes to Penelope's house and takes her hostage, leaving a ransom note, demanding a unit of uranium.

Penelope's sisters and friend (Leia, Hana and Luke) decide to try and rescue her without giving in to the evil Drago. However, first of all they have to find out about Drago and what may stand in their way as they travel towards Kneewucker.

They make contact with assorted nasties on their journey to Kneewucker—zombies, skeletons, witchdoctors and even (gasp!) Politicians! Singing, dancing and dealing their way across the universe, guided by the mystical Suzie Q, they eventually face Drago, deep in the evil empire of Kneewucker. Can they save Penelope? Will Bolts make a monstrous mess of it all? Who is Suzie Q and why is she so very worried about our heroes? Will Drago be successful in his plan to destroy us all?

My wife Amanda and I got to completely enjoy the hospitality of the Thuringowa high school students. I thank the director who made a few comments, saying—

The success that we have been able to achieve would not be possible without the dedication and commitment of the community, families and staff and of course the cast and crew. These people have given up countless hours to ensure that the students at Thuringowa State High School had the opportunity to have a phenomenal experience over the past four months.

She thanked the band members and the P&C, saying—

... the P and C for supporting the purchase of show shirts that have been worn with pride and will continue to be a positive reminder of this venture ...

The students themselves did the catering and the hospitality and they served the crowd. It ran over three nights. It was a fantastic experience. I want to say well done to the students of Thuringowa State High School on producing another great performance. I am looking forward to next year. I am going to table their program, and hopefully I will not end up in Kneewucker.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Thuringowa State High School Presents: The Vampire Strikes Back' [866].

The House adjourned at 7.29 pm.

## ATTENDANCE

Bailey, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Head, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Kelly, King A, King S, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, MacMahon, Madden, Mander, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting