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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

### Wednesday, 23 August 2023

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## WEDNESDAY, 23 AUGUST 2023

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The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

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

### ACTING SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

#### Absence of Minister



**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have received advice that the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science, Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Member for Nudgee, Hon. Leanne Linard MP, will be absent from this week's sittings of the House. The member's notification complies with standing order 263A.

#### Conduct of Members



**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to draw members' attention to the duty they owe to this House to ensure compliance with the rules of this House. There are three things I especially wish to note. Firstly, members need to strictly adhere to the standing order regarding sub judice, but beyond strict adherence, members should also understand and respect the rule of law and the mutual respect to be shown between the judicial process and the proceedings in this House. Some little time ago, I was dismayed to see a member raising in this House a crime only recently committed and no charge had been laid, but a suspect was in custody. Members need to be careful about providing a running commentary on matters that are clearly under police investigation and should give consideration to what their statements might mean for the fair and efficient processing of criminal matters.

Secondly, there is an increasing tendency for members to falsely attribute statements to other members to facilitate a line of political attack. This is deliberately misleading the House and possibly misrepresenting the record.

Thirdly, members need to be prepared to authenticate facts stated in questions if the facts stated are challenged. Members should come prepared. It also goes without saying that misleading facts in a question may also be deliberately misleading the House and possibly misrepresenting the record.

### ACTING SPEAKER'S RULINGS

#### Same Question Rule



**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have considered the application of the same question rule to the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. In summary, the same question rule is enlivened by clauses 7, 8, 9, 10, 35, 56 and 57 of the bill, 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 INTEGRITY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

I have considered the application of the same question rule to the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 and various Acts that were amended within the 57th Parliament.

The Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill was introduced on 16 June 2023 and seeks to amend provisions within Acts that have already been amended during this session of Parliament, including the *Auditor-General Act 2009*, the *Integrity Act 2009* and the *Ombudsman Act 2000*.

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).

Clauses 7, 8, 9, 10, 35, 56 and 57 of the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill propose amendments to provisions that are substantially the same as amendments previously considered and agreed to by the House in the same session of parliament. This is contrary to Standing Order 87.

Accordingly, I rule that the same question rule is enlivened by clauses 7, 8, 9, 10, 35, 56 and 57 of the Bill contrary to Standing Order 87. A motion to suspend Standing Order 87 would be required for these clauses to be considered.

### Same Question Rule



**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have considered the application of the same question rule to the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. In summary, the same question rule is enlivened by a number of clauses and schedule 1 of the bill contrary to standing order 87. A motion to suspend standing order 87 would be required for these clauses and schedule 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 JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

I have considered the application of the same question rule to the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 and various Acts amended within the 57th session of Parliament.

The Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 was introduced on 25 May 2023 and seeks to amend provisions within Acts that have already been amended during this session of Parliament, including the Criminal Code, the *Legal Profession Act 2007*, the *Oaths Act 1867*, the *Public Guardian Act 2014*, the *Major Sports Facilities Act 2001*, the *Public Trustee Act 1978*, the *Evidence Act 1977*, the *Racing Integrity Act 2022*, the *Powers of Attorney Act 1998* and the *Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003*.

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).

Clauses 49, 115, 116, 138, 143, 144, 145, 149, 150, 153, 154, 155, 157, 173 and Schedule 1 of the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill propose amendments to provisions that are substantially the same as amendments previously considered and agreed to by the House in the same session of Parliament. This is contrary to Standing Order 87.

Accordingly, I rule that the same question rule is enlivened by clauses 49, 115, 116, 138, 143, 144, 145, 149, 150, 153, 154, 155, 157, 173 and Schedule 1 of the Bill contrary to Standing Order 87. A motion to suspend Standing Order 87 would be required for these clauses and schedule to be considered.

## ACTING SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

### School Group Tours



**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Brightwater State School in the electorate of Buderim and Helensvale State School in the electorate of Theodore.

## PETITIONS

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

#### Charters Towers, Hospital

**Mr Katter**, from 2,208 petitioners, requesting the House to construct a new hospital in Charters Towers [[1163](#), [1164](#)].

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

#### First Responders

668 petitioners, requesting the House to support 'first responder' or 'eligible employees' as defined in the *Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003* who are diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorders [\[1165\]](#).

Petitions received.

## TABLED PAPER

#### MEMBER'S PAPER

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

Member for Traeger (Mr Katter)—

[1166](#) Nonconforming petition requesting the House to construct a new hospital in Charters Towers.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Crime, Reforms



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.35 am): When our government introduced legislation to address the coercive controls that were found to have led to the murders of Hannah Clarke and her children, her parents Lloyd and Sue were standing there beside us. When we introduced Jack's Law, giving police greater powers to search people for knives, Jack Beasley's parents Brett and Belinda stood beside us in memory of their much loved son. Our government stands beside Vanessa Fowler and her parents Geoff and Priscilla on the ongoing battle against domestic and family violence in honour of the memory of Allison Baden-Clay. Our government will always stand beside the victims of any crime.

The issues surrounding youth justice are complex; the crimes they commit are not restricted to Queensland. There are no quick fixes. Let me make this plain: there is nothing more important than keeping the community safe and I will work with anyone to achieve that goal. We have introduced some of the toughest laws in the country—laws that were supported by the opposition. We know the most serious crimes are committed by a small number of repeat offenders, so it is those who police are targeting. Serious repeat offenders can be sentenced for longer periods of time to protect community safety and to allow for more intensive rehabilitation. The fact that the courts have already made 28 declarations show that these laws are starting to work. Since those laws were introduced in March, 444 young offenders have been charged with a total of 1,991 charges related to breach-of-bail conditions. Some 28 have been declared serious repeat offenders, allowing for longer periods of detention.


This year's budget dedicated \$446 million to tackling youth crime, including \$132 million to assist Queenslanders with crime prevention and providing support to victims. It now brings to \$1.4 billion the amount invested since 2015, including \$500 million for early intervention programs, including partnering with Johnathan Thurston's JYouGotThis program to target at-risk youths. Only yesterday, the police minister, youth justice minister and Police Commissioner announced a rollout of \$56 million to help PCYCs get back to basics with intervention programs and better facilities throughout this state. This is something the community asked for. I am advised that early results show a three per cent decrease in the number of 10- to 17-year-olds with a proven offence. For the 12 months ending in May, I am advised that 42 per cent of young offenders did not return to the youth justice system. According to the Statistician's Office justice report, between 2018 and 2021 the number of young people aged 10 to 17 with a proven charge declined by 17 per cent.

One of the modern motivations of youth crime is notoriety. They crave fame and so boast about their crime on social media. We have made that an offence. As at the end of July, 72 people—including 57 young people—have been charged with these offences. We continue to explore new solutions, including the trial of engine immobilisers in Townsville, Cairns and Mount Isa, plus offering free security upgrades for people's homes—especially seniors. Among these innovative approaches is reinforcing the positive power of education. A common factor among young offenders is disengagement with school. We have funded 26 engagement officers to staff our courts and get offenders back into schools. That is in addition to more than 900 engagement officers within the schools.

The police minister and youth justice minister will go into further detail, but let me assure the people of Queensland: we will never rest in our efforts to give police and the courts every resource to catch and punish criminals, turn young people away from crime and protect our community. I have personally met with victims of crime across Queensland and listened to their stories. I acknowledge


more can and must be done for the victims. It is one of the reasons we are putting in place a new victims commissioner. The interim victims commissioner will commence from next month ahead of a permanent appointment. The Attorney-General will have more to say about this shortly. I want this to be someone who has seen firsthand the impact that crime has had on victims and their families; a Queenslander who will continue to put the rights of victims first. Division has never solved any problem. We work best when we work together. The only 'us and them' in this debate is we the community versus the criminals and the causes of crime. If we join together, if we explore every option, if we give our police the resources they need, we can work to keep our community safe.

### Bushfire Preparedness

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.40 am): Yesterday I received a briefing on the upcoming bushfire season, which is expected to start in late October and run into summer. The latest advice provided by the commissioner of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services warns low rainfall, drying fuels and higher temperatures mean a greater risk of bushfires. Forewarned is forearmed. The government has moved to ensure reinforcements for our firefighting capabilities. This includes an increased fleet of 163 firefighting aircraft available for use which includes two new fixed-wing water bombers, a large air tanker which will be based in Bundaberg from September, and the use of a Black Hawk helicopter with a 4,000-litre water-bombing capacity.

Unlike previous years where wetter conditions have prevailed, the BoM predicts a 70 per cent chance of El Nino forming, bringing hot, dry conditions through to summer. Queensland Fire and Emergency Services has been working with local governments and other key partners to prepare for the heightened bushfire season, with widespread mitigation activities being undertaken to reduce the fire risk in our communities. Our government is also running several bushfire preparedness campaigns to raise the community's awareness of the bushfire risk ahead and we encourage people to prepare themselves, their families and their property to stay safe. In another initiative to support community safety, more than 130 new digital fire danger rating road signs are being installed across Queensland. These signs will ensure the community is aware of the current fire danger rating in their local area to allow them to make informed decisions to protect themselves. Finally, always heed the advice of our emergency services.


### Influenza, Vaccination

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.42 am): The top priority of any government is to keep the public safe and our government will always act on the advice of experts. That is why from July free flu vaccines were made available to Queenslanders. So far this year we have recorded more than 51,000 cases compared to 44,000 for the whole of 2022. Some 1,400 people have been hospitalised, some in intensive care. There have been over 19,000 cases since 1 July and this year influenza B is particularly severe. It is why I want no barriers to receiving a vaccination. It is why our government has made them free for everyone. Since we did, I can report that over 131,000 Queenslanders have been vaccinated. They are available at GPs and pharmacies across Queensland for eight more days until 31 August.

**An honourable member** interjected.


**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I take that interjection: I actually met some people who were getting vaccinated at the Ekka. Currently, 63 per cent of Queenslanders 65 years and older and 22 per cent of Queenslanders under the age of five years have received a vaccine. Now is not the time to be complacent. I urge anyone who has not yet been vaccinated to roll up their sleeve to protect themselves, their families and the community.

### Layt, Mr S

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.43 am): I was deeply saddened yesterday to hear of the passing of Stuart Layt at the age of 40. Although there is no doubt Stuart had a voice for radio, as he demonstrated at 4BC, he also worked with AAP and the *Brisbane Times*. Stuart was always friendly, he was always polite and he was always professional. He was a former member of the media gallery, and he was deeply respected. I remember him fondly from the 2017 campaign. I am told Stuart had a number of loves, including sporting teams like the Broncos and the mighty Maroons. He also loved all things science, and it is very

rare to have a journalist who has a deep interest in science. On behalf of the government, I send my condolences to his wife, Rose, his beautiful little daughter Chloe as well as his wider family, friends and colleagues. He will be deeply, deeply missed.


### Industry Partnership Program

 **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) (9.44 am): The Palaszczuk government is working with industry to secure the jobs of the future for Queenslanders. From manufacturing jobs in Townsville and the Wide Bay, maritime maintenance jobs in Cairns to the state's booming biomedical industry, so many local businesses and global giants are looking to expand or bring their operations here to Queensland. They are attracted to our strong resources, our skilled workforce and our pathway to net zero energy. This year's state budget included an additional \$53.5 million to continue our highly successful Industry Partnership Program. The Industry Partnership Program is our flagship state development program focused on growing Queensland's priority industries, strengthening our local supply chains, encouraging collaboration between levels of government and industry, and leveraging private sector investment.

I am pleased to advise the House today that the next allocation of funding under the Industry Partnership Program is officially open. This round we are looking to focus the program on critical minerals, renewable energy manufacturing, battery industry development, green hydrogen, bioeconomy initiatives including biofuels and sustainable aviation fuel, the circular economy and biomedical projects. Since the launch of the Industry Partnership Program, 18 projects have been approved representing an investment in Queensland of over \$1.1 billion and the potential to create over 1,850 operational jobs. The program has also enabled proponents to leverage further funding from Commonwealth government programs, making sure our Queensland industries get their fair share of these national funding programs.

There are already a number of fantastic IPP projects being developed in communities right across our state. The member for Gladstone knows all about Fortescue Future Industries' green hydrogen facility as well as Alpha HPA's commercial plant for high-purity alumina, both situated in the industrial powerhouse that is the port city. Further north in Townsville, Veeco Group's vanadium battery electrolyte manufacturing facility is showing Queensland how we can leverage our critical minerals to value-add in a new industry sector. It was great to join the member for Mackay at QUT's upgraded renewable biocommodities pilot plant which is helping the biomanufacturing industry take great strides in development. The list goes on: the Visy Recycling facility at Gibson Island, the Translational Research Institute here in Brisbane and upgrades to the Cairns Marine Precinct. This program is creating high-value jobs and bringing new skills and capabilities to our established and emerging industries. The Palaszczuk government's new \$53 million investment and our clear focus on seizing the opportunities available to us mean more good, secure jobs in Queensland, more secure supply chains and more products stamped with 'Made in Queensland'.

### Coal Industry

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.47 am): Yesterday in this House I took the opportunity to remind mining companies, including BHP, of their obligations to continue to develop and invest in mining tenures in Queensland.

**Opposition members** interjected.

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

**Mr DICK:** Let me say that again: yesterday in this House I took the opportunity to remind mining companies, including BHP, of their obligations to continue to develop and invest in mining tenures in Queensland. Today I am pleased to inform the House that BHP has now confirmed its commitment to continuing to invest in its Queensland mines.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order!



**Mr DICK:** I thought that would be something that would be welcomed by members opposite. These BHP mines, which contain the best and most valuable metallurgical coal in the world, are Goonyella Riverside, Broadmeadow, Caval Ridge, Peak Downs and Saraji. In the words of Mike Henry, the CEO of BHP—

... we are continuing to invest in these Queensland businesses.

I can inform the House that that investment will be significant.

Mr Henry said BHP will continue to invest over \$1 billion—let me say that number again—over \$1 billion each and every year in its Queensland steelmaking coalmines. What a great result for Queensland: \$1 billion each and every year being invested in Queensland. Mr Henry said, 'We do see the business as attractive.' Can I repeat that: BHP has publicly confirmed to the market that it will continue to invest \$1 billion each and every year in Queensland because it sees its business in this state as attractive. BHP has made its Queensland coal investment strategy very clear for many years. BHP has made no new greenfield investment in Queensland since it opened its Caval Ridge mine almost a decade ago in 2014. That was at a time when BHP was closing other coalmines in Queensland. BHP sold its interest in BHP Mitsui coal mines at Poitrel and South Walker Creek well before the government announced Queensland's new progressive coal royalty tiers. BHP is in the process of selling its non-core Blackwater and Daunia mines, with strong interest in those mines from a number of buyers. I want to thank Mike Henry for the clarity that he has provided after much misunderstanding about BHP's investment intentions. What we are left with is a strong investment climate for Queensland coal.

Given this, serious questions must now be asked about the Queensland Resources Council and its CEO Ian Macfarlane and their conduct over the past 14 months. What yesterday's comments from Mike Henry show is that there is no truth—absolutely no truth—in the claim that progressive coal royalties have harmed investment in the Queensland resources industry. All of the letterbox leaflets, all of the billboards, all of the television, radio and print advertisements—all of that costing the resources industry \$40 million—has been shown to be entirely without foundation. The QRC's conduct has been laid bare by its largest member, the Big Australian. I hope that message is heard by the QRC and is heard by members of this House as well because this industry—this vitally important industry—is just too important for Queenslanders to be misrepresented by any lobby group or any political party.

## NAPLAN



**Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.52 am): The 2023 NAPLAN results were released overnight by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority, ACARA. Firstly, can I say well done to the more than 280,000 Queensland students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 who participated in this year's NAPLAN and to the teachers, teacher aides, school staff and families who supported students through the process.

Members will be aware the tests, and therefore the results, are earlier this year and that there are significant changes to the reporting standards. The revised NAPLAN standards put students into four levels of proficiency: exceeding, strong, developing, and needs additional support. I am proud that Queensland was a lead in the discussion at a national level. As a result, education ministers all agreed to changes to the NAPLAN minimum standards, deliberately raising the bar or the standards students are expected to meet. The changes we made make sure students who need additional support are more easily and earlier identified because we know early identification, intervention and additional support is crucial.

It is great to see that nearly two-thirds of our students are sitting in the top two bands overall, but of course we want to see continual improvement. Now it is about targeting funding and assistance where it is needed most and in Queensland that work is well underway. Our new Equity and Excellence education strategy has a very clear focus on lifting results in English and maths and ensuring schools and students get the support they need. As I advised the House previously, we have seen encouraging signs with improvements in A to E report card results for English and maths across the board over the past 12 months and there is some great work happening in schools every day on this front. For example, Early Start resources for teachers to monitor students' progress from prep to year 2 from next year will include free kindy; and the Reading and Writing Centre, which connects school leaders, teachers and parents with expert advice and information to support students experiencing reading and writing difficulties and disorders such as dyslexia—I know many parents in this parliament have children or know children who fall into that category; more than 1,100 specialist learning support staff in schools; and the development of new curriculum resources to support implementation of the revised Australian Curriculum to be fully implemented by 2025 and the strength and focus it has on phonics.

In addition, as I flagged at estimates, I have asked my department to provide me with options to focus our efforts even more sharply, particularly in reading. This work includes developing a Queensland reading commitment, a new system-wide consistent approach to teaching reading in every classroom in every school. Key elements of this commitment include explicit phonics instruction in line with the new Australian Curriculum; learning support officers to assist classroom teachers to provide individualised and targeted support; and capability development for teachers and teacher aides through our new Education Futures Institute. We look forward to working with stakeholders, including the Queensland Teachers' Union and the principals associations, on this important initiative.

I say it every year but I will say it again: it is vital to remember NAPLAN is just a point-in-time test and is not the be-all and end-all. It is just one of the many tools used to measure students' progress and, as always, the best way to get an update on how your child is doing is to talk to their teachers.

### Youth Crime



**Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business, Minister for Training and Skills Development and Minister for Youth Justice) (9.56 am): Since being appointed 14 weeks ago as youth justice minister, my director-general and I have travelled across the state speaking to victims, stakeholders, staff and members of the public to hear of their experiences with youth justice. I want to thank them for their excellent conversations. In all of these meetings I have reiterated my priorities as youth justice minister, which are community safety, tackling the complex causes of youth crime, targeting serious repeat offenders, giving a voice to victims and reassuring Queenslanders that what we do is based on evidence.

There is no one single solution to youth crime, but if a young person is at risk of reoffending or a risk to the community our laws say they must be held accountable. We have some of the harshest youth justice laws in the country and I thank the opposition for their support for those laws. We have announced we will build two new detention centres, but they will be therapeutic detention centres because we want to make sure we do not see those young people back in the system. We have invested almost half a billion dollars in early intervention and prevention programs to address the complex causes of youth crime. It is as a result of our programs that youth offending has declined by 35 per cent over the last 10 years, by 30 per cent over the last five years and a decline of three per cent in the last year. However, it remains that 20 per cent of young offenders are committing 54 per cent of the crime and it is this group we are targeting.

Yesterday I spoke of some of the very good results we are getting from some of our early intervention programs which show these programs are effective. To quote some figures on our new laws since their introduction in March: 402 unique young offenders were charged with a total of 1,681 breach of bail offences; 681 charges containing one of the new unauthorised use of motor vehicle circumstance of aggravation, with 96.4 per cent of offenders convicted; and 49 young people charged with publishing details of offending on social media.

It is important to hear these figures, but as I travel around the state it is the stories of how lives have been turned around by our programs that really bring their importance to life and if they are out of the system then our community is safer. Like the young offender who was couch surfing with his friends on the Gold Coast due to a breakdown in the family home. He was at risk of further offending due to associations with other high-risk young people. He has Asperger's and ASD due to a head injury acquired following a family feud. Our youth co-responder team identified that person needed support for mental health, physical health, accommodation, employment and driving lessons. They helped address his immediate needs for food, toiletries, clean clothes, showers and a phone. They referred him for crisis accommodation, applied for a Medicare card, getting a bank debit card and booking driving lessons with an instructor so he would be better placed to get a job. They connected him to mental health services. They reconnected him to his grandmother and helped forge positive relationships. He has not offended since being involved with our team.

Regardless of statistics heading in the right direction and regardless of the human stories we hear about programs working, we know that if you are a victim of crime then those stories may bring you no comfort. If you have had someone break into your home or, worse, if you have lost a loved one then they bring you no comfort. That is why we must listen to the voices of victims. It is why we heard the Premier talk today about the victims commissioner. It is why I have appointed a victim's representative to my Youth Justice Taskforce. It is why I am looking forward to meeting representatives from the Voice for Victims group today. We must all work together to get the best outcomes for our communities.

## **Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements; Bushfire Preparedness; Youth Crime**



**Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.00 am): I take this opportunity to table the Queensland government's fourth implementation progress report for the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements. The report shows the considerable progress that Queensland has made in delivering the royal commission's recommendations. Overall, of those relevant to Queensland, 29 recommendations are now considered delivered. This includes the delivery of key recommendations in relation to climate projections, vegetation management, bushfire mitigation and hazard reduction, communicating risk information to households, national exercising and the Australian Fire Danger Rating System. Work continues with the Commonwealth and other state and territory jurisdictions on the other relevant recommendations.

*Tabled paper:* Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements—Queensland Government's Fourth Implementation progress report—July 2023 [\[1167\]](#).

As the Premier spoke about earlier, Queensland faces a challenging bushfire season. I am advised by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services that, as with other jurisdictions, it is looking to be a potentially significant and serious bushfire season ahead. Reduced seasonal rainfall, low root-zone soil moisture levels and elevated evaporation rates, across areas including the inland parts of Capricornia, Wide Bay-Burnett and the south-east coastal forecast areas and in widespread parts of the Southern Downs and the Granite Belt, have combined to produce above-average fire potential for those areas moving into the spring fire season. In fact, the outlook indicates an increased risk of fire from Tweed Heads all the way to Innisfail and as far west as the Channel Country. I strongly urge communities in those regions to continue their preparations for bushfire and to monitor local conditions. In addition, all households should have a bushfire plan.

The government will continue to support the community by backing the front line. Queensland Fire and Emergency Services is set to invest more than \$85 million into a new three-year 285 rural fire service vehicle building program. This increases the total current investment to over \$120 million and means the pipeline of new and replacement Rural Fire Service vehicles is now over 400. Today, with the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner, I announced that the additional investment will include funding for at least 80 light-attack, 140 medium-attack and 30 heavy-attack firefighting vehicles, plus 18 bulk water tankers. We want to make sure that our people on the front line of community safety have the best and safest vehicles and equipment possible.

Today is the 2023 national Crime Stoppers Day. I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the many people who volunteer their time for Crime Stoppers and work in partnership with community, government and other community organisations to support community safety. In addition, later today I will be joining the Police Commissioner and the Youth Crime Taskforce commander to launch an important initiative for community safety. We will be announcing the formal establishment of a new rapid response task force.

The new rapid response unit establishes, for the first time in Australia, a co-responder flying squad that will be able to be deployed to anywhere in Queensland. It will consist of experienced detectives from the Queensland Police Service and experienced Youth Justice staff. These teams will be able to be deployed rapidly to hotspots anywhere in the state. This will deliver the capacity not only to respond to crime but also, through Youth Justice, to provide early additional intervention and support services to support breaking the cycle of criminal offending. This is another example of pulling all the levers and doing everything we can to support community safety for Queenslanders.

## **Victims of Crime**



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.04 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to listening to and supporting victims of crime. That is why during the estimates hearings I was pleased to be able to update the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee on the work the Palaszczuk government is undertaking to support victims of crime in Queensland. Again, I thank the committee for the 18 recommendations made in their inquiry into the support provided to victims of crime and I was pleased to table the government's response indicating support or support in principle for all 18 recommendations. I was also proud to announce that the Palaszczuk government will be appointing an interim Queensland victims commissioner.

I am pleased to advise the House that the interim commissioner will be announced shortly and will commence in their role at the start of next month. The interim commissioner will be appointed while the necessary administrative and legislative arrangements are made to enable the appointment of a permanent commissioner. The proposed functions of the interim victims commissioner include: engaging with victims of crime and their families, associated support services and criminal justice agencies to identify, develop and provide consistent and accessible resources for victims of crime to understand their rights, the criminal justice process and how to access supports and assistance; raising awareness of the rights of victims of crime and the services available to them; and identifying the training needs for government agencies to interact with victims of crime in a trauma informed manner and identify what if any additional training should be developed and delivered by the victims commissioner. The interim victims commissioner will be appointed for a term that will enable them to support the permanent commissioner, who will be appointed by the end of this financial year.

We have consulted with existing interstate victims commissioners and key Queensland government agencies involved in service delivery to victims and complaints handling to develop an appropriate model for the Queensland victims commissioner. This appointment will support the extensive work currently being undertaken by the Palaszczuk government to support victims of crime in Queensland. We have committed over \$600 million over five years to support responses to the more than 300 recommendations made by the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce and the commission of inquiry into police responses to domestic and family violence. Earlier this year we announced an additional \$9 million over four years to support victims of violent crime. The Palaszczuk government is committed to continuing its reform agenda to modernise our justice system to ensure that it is more responsive to the needs of victims and to better ensure community safety and confidence.

### Influenza, Vaccination



**Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (10.07 am): Our tireless frontline health staff work day in, day out to provide care for us in our times of need. They are doing their bit to help us and that is why we should all do our bit to help them. The No. 1 thing that every Queenslanders can do right now to help our healthcare heroes is to go out and get vaccinated. As the Premier has said, since announcing that we would make flu vaccines free more than 131,000 Queenslanders have rolled up their sleeves to get vaccinated. That is a great result and we have seen flu cases across every age group decline in recent weeks, but there is more to do.

Since COVID, we have seen vaccination rates decrease across the country. Last month it was reported that only 32 per cent of Australians received their flu shot this year and in some states the drop in vaccine uptake has been over 20 per cent. Alarming, this trend is tied to a post-pandemic 7½ per cent drop in trust for childhood vaccinations in this country. Vaccinations save lives and I want Queensland to lead the nation when it comes to vaccinations. We cannot allow vaccine fatigue, conspiracy theories or cost-of-living pressures to undermine vaccination rates, whether it is for the flu, COVID or other lifesaving vaccines, and risk the public health of our communities. That is why free vaccines and comprehensive information and communication campaigns matter.

Clearly, our decision to make flu vaccines free is making a difference. It is time the rest of the country followed our lead. We will continue to advocate for a nationally consistent approach across states and territories, including free flu vaccines for every Australian through the National Immunisation Program and greater advertising and awareness campaigns. We will also advocate for the federal government to follow Queensland's lead in making meningococcal B vaccine free for children. I know how devastating meningococcal B is because I have met with those affected by it—people like Jodie and Blair Fidler, who tragically lost their daughter, Bella, last year and Phoebe O'Connell, who survived and now with her mum, Katy, has become a passionate advocate for free meningococcal B vaccines. After hearing these stories firsthand, I announced earlier this month that we will offer meningococcal B vaccines to all infants and children under the age of two and adolescents aged 15 to 19 years. I want to thank Jodie, Blair, Phoebe, Katy and every other advocate who has helped make this possible. Their advocacy will make Queenslanders safer.

### Social Housing



**Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing) (10.10 am): Since becoming housing minister I have visited a lot of construction sites. In fact, I have visited properties across Queensland, with more than 760 social and affordable homes, many under construction, nearly done or now complete. We are building homes right across the state with our \$5 billion investment to deliver

thousands of social and affordable homes for Queenslanders in need. I have had the opportunity to listen to people who have received support, whether that be a new home, a rental subsidy or support through one of the many specialist homelessness services we partner with to provide temporary accommodation. I have heard stories like those of John and Joanne, who were struggling to pay their rent before being assisted with one of our rental security subsidies, which provides up to \$10,000 to help bridge the gap. In John's words—


... we're grateful for any assistance. Every week that we get this help will help immensely. We can pay our other bills and not get behind on anything.

I also recently had the chance to meet Glen. For the first time in his life, Glen last year experienced homelessness, sleeping in a park in Brisbane. Today he is now the proud tenant of a social housing home and working hard to become employed once again. He is one of more than 230 people we have been able to help with support and accommodation through our dedicated inner-city Brisbane homelessness response. The response sees government work with homelessness providers like Mission Australia, Micah Projects and other organisations around the clock to help people with dedicated support, emergency accommodation and longer term housing options.

Then there are social housing tenants like Paul, who shared his story about having worked all of his life from a young age only to have to retire due to serious medical conditions. Paul was living in a home that was more than 100 years old and which is now being redeveloped, with funding support from the Palaszczuk government, to turn this single property into multiple units or apartments that can now house more Queenslanders like Paul.


It is not just this development where Paul lives; we have hundreds of social housing properties under construction right now, and we have thousands in the pipeline as we get on with our big housing build. In fact, since we last sat I have had the pleasure of visiting or announcing projects right across the state, in places like Redbank Plains, Nerang, Zillmere, Woodridge, Yarrabilba, Caboolture, Acacia Ridge, Mundingburra, Rasmussen, Clayfield, Woolloongabba, Sunnybank Hills, Chermside, Basin Pocket, Yatala, Rothwell, Darra, Yandina, Spring Hill and Cannonvale. We have been very busy, and there is a range of other initiatives as well. Every day my department is delivering to help people like Paul, Glen, John and Joanne. These are the names and faces behind the statistics.

## ABSENCE OF MINISTER

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (10.13 am): I advise the House that the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for Multicultural Affairs will be absent from the House for the remainder of the week due to illness. As such, I advise the House that the Minister for Housing will take questions during question time for the remainder of the week on Minister Linard's behalf.

## PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

### Crime and Corruption Commission, Reports


 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (10.14 am): As chair of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee, I lay upon the table of the House the following Crime and Corruption Commission reports, pursuant to section 146ZQ of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 and section 314 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000: covering letter and report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee, section 146ZQ of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001, *Assumed identities: annual report: 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023*; and covering letter and report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee, section 314 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, *Assumed identities: annual report: 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023*. The committee received the reports on 28 July 2023 and I am tabling these reports within 14 sitting days of receipt, as required.

*Tabled paper:* Crime and Corruption Commission: 2022-23 Annual Report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee on authorities for assumed identities for corruption offences pursuant to section 146ZQ of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 [1169].

*Tabled paper:* Crime and Corruption Commission: 2022-23 Annual Report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee on authorities for assumed identities relating to criminal activity pursuant to section 314 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 [1168].

## HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE


### Report

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (10.15 am): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 37 of the Health and Environment Committee titled *Subordinate legislation tabled between 15 March 2023 and 18 April 2023*. I commend the report to the House.

*Tabled paper:* Health and Environment Committee: Report No. 37, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 15 March 2023 and 18 April 2023 [[1170](#)].

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### Vehicle Theft

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (10.15 am): I give notice that I will move—


That this House—

1. expresses its concern that, since July 2016, motor vehicle theft has risen by:
  - (a) 132 per cent in Cairns,
  - (b) 95 per cent in Townsville,
  - (c) 322 per cent in Rockhampton,
  - (d) 215 per cent in Bundaberg,
  - (e) 373 per cent in Hervey Bay-Maryborough, and
  - (f) 119 percent in Brisbane; and
2. calls on the Labor members who represent these areas to join their communities and the opposition in supporting laws and strategies to reverse this crime crisis.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Question time will conclude today at 11.16 am.

### Crime

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.16 am): My question is to the Premier. Eight years ago the Palaszczuk government changed criminal laws. There are now 202 fewer police than 12 months ago. Will the Premier today apologise to Queensland's victims of crime for the crime crisis the government has created?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Let me say to the Leader of the Opposition that when we in this state passed the toughest laws in the country the Leader of the Opposition and all those opposite supported those laws.

**Mr Crisafulli:** Eight years ago the government watered them down.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** No, supported those laws.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** It is a bit disingenuous—

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:**—to be supporting laws in here and saying something else outside.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Resume your seat please, Premier. Leader of the Opposition and other members on my left, you have asked the question. The Premier is being directly responsive to the question. I would appreciate it if you listened to that response.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** As I was saying, it is very disingenuous to be backing the laws in here and then going out there and saying—

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, order!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The member for Kawana can look at the Auditor-General's report which talked extensively about the failure—

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** As I said in my ministerial statement, we are on the side of victims. I have personally met—

**Opposition members** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Members of my team have personally met with victims of crime. That is why you have heard the Attorney-General say that we will be putting in place the interim Victims Commissioner at the beginning of next month.

To the second part of the Leader of the Opposition's question in relation to police, let me say this: if those opposite had been elected at the last election, there would have been a thousand fewer police—

**Opposition members** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Thirdly, let me say that the minister and the Police Commissioner have launched an extensive campaign, which is having proven results, to get more police recruits—

**Opposition members** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** So rude.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** No, I am answering the question.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I find the member for Kawana's comments offensive and I ask him to withdraw.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, the Premier has found your comments personally offensive and I ask you to withdraw.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I withdraw.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Unlike those opposite—

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order! Leader of the Opposition!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** As we know, when those opposite were in office they cut police—not constables but senior police. They cut senior police—

**Mr Stevens:** You softened the laws.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Mermaid Beach, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The member for Mermaid Beach supported and voted for those laws in this House so he is deliberately misleading the House.

**Mr POWELL:** Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Resume your seat please, Premier.

**Honourable members** interjected.

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

**Mr POWELL:** On relevance, standing order 118(b): the question was simply—

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** There is no point of order.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** In relation to the declaration of serious offenders—and those opposite voted with us on that in this House—I point out that 28 of these declarations have been made since the new laws came into effect. A longer time in detention also allows for more intensive rehabilitation to help tackle the complex causes.

*(Time expired)*

### Transport Infrastructure

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier confirm media reports Minister Bailey's cost overruns mean the government is now scrapping at least \$780 million in transport and road projects?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We covered this extensively yesterday. The transport budget is, from memory, around \$32 billion over four years. We have made the deliberate determination to ensure that we have the largest infrastructure project, keeping people in work. We have a strong economy. We are making sure we have people in work. We finally have a federal government that actually wants to work with us, unlike the previous LNP government.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order! Members, the level of interjection is far too high. I already have one member on a warning. I will be placing others on warnings if they continue to interject.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I might also add that that \$32 billion will support 25,200 jobs over the life of that program. As I said, it is very important for a person's dignity to have a job. As a government we have made that deliberate decision about the massive infrastructure budget to make sure that people are employed.

We know what those on the other side of the House want to do. They want to cut projects. They do not want to build projects. We know that because the shadow minister talked about pruning. On this side of the House—

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Coomera, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** On this side we are committed to the Coomera Connector and we are committed to the upgrades to the M1 and the Bruce Highway.

**Mr Dick:** Why won't you build a hospital in Cairns? Why won't you commit to a hospital?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We are seeing massive infrastructure projects right across this state, including our Big Build when it comes to health. I take the Treasurer's interjection. Those opposite will not commit to Cairns Hospital—

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is not correct. We are committed to the Big Build. We are committed to growing the state and growing the economy. Those opposite will absolutely cut programs and it is about time they were honest with regional communities and told those regional communities—like they have in Cairns—that they are not going to fund important infrastructure for their communities.

### Regional Queensland

**Mr O'ROURKE:** My question is of the Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Can the Premier update the House on how the Queensland government is backing the bush?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I was delighted to attend the *Courier-Mail* Bush Summit in Rockhampton where I was able to announce tens of millions of dollars for our backing the bush initiative. I thank the member for Rockhampton and the member for Keppel for attending that summit as well as the minister for agriculture. On this side of the House we do back the bush. There is no clearer example than what we have done in terms of wild dog fencing—one of the greatest achievements of this government.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** They do not like it. The sheep industry is back. They do not like it but the graziers love it.

I know that the member for Rockhampton is a very strong advocate for more mental health facilities. The Minister for Health and I were very pleased to announce at that summit \$92 million for a brand new mental health facility in Rockhampton. Well done, member! That is what strong advocacy is about. That is what a community champion is about.

We also have \$50 million for the Backing Business in the Bush Fund, \$30 million for our Backing Bush Communities Fund and there is \$10 million for councils to partner with different organisations to make sure that they can do upgrades of local facilities such as the painting of local pubs or put permanent tourism events on their calendar which draws people into those communities. We are very



proud of the Backing Bush Communities Fund. It will mean so much to especially small communities across Queensland. I met with South West Queensland ROC. They were absolutely delighted with those funds. We were also out at Longreach and Mount Isa talking to those local communities—

**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Gregory!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We were listening and talking to those communities about what more we can do.

**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Gregory, you are warned under the standing orders.

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right. I did not see the member for Gregory there. It was a fantastic time out there. The member for Gregory should be very proud of those beautiful houses. By October—

**Mr Millar** interjected.

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

*Whereupon the honourable member for Gregory withdrew from the chamber at 10.27 am.*

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** As I was saying, those houses will be homes to families very shortly. It is great to see that the local mayor is so passionate about those issues.

### **Transport Infrastructure**

**Mr BLEIJIE:** My question is to the Premier. When asked yesterday about scrapping transport projects to cover the cost of project overruns the Premier failed to answer. We now know through leaked ministerial briefing notes that there are at least \$782 million of them. Why did the Premier not come clean and tell Queenslanders about scrapping at least \$782 million in road projects?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I think the member for Kawana does not understand about the \$32 billion of budget funding we actually have for infrastructure in this state.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order! The Premier is being directly responsive to the question.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right, Mr Acting Speaker.

**Mr Crisafulli:** The CBRC leaks.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I take the member for Broadwater's interjection. Do members remember the little tunnel they wanted to build to 1 William Street? They did not want to go and cross the road. We all know about that CBRC meeting.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The Leader of the Opposition is so rude. He is constantly interjecting.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order! Premier, I will manage the chamber. The House will come to order.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** You can see the evidence of road construction. Whether it is out in our western communities or along our major highways, we are working with the federal government to deliver the road infrastructure that is needed. We are building Cross River Rail. We got no money from the federal government.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118(b) on relevance. If it would assist the Premier, I can table the leaked submission—

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** No, it will not.

**Mr BLEIJIE:**—to the ministerial office with all the cuts.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Member, resume your seat. I will take some advice.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order, members! The House will maintain order while I am taking advice. Member for Kawana, I am going to warn you for utilising that document as a prop and for the general way that you conducted yourself after I asked you to resume your seat so I could take some

advice around that point of order. Premier, you can continue your contribution. I have been listening carefully to the Premier's contribution. She has been responding to the question. I ask the Premier to remain relevant to the question.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. There are the upgrades to Riverway Drive in Townsville and the upgrades to the Bruce Highway at the southern end of Cairns. As I was saying before, there is Cross River Rail, which is going to transform the way people commute in the south-east of our state.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We are absolutely committed to the \$32 billion that we have allocated for transport infrastructure. What we know, as I have said clearly—and let me say it again—those opposite will cut projects. Make no mistake about it.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order, members! The House will come to order. Member for Moggill, cease the gesticulation.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The planning and construction is underway for the second M1, the Coomera Connector. There is the extension of the light rail.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Premier, resume your seat. Member for Nanango, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We also recently purchased extra trams for the Gold Coast Light Rail, and I was able to see them.

**Ms Pease:** The accessibility upgrades.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right: the accessibility upgrades to those trains which are being fixed—guess where?—in Maryborough! We are sticking to our transport plan. It is over \$32 billion. The transport minister will deliver that plan.

### CopperString 2032

**Mr WALKER:** My question is of the Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Can the Premier update the House on how CopperString 2032 will benefit North Queensland and is the Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Mundingburra and wasn't it wonderful to open the new CopperString 2032 office in Townsville? The City of Townsville is excited by this, as well as the City of Mount Isa, because it will transform the landscape. We know that we have the opportunity to open up the North West Minerals Province. We have what the world needs but Queensland also has the opportunity to manufacture here in Queensland—not to ship the raw commodities overseas but to manufacture here in Queensland—which will mean thousands of jobs. It will also secure the future of Mount Isa for the next 100 years. I know how pleased the mayor of Mount Isa was when I met with her just recently, talking about the North West Minerals Province and how we can absolutely showcase what Mount Isa has to the world.

By the end of this year the new CopperString headquarters will be home to 60 new energy workers. I thank Minister de Brenni for the amazing work happening with Powerlink, building that over 1,100-kilometre transmission line from Townsville to Mount Isa. Guess what? It is going to be built by Queenslanders. Already we are looking at ways in which we can get more apprentices on board, making sure that young students at school now will have those opportunities. We met some of the recent university graduates. It is great to see that if someone studies at university in Townsville they can work in Townsville and they can raise their family in Townsville. These are the opportunities that we are delivering to the people of this state. This is just one example. It is a bold project. It is one of the biggest nation-building projects. It was brought about by the advocacy of this government, getting behind it and supporting it.

We still have not heard if the opposition is supporting it. Will they cut this project? Perhaps they need to be up-front with Queenslanders. Let me say this: those opposite have not produced any policies over the last nearly three years. We are yet to hear any concrete policies from those opposite. Those shadow ministers are paid an allowance to do their job. We have not seen any concrete policy

documents from those opposite. We hear a lot of whingeing and whining but we do not see any evidence of any hard work, sitting down and putting pen to paper and producing policies for the people of this state.

*(Time expired)*

### Transport Infrastructure

**Ms SIMPSON:** My question is to the Premier. Leaked documents show that the department warned the minister that scrapping transport and road projects would present an 'optics risk' for the Palaszczuk government. Which projects is the Premier scrapping and did she not want to tell Queenslanders because she was worried it would make her government look bad?

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order, members! I will take the point of order in silence. What is your point of order, Minister?

**Mr BAILEY:** The honourable member used a term in the question referring to the document which I do not believe is in the document. I would want an assurance from her that the question that she alleges is accurate is accurate because I do not believe it would be so.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order! The House will come to order. Minister, I will get you to give me that last part of that point of order again.

**Mr BAILEY:** The point of order is this: the honourable member has alleged that a certain document had specifically used certain terms.

**Mr O'Connor** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Apologies, Minister. Member for Bonney, you are warned. I am attempting to listen to a complicated point of order. I would appreciate it if the opposition would maintain silence.

**Mr BAILEY:** The honourable member used a particular verb alleging that it was in the document. I suspect that that is not factual. I would want her to assure us that how that question was phrased was one of integrity and was not a case of her verballing and making up a term that was not in the document.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** I will take the point of order in silence. I will take some advice. Member, can you authenticate the question that you are asking?

**Ms SIMPSON:** Yes, Mr Acting Speaker. The words 'optics risk' are in the document.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Do not use the document as a prop, member.

**Ms SIMPSON:** I am happy to table that document, if you wish. The words 'optics risk' are in the document.

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In my earlier point of order I made it very clear that there was a verb I was referring to. The member has deliberately not referred to the verb.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Resume your seat, Minister. I will take some advice. The member has offered to table the document. It is not up to me whether you table the document. It is up to you, member. Do you wish to table that document?

**Ms SIMPSON:** I table the document.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Department of Transport and Main Roads, Decision Brief, MBN26108: Approval of the Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program (QTRIP) 2023-24 to 2026-27 publication for release' [1171].

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Minister, we cannot adjudicate down to that level that you are discussing. If the member has misled the House, there are mechanisms for you to deal with that at the appropriate time.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We are proud of our \$89 billion Big Build over the next four years. It is the biggest build in this state's history: expanding hospitals, building roads, building what this state needs, building trains in Maryborough—

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right; fixing up the M1 on the Gold Coast, fixing up the Bruce Highway, building the new mental health facility in Rocky. We are proud of that build. Individual departments get their allocation and they spend that allocation. It is a very clear concept. Those opposite do not know prioritisation: all the opposition knows is cuts.

**Ms Leahy** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right; all the opposition knows is cuts because that is what—

**Mr POWELL:** Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b). The member simply asked which projects are being cut.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** There is no point of order.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am proud of our building achievements in this state because we are the builders; they are the cutters. They cut; we build. It is a very clear concept. The opposition needs to be very clear. What will they cut? What jobs are they going to cut? The Big Build is about thousands and thousands of jobs. We have delivered—

**Mr Head** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We have built \$96 billion in new infrastructure across Queensland, including 25 new schools in: Cairns, Logan, Caloundra, Hinchinbrook, Coomera, Coomera again, Murrumba, Bundamba, Logan again, McConnel, Callide, Bundamba again, Morayfield, South Brisbane and Buderim. We air-conditioned all of the schools.

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right; we built the Country Bank Stadium.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Members, that level of interjection is really far too loud. I already have a number of members on warnings. I will continue to add to that list.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We built the Smithfield bypass. I remember going up there for the opening; what a great day that was. The Sumners Road interchange, the opposition did not build that—we built that. The first stage of the Mackay Ring Road is going very well up there in Mackay. The Townsville Ring Road—

*(Time expired)*

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I could keep going, Mr Acting Speaker.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** I am sure you could, Premier, but your time has expired. I am going to warn the member for Toowoomba North. After I asked people to come to order you continued to interject.

## Housing

**Ms PEASE:** My question is of the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Infrastructure. Could the Deputy Premier please advise the House how the Palaszczuk government is delivering more homes in South-East Queensland and is the Deputy Premier aware of any other approaches?

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for Lytton for her question. I know that she supports our plan to make sure we can deliver the 900,000 homes we will need here in South-East Queensland by 2046 to accommodate the six million Queenslanders we expect to call the south-east home by then. The South-East Queensland Regional Plan ShapingSEQ outlines where those homes will be, and the infrastructure supplement that we released alongside it outlines how our Big Build will deliver the infrastructure needed for people to live in those locations and get to and from their work and wherever else they need to go.

We are also determined to use our plans for Brisbane 2032 to deliver more new homes in our major urban renewal projects: those anchored by the Gabba at Woolloongabba and of course North Shore Hamilton, which will be home to the Athletes' Village. We are determined to bring forward those opportunities as fast as we possibly can. That is why the Premier recently announced we have released two massive new development sites at North Shore Hamilton. Between them those sites will deliver

1,500 homes, addressing supply in the inner city and allowing people to live close to work and public transport. Between 150 and 200 of those homes will be social and affordable homes, and we will partner with a community housing provider to deliver those homes to vulnerable Queenslanders just as quickly as we possibly can. Those two projects will create 1,450 jobs and deliver \$500 million worth of investment.

It is further proof that only Labor is able to deliver affordable homes to South-East Queenslanders. Let's not forget it is the LNP and the Greens political party that are standing in the way of the Albanese government's investment in additional social housing here in Queensland. They are blocking those funds that would deliver homes to single mothers and victims of domestic violence. The Greens political party oppose developments in the inner city close to public transport and where people work. Now we have LNP candidates running around saying there should be a cap on the number of new homes we build, effectively forcing the rest of the people who cannot afford one of those homes to couch surf or sleep in their cars with their kids. We will not stand for that grandstanding. We will continue to deliver the homes that Queenslanders need and they can afford, close to where they work and the public transport infrastructure we are delivering.

### **Minister for Transport and Main Roads**

**Mr HART:** My question is to the Minister for Transport. Were the minister's staff working outside his authority by suggesting the department delete any reference to \$9.5 billion or had the minister already discussed deleting the figure with his staff?

**Mr BAILEY:** I thank the honourable member—who is renowned for saying that public transport would be obsolete in five to 10 years—for the question. I can assure the honourable member and any concerned members of the House that public transport is not obsolete and will not become obsolete anytime in our lifetime.

**Ms Leahy** interjected.

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

*Whereupon the honourable member for Warrego withdrew from the chamber at 10.47 am.*

**Mr BAILEY:** I answered questions in relation to this comprehensively yesterday, in two very extended press conferences and four hours of estimates. I have nothing further to add. I have answered these questions comprehensively.

### **Infrastructure**

**Mr SULLIVAN:** My question is of the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. Will the Treasurer update the House on the Palaszczuk government's commitment to build the infrastructure that our growing state needs and is the Treasurer aware of any alternative approaches?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for his question. In June I handed down a budget that delivered the largest capital works program in the history of Queensland: \$89 billion. Our Big Build will deliver jobs and prosperity to Queenslanders wherever they live in this state. It is the largest single investment outside of greater Brisbane in history, and 65½ per cent of that program this year will be spent in regional Queensland.

The contrast could not be clearer between a government that invests in capital works and an LNP opposition that, when they had the chance, cut it. No-one forgets what David Crisafulli said through the budget papers when he served as a senior leader in the LNP government. He was in the cabinet, he signed off on the budget papers, and through those budget papers he expressed the view, 'The capital program will be smaller than in previous years, reflecting the determination of the government to restore the state's financial position.'

That is what the Leader of the Opposition said when he was in government and he was proud of it. We are not going to have any of this nonsense about cuts. When they got their hands on the Treasury, they spent every single minute cutting capital works and revelling in it. The deep arrogance of it is that that was one of the first statements that the Leader of the Opposition was proud to put in that budget.

You would think he might regret that. When you look at what the Leader of the Opposition says, what does he regret about the Newman government? Does he regret the infrastructure cuts? Does he regret sacking 322 police officers? No, he does not. Does he regret the assets they sold or tried to sell?

No. He has expressed absolutely no regret—sorry, I correct the parliamentary record. He has one regret. I do not want to get the quote wrong so I will read directly from the Country Caller. This is what it says—

“I have one regret ...” Crisafulli said.

“I didn’t force treasury to bring to the table the change to the depreciation schedule that I wanted.”

Can you imagine the workers? ‘What do we want?’ ‘Change to the Australian Accounting Standards Board, standard 116, property, plant and equipment for local government.’ ‘When do we want it?’ ‘Now.’ That is his one regret. You could not write it down. If you wrote it down, they would say you were making it up. That is what you will get from this Leader of the Opposition. He regrets absolutely nothing. If this man leads Queensland again, you will get infrastructure cuts, you will get asset sales and you will get crime increasing—because, just as they sacked 322 police last time they were in government, they will do exactly the same thing again. They cannot be trusted to run Queensland.

### **Minister for Transport and Main Roads**

**Mr POWELL:** My question is to the Premier. When the Premier was asked on radio if she supported the transport minister, the Premier said, ‘The team supports Minister Bailey.’ When asked in the House yesterday, the Premier again failed to personally support the transport minister. Can the Premier confirm that the transport minister has her full support?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Yes.

### **State Schools**

**Ms PUGH:** My question is to the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Can the minister please update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is bringing Equity and Excellence to all Queensland state schools?

**Ms GRACE:** I thank the member for her question. I know how passionate she is and how she advocates strongly for the schools in her area. If only I could have got a question like that during my five hours of estimates hearings—rather than mud throwing, every accusation and unbelievable meddling about when contracts were given. They did not ask too much about education, students or anything. It was unbelievable. I now have the member for Mount Ommaney asking a decent question about what is happening with Equity and Excellence.

**Dr Rowan** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** I hear the interjecting from the member for Moggill, the shadow education minister. You have mud on your face. You should be embarrassed and I would just be a little bit quiet if I were you.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Through the chair, please, Minister.

**Ms GRACE:** I would just tone it down a bit, member for Moggill. Show some control. There was none of that being displayed at estimates during the five hours that I was questioned. What we want is children to enjoy school—

**Dr Rowan** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** I know you do not like it, member for Moggill, but you have got to take it, sorry. They love learning and we want them to acquire the knowledge. We know that no two schools or two students are the same. We also know that extra supports where they are targeted for students is what Equity and Excellence is all about. It is about early identification, intervention and support, just like at Darra State School. We have had over 5,000 students attending weekly at our homework centres. There is a fantastic one at Darra State School where we launched the program. They are lifting results for those students.

The research also shows that a student’s background and where they live has a significant impact on their learning outcomes, and that is what drives this government’s new strategy called Equity and Excellence. We want to target them. We want high-performing teachers in our schools delivering the curriculum. We have targeted key priority areas. We have launched Equity and Excellence, which includes Starting Strong, On Track for Success and Ready for the Future. We have got practical solutions like our educational precincts, and the trials will be in Mount Isa and Bundaberg. We have partnerships in 42 locations where those schools will work together about how we deliver better

outcomes. We are looking forward to driving this. I referred to homework centres, and I suggest the member for Moggill does a bit of homework. Maybe he could attend one of our centres and come up with decent questions and decent policies.

### **Department of Transport and Main Roads, Customer Service Centres**

**Mr MINNIKIN:** My question is to the Premier. Department data shows that in 2022 Queenslanders were waiting up to two hours at a department of transport customer service centre to have stolen numberplates or licences replaced. Given this, why did the Premier reject adding extra staff to the centres?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** What we know on this side of the House is that we have increased our funding to transport infrastructure across this state. On that side of the House, they decreased it.

**Mr Dick:** More staff, more projects.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I will take that interjection. We had more projects and more staff. As we know, each department works out their prioritisation and they have the particular amount of money to spend. In this case, transport have around \$32 billion, and I am advised that is around a \$2 billion increase from the previous year so they are getting an extra \$2 billion. On that side of the House, they cut \$1.6 billion. What did the LNP cut? The LNP cut Safer Roads Sooner by \$60 million and the regional safety development program by \$25.6 million, as well as the resource development program and the cycle capital program. In South-East Queensland, they cut money from Morayfield Road between the Bruce Highway and Gympie Road.

**Mr MINNIKIN:** Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order—

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** They cut the—

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Resume your seat please, Premier. What is your point of order?

**Mr MINNIKIN:** It is 118(b), relevance.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** I am listening to the question. The Premier is being responsive.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** It is very clear that we have a record transport budget in this state. Those opposite cut \$1.6 billion from transport. On this side, we build. On that side, they cut.

### **Police and Corrective Services; Fire and Emergency Services**

**Ms BUSH:** My question is of the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services. Will the minister update the House on investments in his portfolio and any alternative approaches that the minister is aware of?

**Mr RYAN:** I thank the member for the question. She will know some of the things I am about to talk about because she was there at estimates when we were talking about these investments in the portfolio area which are so important to Queenslanders. We have a record budget for Queensland Corrective Services. We are providing body worn cameras to our custodial officers and investing in new facilities. We are ensuring that custodial officers and community corrections officers have leading technology and good training to support the good work that they do.

We have a record budget for the Queensland Police Service. We have: more vehicles; more recruiting efforts; investment in the PCYC; world-leading new tasers, which the Queensland Police Service will be the first place in the world outside the United States to get; and new facilities. We are investing in our Fire and Emergency Services, like the record budget of \$60 million for the SES and the record budget for the Rural Fire Service, and we are hearing about all of the new appliances and trucks that they are getting. The marine rescue services are getting new vessels and new staff to support their work. The Fire and Rescue Service is getting new equipment and new facilities. A lot of that was spoken about at estimates. I was hearing from the opposition that they were pumping themselves up for estimates to ask the police minister all these tough questions.

My estimates day was on 9 August. On 9 August, the member for Broadwater tweeted—he is at the gym—there you go—

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Minister!

**Mr RYAN:** He tweeted, 'Getting ready for another big day at parliamentary estimates,' with the arm curl there. He did not have much of a sweat there—

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Resume your seat, please, Minister. I will take some advice. Minister, you are warned under the standing orders for the use of a prop. I made it very clear in my warning to the member for Kawana my view on props. I have made several rulings on that and they are consistent with the Speaker's rulings. You have consistently ignored those warnings. I warn you under the standing orders. Any repeat and I will sit you down.

**Mr RYAN:** Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. I will table the prop for members to consider later.

*Tabled paper:* Extract, dated 9 August 2023, from a social media account of the Leader of the Opposition and member for Broadwater, Mr David Crisafulli MP, in relation to Estimates [\[1172\]](#).

They were pumping themselves up in a room full of dumbbells and weights. I thought, 'Here is the LNP partyroom!' They were pumping themselves up and I thought, 'Gee, the member for Glass House and the member for Broadwater are fired up and they are coming to estimates!' He must have got stuck in the gym. He did not turn up. He was pumping himself up, but he did not turn up. Then I thought, 'Gee, I might get a lot of questions about issues they talk about all the time,' given how important they say these issues are. I did a little bit of a reflection on the estimates that I have been a part of since 2017. In 2017—zero questions on youth crime. In 2018—zero questions on youth crime. In 2019—four; I will give it to them. In 2020—zero. In 2021—two. In 2022—zero. In 2023—one. If you are going to hold the government to account, you should turn up.

*(Time expired)*

### Gillnet Fishing

**Mr DAMETTO:** My question is to the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities. The state government's response to pressure from UNESCO is to put Queensland's wild-caught seafood trade in jeopardy with the imminent banning of N2 and N4 licences. Given the ban is to reduce bycatch on the GBR World Heritage area, can the minister provide the number of dugongs and sea turtle deaths in the past five years that have been directly attributed to gillnets used by Queensland fishers?

**Mr FURNER:** I thank the member for his question. No doubt the Australian government and the Queensland government took decisive action when we had the UNESCO report delivered. It is important that we recognise the value of the Great Barrier Reef. Had we not taken this action, the Great Barrier Reef could well have been declared in danger, putting in jeopardy the jobs of Queenslanders—the thousands and thousands of jobs that the Great Barrier Reef supports through tourism. The Great Barrier Reef generates billions of dollars. Over \$7 billion per annum was indicated to be at risk had we not taken this action.

**Mr Dametto** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order, member for Hinchinbrook. The minister is being responsive to your question.

**Mr FURNER:** I can inform the House that on 5 June we received that information and acted, as I indicated, decisively on that, designating \$160 million—\$100 million from the Queensland government and \$60 million from the Commonwealth—to deal with a structural adjustment on those particular N2s and N4s. We will be working with industry to develop a new N1 licence as well to make sure there is sustainability of those fishery sectors up in the Great Barrier Reef and around that area.

I will make this point: we will not be going down the path that the previous LNP government did in regards to denying the scientific facts by refusing to accept the MRAG report and failing to develop the sustainable fishing strategy that we are so proud of doing. In fact, we are nationally renowned for the action we are taking on sustainable fisheries. I want to see, as the minister for fisheries, that we have a sustainable fisheries into the future for our children and grandchildren. By taking this action, we will see that happen.

We will continue engaging through the industry process. A designated task force has been confirmed and I believe they have met on two occasions. I will be meeting with the chair shortly. I met with him only recently to make sure he was privy to the position that the government would like to take in regards to the sustainability of those N1 licences. Once again, member, I am more than happy to keep you engaged as well—

**Mr DAMETTO:** Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b). My question was about the number of bycatch deaths.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, member. Resume your seat. Minister, I bring you back to that point of the question.



**Mr FURNER:** The catch data is available on the Fisheries website, the same as it is for other species that are caught by our apparatus or commercial fishers' apparatus. Those designated figures are readily available on the internet, and I encourage the member to look those up.

**Mr Dametto:** One per year.

**Mr FURNER:** The member talks about one per year, but it is well recognised that gillnets are a dangerous apparatus, and that is why you will see in other sectors around the world that people are taking actions to eliminate or reduce them, and that is the case with regard to the decision which has been taken by UNESCO on this particular case.

**Mr Dametto** interjected.

**Mr FURNER:** Look up the internet. The information is readily available.

*(Time expired)*

### **Domestic and Family Violence, Housing**

**Ms HOWARD:** My question is of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Can the Attorney-General provide an update on emergency domestic and family violence housing services, and is the Attorney aware of any alternative approaches?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for Ipswich for her question. I know the member—as everyone on this side does—understands the importance of housing and ensuring that we have safe accommodation for victim-survivors of domestic and family violence and their children fleeing that violence.

During estimates I announced our new Housing Connectors pilot program. We are going to have nine specialist workers imbedded in three South-East Queensland locations—Toowoomba, Brisbane and Moreton Bay—who will be working one-on-one with victim-survivors to actively manage their safety and assist them to navigate the housing and human services systems, while helping to locate suitable and sustainable housing and support referrals where appropriate. This is helping those who have fled into emergency accommodation and how we assist them in getting more long-term sustainable accommodation so that they can stay safe and they are not making unsafe decisions about having to go back or, worse, living in their car or other unsafe environments because they cannot find sustainable housing. We know that it can be very overwhelming when you are in those situations to figure out how to work across the different agencies and services that are available. I am really excited to see how the Housing Connectors pilot program goes. We will be evaluating that next year. We will start later this year.

We are providing one-off rental assistance brokerage funding as well. There will be up to \$2.5 million being made available to domestic and family violence services across Queensland under the new grants scheme proposed as the domestic and family violence Rent Assist Brokerage grant. The grant will also be available to existing funded organisations and can be used to cover rental arrears or other costs where debts present an imminent risk of homelessness or a barrier to successfully entering the private rental market. This is on top of our significant investment in domestic and family violence and housing more generally.

My concern is that the opposition have flagged that they have found \$2 billion worth of savings already without flagging what they are. Last time, when they talked about crime and victims, they cut funding out of Victim Assist Queensland. They cut court diversion programs, youth justice court diversion programs, drug court, specialist circumstances court, Murri Court and youth justice conferencing. One blowout that they did have that they are very proud of was the boot camp program which came in at eight times the promised cost and saw reoffending rates at 66 per cent. In fact, some of them thought it was such a great experience, they came back multiple times into the boot camp. I have concerns. There was millions of dollars cut from DV services including Bravehearts, foster care, DVConnect and sexual assault services across this state.

*(Time expired)*

### **Gillnet Fishing**

**Mr ANDREW:** My question is to the fisheries minister. With reference to the staged closure of Queensland's gillnet fishing industry, what compensation is being offered to commercial gillnet fishing operators and the many post-harvest industries including fish marketeers, processors, retailers and downstream businesses that will all lose their livelihoods as a result of the government's ban?

**Mr FURNER:** I thank the member for his question, which seems to have a bit of repetition with regard to the previous question, but I will add to my answer. As I indicated in my previous response, a task force has been set up. On that task force will be representatives from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Treasury, the Department of Environment and Science and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. As the member would be aware, the task force has appointed an independent chair, Mr Tanzer, who has wide experience with regard to fisheries, having worked in the past for both the Commonwealth and the Queensland government. We will work through a process of engaging with the industry and engaging with all aspects of the fisheries sector regardless of whether someone is a retailer, a wholesaler or a fisher.

I was down the coast only a couple of weeks ago at the Australian Fishing Trade Association getting commended for the actions that the Queensland government is taking in this regard. You have to look at the whole of the industry, not just one particular sector on its own. It is important we recognise the value of the entirety of the fisheries sector but also look at the value of what the Great Barrier Reef provides to this state. The member for Cairns knows all too well, as does the Minister for Tourism, the importance of not only protecting the Great Barrier Reef but also looking at the sustainability of the fisheries sector for our children and grandchildren into the future. That is what we will do and we are delivering great results. We are already two-thirds of the way through our policy with regard to making sure our fisheries sector is sustainable. Once again I encourage the member to keep up to date.

**Mr ANDREW:** Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance, 118(b).

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** There is no point of order.

**Mr FURNER:** I could not be more relevant. I have explained to the House today in answer to two questions with regard to—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr FURNER:** I will tell you what—

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Minister, through the chair.

**Mr FURNER:** We will not be going down the path of the opposition, which sought to allow black marketeers five days free for their catchments—

**Mr ANDREW:** Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order on 118(b), relevance. I asked about compensation. This will drive a bigger black market than anything else.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order! Member, points of order are not an opportunity to debate. There is no point of order. Minister, I ask you to continue your contribution if you have anything further to offer.

**Mr FURNER:** I will continue my delivery with regards to sustainable fisheries. When we introduced this legislation in 2019 it was to provide a sustainable fisheries policy for our future. The opposition, through the member for Gympie, sought to derail—

**Mr Perrett:** Nonsense, absolute nonsense.

**Mr FURNER:** It is in *Hansard*, member for Gympie.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Through the chair please, Minister.

## TAFE

**Mr SAUNDERS:** My question is to the Minister for Employment and Small Business, Minister for Training and Skills Development and Minister for Youth Justice. Can the minister update the House on the success of the Fee-Free TAFE program and if there are any alternative approaches?

**Ms FARMER:** I thank the member for his question. I know how proud he is of what is happening at Maryborough TAFE. We have had some great visits there and he is a great supporter of TAFE. I was at Coomera TAFE very recently to open one of four new cybersecurity training centres which will address a quite pressing need in that industry. Equal to seeing the fantastic training facilities we have there was speaking to the young people who are doing that course. Many of them are actually being employed before they finish their course because they are so desperately needed.

I spoke to a couple of young men in particular and they said to me without my even asking, 'You know what, we would actually not be doing this course if it was not for Fee-Free TAFE.' They were unemployed and they said, 'Our lives are going to be completely changed as a result of this and it is because of Fee-Free TAFE.' That was like the 500 students I saw graduate at South Bank TAFE the other night. Many of them were the first people in their family ever to undertake post school education.

Some of them were migrants and refugees. Many of them were only doing it because of Fee-Free TAFE. It literally changes lives. In fact, we have helped around 66,000 Queenslanders change their lives because of our Fee-Free TAFE. They literally will get different jobs and different lives because of our Fee-Free TAFE.

Since I was appointed youth justice minister it is amazing the number of people who have commented on the great combination of portfolios that I have. They know that if young people who are disadvantaged and young people who have had hard knocks in life can get training and a job then they are going to have a different life trajectory. That is why it is absolutely critical that if the LNP is putting itself up as an alternative government, they need to come clean about what they are doing about TAFE.

We know that cuts of \$10 billion have already been flagged by those opposite. We know they hate TAFE. In fact, one of the first things they did when they came into government last time was sack 2,100 TAFE workers. They closed campuses and they had plans to close around 60 more. Literally in between semesters the fees went up by thousands and thousands of dollars. That disadvantaged people because they were not able to continue their course. If we had a federal LNP government, some of the prices of courses would have gone up by thousands. They ripped \$3 billion from the TAFE system, so we need to know this right now.

We know they are very short on policies and they are very short on plans. We do not know much about what they are doing, but TAFE makes a difference to thousands of people. If they are serious about youth crime, this is one of the levers. They must come clean and tell us right now what they would do.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** The time for question time has expired. Would members leaving the chamber please do so quietly.

## LAND VALUATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction



**Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (11.16 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Land Valuation Act 2010 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Transport and Resources Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Land Valuation Amendment Bill 2023 [\[1173\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Land Valuation Amendment Bill 2023, explanatory notes [\[1174\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Land Valuation Amendment Bill 2023, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[1175\]](#).

Today I introduce to the House the Land Valuation Amendment Bill 2023 which will improve the administration and operation of Queensland's statutory land valuation framework. Statutory valuations provide a fundamental input into Queensland's economy. Valuations inform the setting of state land tax, local government rates and state land rent that raise revenue.

The bill amends the Land Valuation Act 2010 to ensure statutory valuations are consistent and defensible, and the supporting processes such as objections and appeals are fair, efficient, and non-adversarial. Let me be clear for the benefit of the House: these changes will have no material impact on rates and property taxes. These legislative improvements were identified in consultation with key industry stakeholders, continuing the government's work to improve statewide valuation services.

Every year, the Valuer-General values land in local government areas, with the valuation roll growing at an average of 15,000 properties per year. In the 2023 annual valuation program, the Valuer-General undertook approximately 800,000 statutory valuations. This bill will support the Valuer-General in delivering one of Queensland's largest annual programs.

Since the commencement of the act in 2010, real estate markets have undergone significant changes, with mixed-use, transport orientated and multilayered volumetric developments emerging as an efficient way of using limited real estate. This has created difficulties in valuing these complex properties. The bill ensures the continual improvement of statewide valuation practices and responsiveness to reforms in the property sector from changing land uses by enabling the Valuer-General to make statutory guidelines for use by valuers. This will provide a practical framework to assist valuers in undertaking valuations of these complex properties.

Regularly reviewed and updated guidelines will ensure the framework remains current and relevant in a dynamic property environment, with consistent valuation practices applied to evolving sectors such as carbon farming. To be effective, the guidelines will require involvement and input from all key stakeholders. When developed, they will be published and tabled in parliament.

In undertaking valuations, the Valuer-General makes decisions in relation to the configuration of the land for valuation purposes, including whether to combine non-adjointing farm lots or parcels. The bill will now allow rural landowners to make these decisions about how their land is valued in line with how they use those lands. It is more efficient for the landowner to make these decisions rather than the Valuer-General, because in some cases landowners do not want their lands combined—for example, to allow for succession planning or where the diversification of land use is planned and the combining lots do not align with those plans.

The bill will give more options to landholders about how valuation notices are delivered. We know that this is a changing world, and it is important that we give people options about how they receive their information. In keeping pace with technology, landowners can now elect to receive their valuation notices by post, electronic mail, SMS or text message. This is about ensuring people get the services they want and need from this government.

In recent years, discussions around the release of annual valuations has raised questions in relation to the effect of natural disasters, such as floods, on valuations. While we know that historical valuations have been accurate and have taken into account all relevant impacts on land values, additional flexibility for the Valuer-General is provided in the bill. The bill gives the Valuer-General discretion not to make an annual valuation because of unusual circumstances when it is considered not appropriate to do so. While it may be possible, there are circumstances where it would not be appropriate. For example, it may not be appropriate to make an annual valuation because the occurrence of an unusual circumstance, such as a flood, may have affected the value of the land.

A landowner's right to object to the valuation of their land is fundamental to the statutory land valuation framework. A landowner has 60 days to lodge an objection to their valuation. The bill amends the objection process to ensure it is efficient and effective. We want to continue to deliver good services for Queenslanders, and these amendments will help to do exactly that. Queensland's objection framework is best practice. Over the past five years, the objection rate has been between only 0.2 and 0.5 per cent of all land valuations issued annually. However, there are opportunities for more objections to be resolved before proceeding to the Land Court. Independently chaired objection conferences have proven to be an effective way of resolving these objections. Over the past five years, on average, over 75 per cent of objections eligible for a conference were resolved prior to proceeding to the Land Court.

This bill removes an arbitrary threshold for when the Valuer-General must offer an independently chaired conference. This amendment allows all objectors access to conferences—not just those with valuations over \$5 million. The complexity of the valuation is not necessarily related to its value, as other factors, such as the availability of sales evidence and unique property-specific attributes, may increase complexity. Properties under \$5 million may be more complex than those over \$5 million.

It is essential that objections are resolved through the most efficient means, as values underpin the assessment of land tax, rates and state land rental. When objection decisions are delayed and the outcome is a lesser valuation, landowners can overpay the land taxes and rates, requiring local governments to refund the difference. This uncertainty impacts landowners, local governments' ability to plan and manage their budgets as well as the Valuer-General's capability to deliver the follow year's valuation program. As a government, we will always look at ways to make things better and more efficient for Queenslanders, and these amendments will do exactly that.

The bill will also ensure all parties are engaged in the objection process and share relevant information in good faith to improve the objections process and to realise greater efficiencies for all. This will be achieved by encouraging the disclosure of all relevant information before an independently chaired objection conference starts; enabling an independent chairperson to request further information; requiring a chairperson to prepare a written report about the conference including any recommendations for parties; and making the Valuer-General's power to request further information applicable to all valuations for consistency.

Several other minor amendments are also proposed to clarify certain provisions. I am confident that the amendments to the Land Valuation Act 2010 deliver a statutory land valuation framework that is recognised for its contemporary capability, efficiency and effectiveness. I commend the bill to the House.

## First Reading

**Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (11.24 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

## Referral to Transport and Resources Committee

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Bush): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Transport and Resources Committee.

## APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL


### APPROPRIATION BILL

#### Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)


#### Health and Environment Committee, Report

Resumed from 22 August (see p. 2247).

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Bush): I remind the House of those members who are on warnings at the moment. They are the members for Mermaid Beach, Coomera, Kawana, Nanango, Bonney, Callide, Toowoomba North and Morayfield.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (11.25 am): I am glad I am not on that list! I was saying yesterday in relation to the health component of the estimates committee hearing that increasingly for the Palaszczuk Labor government it is all about the announcement and not about the deliverables. We also saw that in relation to the environment portfolio. Queenslanders would have heard a lot about the massive Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro project. What we are increasingly seeing is that it is a hoax—it is the 'hydro hoax'. We have ministers on the government benches, like the Treasurer and the energy minister, claiming that this is a done deal, that it is going ahead and that it is going to be the linchpin of our energy needs and requirements for many years into the future. Anyone who knows the area knows that it comes with a lot of environmental concerns.

What we determined from the estimates hearing with the Minister for the Environment is that, to date, the environment department has barely been involved in the process of selecting that site. Certainly, if environmental issues arise this site will not be able to proceed. I was thinking, 'What does this remind me of?' It reminded me of Peter Beattie jumping in a helicopter, flying over the Gympie region and saying, 'We're going to put a dam there, at Traveston.' It was a done deal. He went to the people of Queensland and said, 'I've got it all sorted. We're going to put a dam there.' Little did they know, there were significant environmental concerns with putting a dam there on the Mary River. I suspect that we will have exactly the same thing occur on the Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro project. Members of the government benches wave around glossy little brochures, but when push comes to shove it will not be able to be delivered and that will leave a gaping hole in terms of meeting our energy requirements into the future.


 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (11.27 am): Without good health, life is difficult to navigate. I want to thank the committee, parliamentary staff, the department and ministerial staff for the preparation that went into a robust estimates hearing. The Mackay Base Hospital's RANZCOG accreditation has been restored. Mackay Base Hospital is anticipating the return of accredited obstetrics and gynaecological specialist trainees in 2024. The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, RANZCOG, has advised the health service that trainees in their third or fourth year of basic training are available to rotate through Mackay Base Hospital. I thank Chief Medical Officer Dr Charles Pain and his team for this great outcome for the Mackay Base Hospital. I take this opportunity to thank all health workers in Queensland for looking after Queenslanders.

Some very experienced health leaders have now joined the Mackay Hospital and Health Board. A new six-member board has been appointed to govern the Mackay Hospital and Health Service and board members bring a vast range of experience across fields of emergency medicine, business, nursing and law. I look forward to meeting with Helen Darch OAM, the chair of the board, tomorrow. Minister Fentiman is rolling out the Palaszczuk government's historic hospital and health infrastructure spend. This is only possible by distributing coal royalties to the whole of Queensland and includes the Mackay Base Hospital's \$256 million 128-bed expansion for paediatric, medical and surgical patients whilst also delivering more acute and subacute women's, children's and neonatal services in our city.

To take pressure off our Mackay Base Hospital, the services surrounding Mackay within the Mackay HHS are receiving upgrades and rebuilds. The Sarina Hospital's space for allied health and staff accommodation is nearly completed and, weather permitting, patients will begin using the purpose-built hospital on Brewers Road by the end of this year, and thank you to the team at Woollams for their commitment to this project. The Moranbah Hospital staff accommodation rebuild and the new helipad tender have been awarded. Planning is well underway and sod turning is not far off. The hospital planning reflects the needs of the local mining community, with an emergency department that can expand into the ward if there is a major mine accident. Medical imaging is next door to the emergency department and I know that everyone is excited about the helipad that will be built on the hospital grounds. Congratulations to the Moranbah community, led by Mayor Baker, for their campaigning to get this hospital built. The Proserpine Hospital will receive a refurbishment of its clinical and training areas, clinical assessment rooms and office space. Through the Rural and Regional Renal Program, it will begin renal services, saving patients from needing to travel to Mackay.

Since it was rebuilt, the Mackay Base Hospital has needed a new, improved car park and I am excited to confirm that it is on its way—a \$75 million multilevel car park with an additional 1,000 car spaces. The car park will be built and owned by the state government and managed by the Mackay Hospital and Health Service. This will ensure that parking fees will be kept to a minimum. The hospital and health service is currently consulting with local residents, staff, patients and visitors to make sure that it gets the parking right.

We know that the Queensland public health system is under pressure from increased demands for services as well as the shortage of a skilled workforce. The challenge of workforce shortages is particularly real for rural, regional and remote hospitals and health facilities. The Mackay HHS is no different and I welcome the \$5,000 payments available to nursing and midwife students to complete their final pracs in a rural and regional setting. When students experience life in the regions, they are more likely to apply for work outside the south-east corner on the completion of their study.

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (11.32 am): In my contribution to the debate on the Health and Environment Committee report, I want to start by reminding everyone about a really important number that the Treasurer has been talking about in relation to this budget, 12.3 billion—a \$12.3 billion surplus. After Labor finally took the Greens advice and raised mining royalties, the Queensland Treasury is booming. After years of us calling for you to raise royalties—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Bush): Direct your comments through the chair.

**Dr MacMAHON:**—now we have a \$12.3 billion surplus that could be spent on our public hospitals, on our schools, on our struggling mental health services and on our packed emergency rooms. Instead the government is just sitting on it and gloating about this surplus while everyday Queenslanders are suffering—suffering with the housing crisis, suffering with a healthcare system that is under stress. Emergency department doctors and nurses have been raising the alarm about how overworked and understaffed they are. I want to say a huge thank you to the health staff and patients who have reached out to my office to share stories about long wait times, about chronic understaffing, about the overuse of agency staff, about paramedics spending their whole shift on a ramp with a patient because the hospital is unable to accept them.

This is borne out in the government's own data. With regard to Metro South and the percentage of emergency department attendances who depart within four hours of their arrival, the target is 80 per cent. In Metro South the figure is 52 per cent, and this has gotten steadily worse, down from about 68 per cent in 2019. With regard to category 2 time frames, only 58 per cent of people are seen within the recommended 10 minutes, down from 70 per cent in 2019. With regard to category 3 time frames, only 63 per cent of people are seen within the recommended 30 minutes, down from 71 per cent in 2019. Why not put some of this \$12 billion surplus into our emergency departments and into more staff, as the current staff are crying out for more support? Why not put that money into free TAFE and education so we can boost the health workforce?

**Ms Boyd:** We do.

**Dr MacMAHON:** Why do we have a \$12 billion surplus then? There is no excuse for having spare money in a state that is struggling. I asked the Minister for Health about the abortion access plan that we have been waiting for now for over a year since it was announced in July 2022. Maybe some of this \$12 billion surplus could be put into making sure every Queenslanders has access to termination services. We learnt that there are only an additional eight mental health beds that have been added across the state. We are at least 500 beds short of where we should be. We are well behind the OECD average for mental health beds. Why not put some of that \$12 billion surplus into properly funding accessible public mental health services in Queensland, eating disorder services, public access to psychologists and psychiatrists and ADHD services? But we do not have to stop there.

I asked the Treasurer what will happen when coal prices return to normal, because the increased royalties are only on the super profits. Once those prices drop Queenslanders will be getting hardly any benefit from the sale of our minerals, with no plans to increase the base rate of royalties. He said that there is no plan to increase the royalties any further. Queenslanders do not have to put up with chronically underfunded services with a lack of housing. Permanently raising the base rate of royalties would ensure that our public hospitals are permanently fully funded and would give Queenslanders the healthcare system that they deserve. Sitting on a \$12 billion surplus in the middle of a housing crisis and a cost-of-living crisis is unethical and unjustifiable and Queenslanders are looking at this government and wondering where its priorities are.

The issues with the estimates process have been well covered so far, but suffice to say the process is a sham. The government is not interested in transparency or accountability or consultation or actually answering questions. I, and the rest of the crossbench, will continue to push for a process that might actually introduce some accountability into the way the estimates process is done. I give the example of the consultation that the government ran around East Brisbane State School. The consultation came back and clearly said that the community wanted a school within that catchment. The government has ignored its own consultation and is treating this community like second-class citizens. The government has ignored its own consultation and has made a decision that the majority of the community do not want. This government is not—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, I ask you to pause there. I am not finding this particular contribution relevant to the health estimates debate. Can you come back to that debate thank you?


**Dr MacMAHON:** Suffice it to say, this government is not interested in accountability. The process is a sham.

Report adopted.

### Transport and Resources Committee, Report

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Bush): The question is—

That the report of the Transport and Resources Committee be adopted.

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (11.38 am): Today I rise to speak to the estimates report tabled by the Transport and Resources Committee, this report being No. 38 of our committee. The committee's estimates hearing went from 9 am to 8.15 pm, and it is always a long day. Once again some visiting opposition members spent most of their time attacking rather than analysing expenditure, but that is nothing new. It was, however, disappointing to me that the member for Chatsworth, whom I have always found quite effective as a shadow minister, was largely sidelined for the first session while the deputy opposition leader and the member for Maroochydore came in to deliver a purely political attack line. The members had no regard for standing orders and should both know better. They constantly complain about the estimates process and times and then completely waste time.

As it was, I gave the non-government members considerably more time in all sessions. They could have genuinely used the time for legitimate questions, but chose not to. I was also quite disappointed in the way they spoke to public servants on the day. After the sideshow ended some civility returned and some interrogation of the budget occurred. It was good to hear there is money put aside for the Torres Strait marine infrastructure program. We learned during an inquiry conducted by this committee's predecessor in the last parliament that this program was necessary and it is good to see it starting. In my area, Burpengary station is getting an upgrade. Work has started. As this is something I have campaigned for since my success getting funding for upgrading Dakabin station, I am particularly pleased with that news.


From the session with the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement we were provided more details on the rebuild of QBuild, which is providing funding for more apprentices and the rapid accommodation and apprenticeship centres in both Eagle Farm and Cairns. We received more detail about clean energy hubs and the huge employment opportunities in the energy supply industry from the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, as well as our pumped hydro projects. We heard how the CopperString powerline from Townsville to Mount Isa will open up the resources sector there, as well as helping towns along the way.

The minister for resources finished up and we heard about the value of the Queensland Critical Minerals Strategy which will see \$245 million in investment to accelerate growth in our critical minerals sector. We are moving on from digging and shipping raw materials to processing and refining critical minerals and manufacturing high-value products—making it in Queensland for Queensland. We heard about the two critical mineral zones, one in Julia Creek/Richmond and the other in Mount Isa, and the \$75 million investment to support this proactive and coordinated approach to the development of critical minerals projects.

I always make a point of allowing just about every question to proceed to ministers and officials despite the imputation and arguments in a lot of them. However, this year there were a few questions from visiting members that were loaded statements rather than questions. I had to ask they be rephrased, sometimes quite a few times. I felt at the time almost like a kindergarten teacher. It is very disappointing when you consider I was chairing a proceeding that should be comprised of professional, educated adults and I wish some would act that way.

Finally, on the opposition's statement of reservation—or rhetoric—they whinge and whine about the massive investment in our energy system yet they fail to ever reflect on the fact we would not have an energy network to invest in if they were in government. They would have sold it off. Thanks to our government's investment in energy we have a stronger, cleaner network that pays tangible dividends to Queenslanders—hundreds of dollars in dividends, in fact. While we are helping Queenslanders pay their bills the opposition is not even sure how it would pay its own bills in government; with such a clear division about sharing the wealth of our resources sector—like we are—to benefit all Queensland communities.

I would like to finish by thanking the members of the Transport and Resources Committee and visiting members like the members for Chatsworth, Condamine and Warrego, who were mature and sensible in their approach. Once again I would also like to thank our extremely hardworking secretariat team, Hansard and all the parliamentary, ministerial and departmental staff who worked so hard to make estimates happen. People do not acknowledge just how much work goes into the process. I, for one, appreciate it. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (11.42 am): My first question was to the minister and the question was, 'Minister Bailey, why should Queenslanders believe anything that you say today?' It was ruled out of order by the chair. I always try to make sure that my commentary is balanced. I have plenty to say about the minister, but I will simply say I do believe the member for Kurwongbah does a very good job of chairing the estimates process for the Transport and Resources Committee.


I want to comment on a couple of key numbers to which I am going to refer a little bit later in my five-minute contribution. The first one is 3,110 days and the other one is 2,080 days. I will come back to those shortly. In relation to the minister, it is for others to judge, when they read the committee transcript, how he performed on the day. As far as we are concerned—or certainly I am concerned—he has been elevated to the opposition's most valuable player because subsequent to the estimates process the performance of the minister has been a litany of headline after headline. I will not comment further on the body language we have seen subsequent to the estimates process because I want to do a deep dive on a couple of key things that came out.

As I referred to yesterday, we have had the rail fail, the mangocube scandal and we now have the train shame. In relation to the train shame, the \$2.4 billion blowout, there has been plenty of speculation and a lot of questions that remain unanswered. The Minister for Transport and Main Roads, the member for Miller, has been the Minister for Main Roads for 3,110 days, and, to be fair, he has been the minister for TMR for 2,080 days. I highlighted yesterday that there is something you cannot buy and that is character. The other thing you cannot buy is time. Here we are now, with a three-term, tired Labor government, and one of the chief proponents of complete waste and a lack of action in relation to key projects is the member for Miller, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. There are a series of projects where blowouts or cost overruns have been well documented.



At the end of the day what is concerning is that we are only nine years away from the Olympics and key infrastructure that pertains to the minister's remit are simply years behind. That was well amplified last night on the news. What that \$2.4 billion represents for Queenslanders is 9,600 ambulances that were not purchased, 23,078 nurses and 1,305 ICU beds. If I was to target one metaphor to illustrate all that is wrong with the performance of the member for Miller—I will not table it or use it as a prop because there have been rulings repeatedly about that—it would be the TMR website—which I asked to be refreshed minutes before I made this contribution—pertaining to the Beams Road, Carseldine and Fitzgibbon rail level crossings. The progress status is still showing, as at around about 95 minutes ago, pre-construction. If ever one needed to have an example of a project which has been promised and promised with little delivery—in fact, very little delivery at all—it is that particular project. That is one of a catalogue that I could actually raise. The simple fact of the matter is that there is a big disconnect between the rhetoric that is uttered in the House and what is happening on the street. The reality is that time is catching up with the member for Miller and his lack of performance. When one looks at the transcript of the estimates hearing, he even went back to invoke the ghost of the Bjelke-Petersen government.

I would like to close on page 30 of the transcript where he says, 'Our trial of the Queensland digital driver's licence in Townsville is currently underway.' The only problem is that this was something that was promised on 18 August 5½ years ago. There is a disconnect between the actions and the rhetoric.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (11.47 am): I rise to wholeheartedly support the transport committee's report in terms of the estimates. I note the very wise chairing of the member for Kurwongbah, as acknowledged, and I acknowledge the opposition shadow's endorsement of how fair and reasonable he is in the chair.

On the day we saw outrageous behaviour from the member for Kawana and the member for Maroochydore, both deliberately ignoring standing orders but, more importantly, taking over the job of the shadow minister for transport and main roads. I can guarantee I will be here in my role a lot longer than he will be in his because he got sacked. He was not trusted to lead the attack from the opposition. It was humiliating.

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

**Mr Bailey:** Come in, spinner!

**Mr MINNIKIN:** I take personal offence at that last comment because it is factually incorrect. I ask that it be withdrawn.


**Mr BAILEY:** I withdraw. I am very interested in the estimates transcript as well because in the estimates transcript I outlined very clearly the NGR debacle under the watch of the member for Chatsworth. He was the assistant minister for public transport in the Newman government. He was there; he voted for it. I outlined how much that cost the taxpayer: \$335 million. We have fixed 49 of them. We can only do eight at a time to keep the system rolling.

The member was so offended that he dumped his leader and his deputy leader into it by denying any role as he was not in cabinet but was just the assistant minister for public transport. He said, 'No, ordering those trains that were not disability compliant from overseas was nothing do with me.' To cap it off, it was not just him; it was also the member for Maroochydore. They were basically throwing all the former Newman government ministers to the wolves by saying, 'No, we weren't part of that debacle, that humiliation, that embarrassment.' These guys do not even rehearse. It was a very embarrassing effort by the shadow minister who clearly does not have the confidence of his own side in his ability to lead in the portfolio area.

Let us speak about what is in the budget. There is a record \$32 billion QTRIP investment, which is nearly double the last budget of the LNP when those opposite were in government for only one term. There is a whole list of strong investments across this state, in both regional Queensland and South-East Queensland, into things that were ignored and not dealt with by those opposite. When in power they did not spend a single new dollar on the M1 and we are investing billions of dollars in upgrades on the southern Gold Coast and the interchanges at Springwood. The member for Springwood, who is sitting next to me, knows how much we are investing in the M1. On the Bruce Highway we have done 459 upgrades versus—if I am generous and count the two planning studies—four from those opposite. That is a cricket score, as I said in the estimates hearing and I say again. The Gold Coast Light Rail would not happen under any government other than our government. We have the Gympie bypass and the Sunshine Coast rail duplication and we are doing the hard yards for the Sunshine Coast direct line.

When it comes to a comprehensive look at the transport portfolio, let us see what topics were not covered by the opposition. These topics were not even mentioned in four hours of estimates hearings: the M1, Far North Queensland, taxis, Rockhampton, the Torres Strait, Central Queensland, North Queensland, Far North Queensland, regional roads, ports—they never saw a port they did not want to sell off—Mackay, Bundaberg, Moreton Bay or road maintenance. I was disappointed not to see road maintenance come up. We love it when the member raises road maintenance because we are spending so much more on it than they did. It is a little favourite of the member for Chatsworth and I was very disappointed not to see it there. Also not mentioned were maritime, active transport, customer service centres, Ipswich and the Redlands to name a few. That is what they did not cover in four hours and yet the member for Chatsworth comes in here and talks about body language. That shows the depth of the contribution of the honourable member to this place.

We are still fixing the NGR debacle that the member for Chatsworth and the member for Maroochydore voted for. They were not in cabinet but they endorsed it and they voted for it. They can try to crab walk away all they want. They can say, 'It wasn't our fault. It was the member for Broadwater, the member for Everton and the member for Kawana. It was all the people in the Newman government ministry.' It was their fault and nothing to do with the member for Chatsworth! You get either record investment in infrastructure from the Palaszczuk Labor government or you get billions in cuts, announced by the member for Chatsworth only months ago. He told us in his own press conference that they are going to cut billions. Those were their own words and I take them at their word. They have not changed. They are still cutters and we are builders.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (11.53 am): I rise to speak about the estimates hearings and express my disappointment at some of the things that were discussed in that hearing with regards to public works and Minister de Brenni. One issue has caused great angst in the building industry. I cannot remember so many builders contacting myself and other members of parliament because they cannot believe—

**Mr de Brenni** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** You do not believe it; I take that interjection. Members of the Master Builders are listening right now. This minister does not believe that they are upset about the changes that are coming in from 1 October—changes that no other state across the country is doing—because this minister stubbornly refuses to listen to the stakeholders, that is, the people who know and who say that his changes will mean anything from \$30,000 to \$70,000 extra on the cost of the construction of a new home at a time when cost of living is the greatest issue facing Queenslanders. This minister refuses to listen and does not believe that this is an issue. They will continue to campaign in the hope that common sense will prevail even though, as I said, the minister refuses to listen.

Another issue that continually pops up in these hearings, and about which I am continually approached in my office as are other members of parliament, is the continual dysfunction of the QBCC. The QBCC would have to be one of the most complained about services in the Queensland government. Some things that have come out are of great concern. The most fundamental role of the QBCC is the inspection of defective buildings. During the hearing, we were told that the average time it takes from a complaint being made to someone coming out to inspect a building defect is 20 weeks. That is the average time so we can imagine that at the higher end it could be six to seven to eight months before someone goes out and inspects a defect or an alleged defect. The commissioner was asked about this last year and at that time she said that this should be a KPI. However, this year is no different. She has expressed her concern about that delay but there are no obvious strategies that will reduce that wait time, which is entirely unacceptable.

A review of the QBCC recommended that they have a separate revenue stream to pay their way. At the moment the QBCC does not pay its way. It needs money from the state government to break even. The minister has continued not to rule out a levy on builders. There are already a lot of imposts on builders with overregulation and now I believe that the minister is seriously considering putting a levy on builders so that they can pay their way and pay their bills.

One of the most disturbing things that came out of the hearing was the fact that there have been a further seven allegations of corruption forwarded to the CCC. That follows on from, I think, 30 the year before. This is the building regulator. This is a body where integrity means everything. This is the impartial referee so allegations of corruption should be treated very seriously. The commissioner also mentioned that one of those allegations was made by her against a board member. Again, that is a serious allegation and something that should have the attention of the minister. I have a question for

the minister today: have there been allegations of corruption made against any executive members of the QBCC? The chair of the QBCC has an obligation to report to you if those allegations have been made and you have a responsibility to this parliament and the people of Queensland—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Bush): Through the chair, member.

**Mr MANDER:** I take the correction. The minister has an obligation to the people of Queensland to advise them and this parliament whether there have been allegations made against any executive members of the QBCC. The fact that we continue to hear about allegations of corruption in a body where impartiality is integral and so important is of serious concern. I expect the minister to make some sort of response in the future.



**Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (11.58 am): I rise to address the committee's examination of the 2023-24 budget, which focused on Queensland's Big Build. In doing so, like other members, I express my sincerest appreciation for the work of the committee and, in particular, the leadership of the chair, the member for Kurwongbah, and his team.

I am going to respond by saying that I will not lower myself to the pathetic gutter standards of some of the shadow ministers given their conduct during the estimates hearings and in this debate. However, I do want to clarify that the members for Condamine and Gregory and others turned up and inquired of me with a level of genuine interest and a keenness to understand how our budget is supporting the delivery of what are sometimes complex matters in this portfolio.

I refer particularly to the personal attacks consistently engaged in by the member for Chatsworth. I refer as well to the no-less-than-infantile and puerile conduct of the member for Everton—it has been on display here again today—in his continued, thinly veiled attack on members of the Public Service in particular, so much so that he turned up in the statement of reservation with a longwinded denial of it. He is so wracked with guilt about his continued attack on public servants that he spent most of the statement of reservation trying to cover it up.

I also acknowledge my colleagues the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and the Minister for Resources, who appeared before the committee on that long day that the member for Kurwongbah spoke about. Together, we and other members of this side of the House are delivering the infrastructure our growing state needs, particularly in regional Queensland, as part of Queensland's Big Build—the biggest investment in infrastructure delivery in our history. It is a team effort on projects such as Queensland's Electric Super Highway of the Minister for Transport—\$42 million worth of extra chargers are planned to add 22 gigawatts of new renewable energy—and North Queensland's own supercharged electric highway, CopperString 2032, an initiative that will unlock the power of the north through more than \$500 billion of critical minerals.


We need to build big because people are moving to Queensland in droves for our great lifestyle, our beaches, our bush, our cultural experiences, our vibrant entertainment and arts scene, and our incredible sporting events, from our junior clubs to our upcoming Olympics and Paralympics. They are coming here for our growing industries that we are supporting through this budget that the committee examined—industries such as hydrogen, batteries, manufacturing, minerals and tourism. They are coming for the thousands of good jobs that this budget supports, all led through this budget's \$19 billion investment in our shared clean energy future, delivered through the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, the most comprehensive, accountable, realistic, transparent and effective plan for an energy transition, not just here in this nation but anywhere in the world, I think. Now, following years of expert analysis, Queensland is backing it all with \$7 billion of publicly owned pumped hydro energy storage at both Borumba and Pioneer-Burdekin.

The committee also heard about how our plan is taking immediate action on easing the cost of living through our household energy affordability package, with the largest cost-of-living relief for households anywhere in the nation. It is working. Right now, of all the jurisdictions in Australia, Queensland has the lowest power bills. That is not by accident. We have delivered that, as the committee heard, through relief through our rebates—the largest package in the nation; renewables that push down the price of power; and the retention of public ownership.

We heard about how we are expanding on the services that Queenslanders rely on such as our satellite hospitals and delivering more affordable housing construction through a rebuilt QBuild. Most importantly, the Palaszczuk government recognises that homes are likely to be the biggest asset for

most Queenslanders and that those who do not own one also need housing that is safe and secure. We recognise the need to produce even more housing stock to meet the needs of a growing Queensland. That is why the committee heard about our plan for 14,000 new homes.

I want to touch on the statement of reservation. It is a sad indictment of the LNP. It is emblematic of a rapid demise in the quality of conservatism across this nation.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (12.03 pm): I rise to speak to the Transport and Resources Committee report on the estimates process for both the energy and the resources portfolios. These portfolios are not only critical to our state's economic development but also, with energy in particular, critical to addressing the cost-of-living crisis being presided over by those opposite. We know that one of the biggest challenges facing Queenslanders is, undoubtedly, their electricity bill. Queenslanders have been promised cheaper electricity bills by the Palaszczuk government on hundreds of occasions, yet every Queenslander knows that this has not happened. The Premier and her energy minister are quick to blame others, in a desperate attempt to deflect their responsibility. We have heard a raft of excuses for increasing power prices. One being commonly touted is the war in Ukraine. That is why I am sure members will appreciate my astonishment when the CS Energy CEO confirmed that the Ukraine war and international factors were not contributing to coal prices being consumed by the energy generators. Mr Busine confirmed that there are indeed long-term agreements not influenced by those international factors, showing that the Premier and the minister have been misleading the public on this issue.

The Department of Energy and Public Works director-general also acknowledged that the explosion at the Callide Power Station did have an impact on electricity prices—something that has also been acknowledged by the Auditor-General. These statements are in complete contradiction to comments made by the energy minister in this parliament following the explosion. It is without question that action is required to put downward pressure on electricity prices, yet it seems the minister's only solutions to the spiralling energy costs are subsidies and suggesting Queenslanders should use less electricity.


Whilst the LNP welcomes any relief to the cost of living for families, the government needs to look beyond subsidies to fix the underlying issue with the state's energy system and how prices can be forced down. We know that one of the major issues with the energy system, as the Auditor-General and the MEU have pointed out, is maintenance on state owned power plants. The minister says that he is unaware of any maintenance backlogs, again contradicting what the workers and the unions have been saying. There is certainly more to see here and Queenslanders must be told the truth. We still have not seen the Brady report on the incident at Callide.

I would also like to point out that there was very little mention of hydrogen in this year's estimates. It was mentioned over 30 times last year, but this year it barely rated a mention. I note that that title has been removed from the assistant minister's title, so this year they were silent on hydrogen. The Pioneer-Burdekin dam also has no business case, no funding and no approvals and faces a very uncertain future.

When it comes to resources, chaos and crisis describe this government. We are seeing open warfare among the minister, the Treasurer and one of the state's largest investors and employers following a broken promise from this Labor government. The government is also at war with the Queensland Resources Council, with the minister accusing it of being misleading and being 'frankly absurd' for simply calling out the government's hypocrisy. We have reached the stage where we have seen the Treasurer openly threatening these mining companies. The only thing certain is that this minister's relationship with this industry is at rock bottom. It is arguably one of the state's biggest economic generating industries. For the government to suggest that sovereign risk has not once been raised with it following the tax hike shows a completely deaf ear to this issue.

That is not the only issue to escape the minister's attention, with estimates revealing that it took the minister months to meet with the MEU about safety issues after the MEU's campaign to meet with the minister following 54 serious incidents in Queensland mines. Another issue I pushed was the government turning its back on the Glenden community. I welcome the government's backflip on the proposed worker accommodation and look forward to seeing the legislation the government said it will be introducing. I commend the member for Burdekin for the work he has done on this issue, sticking up for his community while the minister has turned his back on them—creating uncertainty in mining communities across this state.

I would like to thank both government and non-government members of the committee and acknowledge all of the work that goes into preparing for the estimates process. It is a very important part of our democracy. I offer my thanks to them.

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (12.08 pm): I welcome the tabling of the Transport and Resources Committee report into the proposed budget appropriations for 2023-24 and acknowledge the committee's recommendations that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the budget bills, be agreed to without amendment. I am disappointed in what the opposition has said in its statement of reservation, because we have addressed all of the questions put forward with relevant answers.

I am proud of the success of the resources industry and the confidence the world has in it moving forward, particularly our critical minerals sector. There is huge interest in critical minerals in the North West Minerals Province and also in our world-class steelmaking coal. We have seen this with the global interest in the sales process for BHP's Central Queensland coal assets. We have seen it with the recent announcement from Coronado Global Resources, whose board has approved the Curragh North underground metallurgical coal project. In fact, we have seen it from the international survey of the Fraser Institute.

Just to recap for those opposite—who certainly were not listening and have peddled some interesting stories just now—in May the Fraser Institute released its annual survey of mining companies, including its influential investment attractiveness index. Of all the major producers of metallurgical coal, Queensland is now ranked the most attractive destination for investment, and our overall state ranking improved from 18 to 13—a five-year high. That is awesome.

I dismiss what the LNP have said because it is simply not true. There are huge opportunities for our resources industry moving forward and those opposite need to stop trying to talk it down simply for their own benefit. What the opposition refuse to make clear is their position on our progressive coal royalties. I ask them: what is their position? If they do not support them, we know what they will do when they get elected—they will cut, sack and sell. Under the LNP's secret plans there will be no CopperString 2032, no hospital projects in Moranbah and no new infrastructure. We have a plan and that is for more jobs and better services right across Queensland—not cuts.

Regarding Glenden, I cannot believe the member for Burdekin has taken any credit for this. He has never picked up the phone to talk to me about it. This is a complex issue that I and the government have engaged on for some time. We have been working with the Isaac Regional Council, QCoal and Glencore about the future of this town and the facilities and accommodation available. For the opposition to say that no work has been done examining the future of Glenden is simply not true. I will have more to say on this later, but as the Premier said at the Bush Summit in Rocky, we are supporting the Isaac Regional Council and the future of Glenden with legislation. We know how important the resources industry is to our regions, but the industry must coexist with stakeholders like the agricultural industry.

That is why we are working with the GasFields Commission when it comes to CSG induced subsidence. We have broadly supported all recommendations from the GasFields Commission Queensland's review into coal seam gas induced subsidence. We have listened to the community about concerns around coal seam gas induced subsidence and we are committed to ensuring our coexistence frameworks provide appropriate protections. That is why we are supporting six recommendations from the GasFields Commission Queensland's report into CSG induced subsidence and supporting the other two recommendations in principle.

The Department of Resources' lands division is another key component of my portfolio. They manage around 18,000 leases throughout Queensland—a huge number—and these include numerous leases for agriculture. Of the handful of noncompliant leases that have been raised, leases on Great Keppel Island have recently been forfeited and the Double Island lessee has been notified of the intention to refer this matter to the Land Court. What I will say is that compliance activities continue with respect to a number of other leases.

Regarding commercial river mooring opportunities, as I said during the estimates process, this is a matter for the tourism minister. I will continue to work with him moving forward. I would suggest those opposite should talk to the LNP Brisbane Lord Mayor about what the council is also doing in this space, and there will be crickets.

The 2023-24 Queensland budget is about backing all Queenslanders. We are investing in our regions. We are investing in our future when it comes to critical minerals, energy and manufacturing. The resources industry will be an essential part of our future moving forward.



**Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (12.13 pm): I would also like to contribute to the debate on the estimates committee report. The estimates process gives the parliament—our parliament, the people's parliament—the opportunity to question the government of the day on its financial stewardship and its proposals for the forthcoming year. Unfortunately, the estimates process did find some issues that we are facing in Queensland.

Before I get to that, I would like to thank the committee for the estimates process—the chair and all committee members, but especially the committee secretary, Jodhi, and assistant, Zac—and everybody else involved in the estimates process. They do a fantastic job. Our estimates process goes until 8.15 at night. It is one of the longest estimates hearings and a lot of work goes into it, so I thank the committee.

I will start with the transport and main roads portfolio. The estimates hearing further exposed the government's massive breach of trust with taxpayers over the \$2.4 billion blowout in the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program. It was revealed that the minister's office had requested that the true \$9.5 billion cost be removed from communications. Coming three days after the media release was issued, this raised serious doubts over the minister's assertion that the use of the incorrect amount on the media release was just an oversight. What this means is that this cost blowout will affect not only the people in South-East Queensland but also the people in regional Queensland because some things are going to have to be cut. Some things are not going to be funded.

One of the biggest issues that we face in regional and rural areas is the backlog maintenance issue. This is still a major issue when it comes to roads that are in desperate need of repair, especially the road from Emerald all the way out to Alpha and roads right across regional Queensland. We only have to look at the Dawson Highway to see this. I suggest government members jump in a car and go from Moura all the way to Bauhinia and see how they feel at the end of the day. That is a road that is in desperate need of repair. Backlog maintenance is still a major issue.

The other issue that was raised in the estimates process—and this has major implications for the Department of Transport and Main Roads—is the closure of gravel pits in rural and remote areas. This is going to hurt rural and regional councils. I will give members an example. The Boulia Shire Council covers 61,000 square kilometres. Gravel pit closures have seen them go from 104 pits down to four pits. We are now looking at cost blowouts for the Donohue Highway. It was going to cost \$176,000 to fix the flood affected parts of the Donohue Highway, but because of the gravel pit closures they are looking at an estimated cost—as reported in the *Queensland Country Life*—of \$5.6 million. Councils like the Boulia Shire Council, which punch well above their weight and do a fantastic job, do not have the money or the resources to be able to cover that cost blowout. That is now estimated to cost \$5.6 million. I know that this comes under the minister for agriculture, so I say to the minister that he needs to solve this because these councils cannot afford that sort of cost blowout.

The other issue of concern is that our Indigenous groups are unnecessarily getting blamed for this. Only last week the Transport and Resources Committee was in Birdsville and we were talking to the Mithaka people. Their concern is that they want these gravel pits opened but they are blamed for their closure by some people. It is not their fault. This is being held up by red tape down in South-East Queensland. We have good, hardworking people, including the Mithaka people, who want this solved. I urge the minister to solve this. I know it is a big issue when it comes to the agreements, but it needs to be solved because it is certainly something of great concern.

I now move onto the energy, renewables and hydrogen portfolio. The hearing also uncovered the clear concern between ministers around the future of the Pioneer-Burdekin hydro project. The budget estimates has revealed that there is not only no funding for the project in this year's budget but also no business case. The government made a big announcement about the Pioneer-Burdekin hydro scheme last year and yet there is no funding and no business case. Landholders in that area—and I know that area very well—are very worried. Their property prices are now under pressure. They have no certainty. We need to be able to give these people certainty. It is fantastic agricultural country in the Pioneer Valley. It is part of the cane growing region for Mackay Sugar. They need certainty. It needs to be sorted out.

With resources there are a multitude of issues. There is declining industry confidence plaguing the Queensland resources sector. Our industry stakeholders need to be confident that they have a bright future.



**Mr WALKER** (Mundingburra—ALP) (12.18 pm): I rise to speak to the Transport and Resources Committee estimates report. Firstly, I would like to thank the chair, Mr Shane King, the member for Kurwongbah, for his excellent work in keeping our estimates hearing on task and managing some very


naughty opposition members. I would also like to thank all of my fellow committee members for the important work we continue to do week in and week out and the committee secretariat staff who give us excellent support.

The estimates hearing started well with very clear guidance from our chair, the member for Kurwongbah. However, the member for Chatsworth started the proceedings with a very provocative question which really set a poor tone for the estimates hearing for the day. However, in a spirit of goodwill, the chair allowed the question and Minister Bailey, the Minister for Transport, gave an excellent response. The member for Chatsworth interjected poorly with another provocative statement as Minister Bailey was responding to his question. The minister kept responding to the first question from the member for Chatsworth. The member for Chatsworth made another provocative statement. He was very naughty.

It was a poor start to the day. I thought the opposition would take advantage of their time by asking questions that would help inform them, making them a lot brighter when it comes to transport and resources, and help them inform the broader community of the fantastic investments being made by the Palaszczuk government. Furthermore, the member for Chatsworth is not even a member of the committee. I felt that the start of questioning by an external opposition member was a vote of no confidence in their own committee members, who I feel do a thorough and excellent job on this committee.

There were 347 questions asked by LNP members. The LNP committee members only asked 75 questions out of the 347 asked by the opposition. The member for Stretton asked 23 questions and I was allowed to ask 24 questions. That gave the opposition more than ample time to ask the right questions during the estimates hearing. The member for Callide failed by only asking 12 questions out of the 347 opposition questions. The member for Maiwar asked more questions than the member for Callide and he is not even on the committee, so good on the member for Maiwar. The chair was very patient with the behaviour of those opposite who attended the estimates hearing.

I would also like to thank all of the departmental staff who attended and provided valuable information. I will leave it there. I will leave it to the broader community, the people of Queensland, to judge the very poor behaviour of the LNP members who asked very poor questions on the day.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (12.21 pm): In my contribution today I will start with the question that I asked the transport minister which was: would he be prepared to have a public forum and attend a community forum in Toowoomba regarding a particular north-south corridor? This question was batted back by saying, 'We are personalising the consultation process.' I outlined that that question was literally from my community.

My community have some grave concerns about this corridor and the minister seemed to be unwilling to answer them. What needs to be understood is that the minister is, in fact, part of the executive that represents this portfolio and is the one person who can actually stop the consultation and restart it in a more appropriate way. I call on the minister to look at this corridor. We know we need a corridor but this corridor is the wrong corridor. That is what the question was getting to.

There were some other questions that I would like to have asked if there had been more time. Those questions were: what were the six alternative routes that were considered by the department? What were the outcomes of the environmental impact assessment that we are told has been done? What was the consultation process for directly impacted landholders and what will it be? What will the highway look like? Many people in my community want to know exactly what this highway will look like. They are afraid that it is going to be a freeway going straight through their backyards. How will the fire risk of this corridor once it is protected be managed? Given the limited consultation in the process to date, will the minister stop the process, talk to the community in an open and transparent way, providing specific details of the corridor, and consider alternative corridors that are available? Those are the questions that my community want to ask the minister.

We were told on the day that there would be some other consultation going on in the community. I would like to table this after I have read from it. Some feedback sessions have been put on in my community—in fact, six have been offered—from 16 August through to 25 August. What is disappointing is that, of those six, four have now been cancelled by the department. In actual fact, one small shopping centre in Highfields—one small part of the community—is the only place that consultation has been available to the public. That in my opinion is unacceptable. The minister needs to halt this process, listen to the community, reassess this corridor alignment, and restart this process in an open and transparent way. That should happen both for the Toowoomba north-south connector and for the Highfields southern connector—two corridors that everybody in the community knows are required.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Feedback Sessions', relating to the Toowoomba North South Transport Corridor [\[1176\]](#).

The minister is a member of the executive and the person who allocates funds for these things to be done—and we are told a couple of million dollars has been spent on this. It should be done in an appropriate, open and transparent way with my community being consulted all the way through, rather than being completely blindsided—this road goes straight over the top of people's houses and properties in a very unfair and unreasonable way—and using mapping that is from 2012 in some cases.


On another aspect, the Minister for Resources was skiting about the Fraser Institute and how wonderful it is that Queensland's ranking has gone up. There is one part of the Fraser Institute's assessment which is about policy perception. This is the part of the Fraser Institute's assessment that the government actually has some control over based on the policy it has as opposed to the international price of coal going up.

What I would like to say is that Queensland is now in 28th place—down seven places in the last 12 months. The minister is skiting about Queensland's improvement, but Queensland has gone down seven places. It should be noted that in that time New South Wales has overtaken Queensland for the first time since the Palaszczuk government came to power. It has gone up 17 places in the Fraser Institute's Policy Perception Index. It has gone up 17 places while we have gone down seven places. This is the first time New South Wales has overtaken Queensland.

Western Australia is in 10th place above Queensland. South Australia is in third place, going up 13 places in the Fraser Institute's Policy Perception Index. Whilst South Australia has gone up 13 places in the last year and New South Wales has gone up 17 places in the last year, Queensland has gone down seven places—and the minister is proud of his record and that of his department! It is an embarrassment, and that is all before BHP have been threatened by this government.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Before I call the member for Stretton, I would like to acknowledge in the gallery the terrific students from Helensvale State School, represented by the member for Theodore.

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (12.27 pm): I rise to support the Transport and Resources Committee estimates report. I acknowledge the members of the committee and especially the chair, the member for Kurwongbah. The chair is certainly firm but also fair. I would also like to thank the secretariat, Hansard, the ministers and all of the public servants who attended. It was great to hear from Transport. We heard about record investment and building trains in Maryborough. From Energy we heard about bill discounts and our Energy and Jobs Plan. From Resources we heard about some of the fantastic work this government is doing, especially in relation to critical minerals and the confidence and interest that we have seen from around the world in that area.

It was great to hear that Queensland has seen an eighth record infrastructure commitment from this government in the \$89 billion Big Build, which will support more than 58,000 jobs and ensure that Queensland is ready to host the Olympic Games in 2032. We know how important it is to have suitable infrastructure and, importantly, reliable public transport for our growing state. With 1,700 people moving to Queensland every week, it is vital that we see a strong commitment to building infrastructure and improving public transport, not funding cuts or sacking staff or selling off assets.

There is no doubt that cost pressures from high inflation are reaching all corners of the economy including infrastructure and service delivery. We have seen extraordinary increases in construction costs in particular. Despite this, the Palaszczuk government has been focused on delivering cost-of-living relief to Queensland businesses, individuals and households all while getting the job done.

There are several large road and highway upgrades that are being undertaken across the state. Members of my electorate are very pleased to see completion of the works of the \$30 million upgrade to the Beaudesert Road and Illaweena Street intersection. This project has already helped reduce congestion, getting people to work and, importantly, the mums and dads of Stretton State College are very happy. It has improved the drop-offs to Stretton State College, especially in the mornings. Improvements to this intersection include increasing it to six lanes, signalised left turns and improving pedestrian crossings. Cycle access is much safer now too.


Rail is another vital piece of our transport network, and I am proud of the local manufacturers in my electorate who are contributing to projects such as Cross River Rail. I would like to give a shout-out to the team from Burndy Cable Support Systems at Acacia Ridge. They are busy manufacturing and supplying the brackets that the cables which go through the tunnels hang on. Demand is high right now at Burndy for skilled employees. They are always looking for welders. The pay for welders right now is



really good. The reason I say this is because it is evidence that the investment we are putting into public transport and Cross River Rail is flowing through the economy into local businesses and well-paid jobs in my electorate. In addition, I am looking forward to the removal of the Kuraby level crossing, the upgrade to Kuraby station and the duplication of rail tracks from Logan to Beaudesert. Many people in my community travel along Beenleigh Road. They are very excited about the removal of that level crossing and the upgrades to train stations. Trinder Park is one of the train stations that will be upgraded. Even though it is just outside of my electorate it will be a big benefit to students from the Islamic College of Brisbane. I would like to acknowledge the CEO of ICB, Ali Kadri, for his advocacy for his students and always ensuring they get a first-class education.

It is fantastic to be part of a government that is bringing train manufacturing back to Queensland. We will provide advanced manufacturing jobs for hundreds of Queenslanders over the next 35 years by building 65 new trains at a purpose-built facility, having repaired the majority of the 65 disability noncompliant trains that were ordered from overseas by the Newman government.

In relation to energy, this year's budget included the most significant electricity bill support package announced anywhere in Australia, nearly doubling the size of the federally agreed support package. It means that the average Queensland household will receive a minimum of \$550 off their electricity bill, with seniors to receive a \$1,072 discount. There is also a \$650 discount for Queensland businesses. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (12.32 pm): Estimates are meant to be a process of transparency and accountability. Any government that is anything other than dodgy would allow the opposition significant opportunities to ask questions. I was seriously disappointed at the lack of opportunity the opposition was given to ask questions on behalf of Queensland because of the foul rules imposed and time allowed in the estimates process. In a question during estimates I said—

The Auditor-General, the mining and energy union, and the QCA have all stated that a lack of maintenance has resulted in unplanned outages at generators. In turn, this instability has led to higher electricity prices for Queenslanders.

Minister de Brenni said—

I have not seen those specific statements made by those entities.

Has the minister been living under a rock? If the minister is incapable of keeping up to date with current affairs I suggest he ask his staff to do a quick google search and find them. Alternatively, I would be more than happy to show him where to find this information. During this debate Minister Stewart said that he answered all of the questions he was asked. I note that at the beginning of the hearing the minister commented that in his folder in front of him he had an answer for every possible question we could throw at him. I am sure the department and ministerial staff spent weeks working hard to prepare that briefing pack. As we ran out of time, I formally requested that the minister table all of the answers his staff and department spent weeks preparing. If the minister loves accountability and transparency, of course he would do so without hesitation. Callide is a large electorate and the Transport and Resources Committee directly relates to so many industries within it. We have a tired and dodgy government in the grips of chaos and crisis.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Member for Callide, I would ask you to withdraw that unparliamentary language and refrain from using it again in the future.

**Mr HEAD:** I withdraw. They continue to claim they love transparency and accountability, so if ministers love accountability I have some questions that relate not only to this year's budget but this committee which I implore them to answer. How much was spent on carting gravel at the John Peterson Bridge upgrade? I note that thanks to this government's failing laws—which we have talked about during this debate—we have to cart gravel hundreds of kilometres instead of sourcing it locally. This adds huge costs to projects and degrades roads in the process, which means they have to go back and fix the roads they had to cart gravel across. What plans does the minister have to upgrade the last 11 kilometres of single-lane bitumen on the Mundubbera Durong Road to improve heavy vehicle access and road safety in the process? How has the government managed to spend \$26.6 million on upgrading less than five kilometres of the Monto-Mount Perry Road, and when will the minister deliver on his mid 2020 commitment to finish sealing this road? Why has the minister shut down a fantastic road safety initiative by closing the Driver Reviver program? How far behind on maintenance is the department on the Leichhardt Highway? Just recently when I was driving through Taroom—

**Mr Smith** interjected.


**Mr HEAD:** I will take that interjection. I would have loved to ask that question in estimates if we were given more time to ask questions. If the government wants to give us more time to ask questions, member for Bundaberg, I will happily sit there and ask questions until I run out. We ran out of time because of the government's rules around the estimates process.

The Leichhardt Highway is a major highway that a lot of heavy vehicles use to support the mining industry. Recently when I was driving through town I saw a car on the side of the road. There was a fellow sitting in it and he had a cardboard sign hanging out the window. It had 'Rockhampton or Emerald?' written on it. I pulled up to talk to him. As I approached the car I realised very quickly what his problem was. He was sitting in his car with two flat tyres because coming up the Leichhardt Highway just out of Taroom he hit a large pothole. As it was a weekend he could not source any tyres locally. I table photos of his tyres and car for the record. These photos demonstrate what damage the lack of road maintenance in rural Queensland does to people. Just imagine the accident it could have caused if those tyres had fallen off in the process.

*Tabled paper:* Photograph depicting damage to tyres [\[1177\]](#).

With regard to energy, the cost-of-living crisis is directly related to the Callide Power Station not being maintained. We know that increases power prices for Queenslanders. This government is failing. We have 'budget blowout' Bailey, whom we could not even scrutinise properly—

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (12.37 pm): I rise in support of the Appropriation Bill and the Transport and Resources Committee. I would like to start off by talking about trains. We have heard all this stuff from the LNP about cost blowouts, so let me explain it to them. I will do it slowly so they understand. For a start, we are not having fly-in fly-out workers from overseas. We are building the trains at Torbanlea.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** Listen to them! They are like a bunch of magpies all talking and carrying on. Look at them! They are not listening. I cannot believe they are not listening. For a start, we are expanding the contract so young workers in my electorate can have a career at Downer. For 35 years—


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Maryborough, it is a matter of great regret that the time for this debate has expired, so please resume your seat.

Report adopted.

### Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, Report

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): The question is—

That the report of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee be adopted.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (12.38 pm): I rise to speak on the consideration of the Appropriation Bill through the budget committee process and support the adoption of the report of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee in relation to its areas of responsibility. Before I proceed I would like to refer to the foreword of the report. As we are all aware, Queensland's strong economic performance over the past 12 months, as supported by statements made by the Treasurer in this House, has provided the state with a strong fiscal foundation and sustainability into the future. This year the budget reflected a higher-than-expected revenue which presented an increase in funding for services and infrastructure needs. The government is using these dividends to create more good, secure jobs in traditional and emerging industries, as well as affirming a strong and diverse economy for Queensland's future.

Our committee heard from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence about matters pertaining to her portfolio. I know the additional funding announced for domestic and family violence services, the provision of comprehensive and timely coronial investigations as well as the continuation of the Victims Liaison Service are all welcomed. It is clear that supporting people in need is a core aim of the Attorney-General, her department and portfolio entities.

As we know, the Electoral Commission of Queensland, which is another part of the committee's responsibility, will have a big year in 2024, delivering the local government elections and preparing and planning for our 2024 state general election.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the tragic loss of police constables Rachel McCrow and Matthew Arnold who were murdered at Wieambilla late last year, as well as firefighter Izabella 'Izzy' Nash who tragically lost her life in the line of duty earlier this year. These were bleak times and a stark reminder of the dangers that these people encounter in their chosen professions. We thank them deeply for their services to the people of Queensland.


It was encouraging to hear that, despite these tragedies, the Minister for Police and Corrective Services advised that there has been a 120 per cent increase in recruit applications since January this year. The police recruitment pipeline is stronger than ever. The Queensland Police Service has also been proactive in its response to the many challenges that have arisen after COVID-19. These challenges have been highlighted in the fluctuations in statistical reporting. However, the Queensland Police Service continue to respond to core issues and adopt modern policing procedures and methodology.

The Queensland Corrective Services are actively addressing the issues that are particular to their roles. The rollout of body cameras will increase the safety of officers while they do their job. Modern detection methods—including using passive alert drug detection dogs in visitor areas of correctional centres and drone intercepts—are being used to block contraband that people attempt to take into correctional centres. Body scanners will be a welcome improvement, especially in many of the correctional centres.

The Queensland Fire and Emergency Services have entered into a contract for new structural firefighting helmets for firefighters. A wide range of testing has been done in operational circumstances and at their training college. A firefighter's role can often involve danger, and every assistance they receive cannot be underestimated.

Over the course of our estimates hearing, our committee welcomed members from the opposition and crossbench who were accepted to participate in our hearing. I thank these members for their participation. I would also like to thank the committee members for their hard work and valuable contribution to the estimates hearings. I also thank our committee secretariat and other Parliamentary Service staff for their assistance throughout the estimates process. I commend the report to the House.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Before I call the member for Clayfield, I acknowledge in the gallery today graduates from the Broncos Leadership Program. Welcome to parliament.

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (12.43 pm): I wish to speak in respect of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee report. I want to first of all say that the parts of the committee hearing that I was involved in were largely civil and courteous. They went reasonably smoothly, and I acknowledge the chair. Either he is getting slack or I am getting slack. Nonetheless, it all went pretty smoothly and we did manage to cover some, but not all, areas. I will say that the time period given for the investigation of statutory units under the Attorney-General and Justice portfolio is very short. In total there is 40 minutes. When you think of all the statutory organisations, it is a very short time to get through them all. I wish to highlight some of the matters that the estimates committee report and the investigation produced.

One of the matters we focused on was blue cards. In the estimates committee, the Attorney confirmed that just 28 of the 81 recommendations of the *Keeping Queensland's children more than safe* report had been completed. Members will recall that that report was completed following the tragic circumstances regarding Tiahleigh Palmer. The Attorney had a lot of excuses as to why those recommendations had not been implemented—that some were in progress or even that it was the responsibility of other departments for the rollout. The overwhelming circumstance was that the department had taken its eye off the ball and the minister had taken her eye off the ball. Nothing changes the fact that, after almost six years and multiple ministers, the government has failed to carry out almost two-thirds of critical recommendations to keep children safe.

This was confirmed by Mr Luke Twyford, the Queensland Family and Child Commissioner, who confirmed that, despite their ongoing advocacy, Queensland has not implemented the Child Safe Standards. We are not saying that the government can stop every crime from being committed, but this Labor government should be doing everything it can to put in safeguards, and clearly it is not doing so. Labor is clearly unable to implement these recommendations. I asked Mr Twyford—

In your legislative review of the Family and Child Commission Act ... in March this year, you are still advocating for the implementation of Child Safe Standards. Does this mean that those standards have not yet been implemented ... ?

The answer was—

Yes, I think that is correct.

Those standards give effect to the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse from March 2014. His most recent report in March this year indicated that those standards have still not been put in place.

On the Carne matter, the costs incurred by the CCC for the parliamentary release of the results of the corruption inquiry into Labor mate Peter Carne have continued to increase. It is now over \$571,000. High Court expenses are now over \$360,000 and there is another \$100,000 in additional costs. Queenslanders are truly paying the price for this Attorney-General's reappointment of Labor mate Peter Carne to the position of Public Trustee. This is the same Public Trustee who, it was revealed in estimates in 2021, allegedly spent tens of thousands of taxpayers' money on education expenses and overseas travel inappropriately, who was paid almost a year's salary of more than \$350,000 while suspended, and who failed to answer a show cause notice, resigning on the last day of an extended show cause period. That is the penalty paid for the lack of integrity for this Labor government.


Mr Carne has not been charged but the report into the operations of the Public Trustee Office and of his time as the Public Trustee is obviously important. I asked questions of the chair of the CCC, Mr Barbour, in relation to releasing that report, and he responded directly by saying—

I could not agree more that the importance of the commission being able to publicly report on matters, notwithstanding whether formal findings have been made of corrupt conduct, is essential to community assurance that the commission is working effectively and also in terms of educative processes for the rest of the public sector.

It is an issue so important that this parliament itself and the Commonwealth parliament have intervened in the High Court to get this report done. There is little evidence that the Labor government are taking this significant issue seriously. They seem to simply be relying on the outcome of the High Court and not contemplating what might happen if there is an adverse finding.

In relation to the Public Trustee, a series of questions also revealed the ongoing chaos and crisis in the Palaszczuk Labor government when it comes to its inability to monitor the effectiveness of the Public Trustee Office. The fees and charges review for the Public Trustee either has not been completed a year after delivery of the report to the government or has produced news that is so bad that the government does not want to deal with it. It has again extended the moratorium on fee increases for another 12 months. Is there a secret plan to hike up fees?

There is still no clarity around the operation of the Public Trustee Advisory and Monitoring Board. There are issues around the regulation of gaming. The \$100 million fine, which has been treated as a bonus by this government, is not going into harm minimisation or gambling regulation. There is still much chaos and crisis surrounding this Labor government's administration of justice in this state.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (12.48 pm): I want to firstly take the opportunity to thank the committee for its examination of my portfolio areas during this year's budget estimates. I acknowledge their report into the budget estimates of my portfolio areas. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of everyone involved in the process: committee members, members of parliament who attended, departmental staff, Hansard staff, committee staff and those in my ministerial team. I would particularly like to acknowledge Jacob in my team for his hard work, as well as all the relevant policy advisers and media advisers in my team for their efforts.

There is an issue that I must address. It relates to the whinging and whining of those opposite when it comes to the estimates process. Those opposite continually complain about the estimates process, specifically that they do not get enough time to thoroughly interrogate the budget details of the portfolios for which I am responsible. Certainly, the numbers are very clear when it comes to this. Those opposite had approximately twice as much time allocated for their questions compared to government questions, and they were able to ask roughly three times the number of questions compared to government members. Those members would have to be careful what they wish for because, judging by the diminishing quality of the questions of those opposite, I would suggest that they probably should spend more time preparing so that they can justify the amount of time that they actually get.

I was particularly disappointed that those opposite who like to pump it all up and talk about the important issues do not then interrogate those messages and those topics within estimates when there is an opportunity to ask the Police Commissioner about the serious matters that the community are raising and when there are opportunities to ask me about those serious matters. Those opposite are all talk and no substance. They do not raise the issue. They do not raise—

**An opposition member:** Can't get a straight answer.


**Mr RYAN:** You have to ask the question first to get an answer. Those opposite just do not venture into those areas of trying to match their bravado, trying to match their hubris with actual substance in the estimates process. If they had asked questions around the record police budget, they would have received very good answers. The record budget for the Queensland Police Service of over \$3 billion is investing in more infrastructure, more vehicles, more equipment and, of course, recruiting more police personnel. It is making the investment that we detailed yesterday around investing in new and improved facilities for PCYCs; investments in Queensland Corrective Services—another record budget—investing in facilities, investing in staff, ensuring that staff are well trained and well supported in the work that they do; and investing in Queensland Fire and Emergency Services through our history-making reform work, a massive boost to the front line, the restructure of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services to ensure that it is well placed for the future.

The feedback from stakeholders around the investment that this government has made in the budget process this year is significant and it is welcomed—investing in the Rural Fire Service for more Rural Fire Service appliances and equipment for the volunteers; investing in marine rescue services, creating a new government agency essentially with Marine Rescue Queensland launching next year and the investment in vessels and support for those hardworking volunteers on the water; and investing in the State Emergency Service with new equipment and also more staff to support the front line.

These are significant investments, and investments that are worth scrutinising, but once again the opposition failed to scrutinise those significant investments. Once again they chose not to match their bravado and hubris with actual substance.

There is commentary in the report, including the statement of reservation, around some data relating to serious assaults on staff by prisoners. It is quite interesting because the data is there in the SDS, the commissioner specifically answered it, and I would say that the statement made by those opposite in the statement of reservation is contrary to the facts and contrary to the statements made by the commissioner. All in all, I urge those opposite to properly scrutinise the government and they failed.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (12.53 pm): I rise to speak to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee's report into the 2023-24 budget estimates. I, too, would like to put on the record my thanks to the committee for granting me leave to appear at the hearing and to the respective staff and officers who participated in that process. The portfolios of police and corrective services and fire and emergency services has, at its heart, the safety and protection of Queenslanders. What this year's estimates clearly showed us is that under the watch of this minister, there are red flags across all aspects of this portfolio—issues around officer safety, recruitment, strategic direction, resources and importantly leadership—and you only need to look at police numbers where attrition is outstripping recruitment to understand that something is not right within the QPS.


I will start with corrective services. The men and women who work for Queensland Corrective Services make a huge contribution to Queensland's justice system and, in return, this government has a responsibility to keep them safe, a responsibility that this government has failed to achieve. During the 2022-23 year, we saw the number of victims of assault and serious assault in Queensland's correctional centres increase, and there were disturbingly 4,422 incidents of contraband items being located. Let's not forget this is inside prison. It is extremely concerning that we have no idea how many people were prosecuted or even charged for assaults on staff, and it is extremely concerning that no indication could be given as to whether the number of contraband items has increased. Even more concerning is that this minister has run out of ideas. When questioned on what he was doing to address staff assaults, the minister referred to expenditure rather than victims, once again illustrating the fact that this government is more focused on announcements than ensuring the safety of staff.

Just four years ago, residents of Townsville faced flooding like they had never seen before and among those responding were QFES staff, some of whom we learned during the hearing would be based in a facility built in a flood zone and subject to being inundated by up to two metres of floodwater during an extreme event. Our firefighters, whether they are paid or volunteers, rely on the equipment provided to do their job and to keep them safe, but instead this government has failed to provide rural fire appliances and has failed to fit equipment that could save the lives of Rural Fire Service volunteers. It is this government that failed to ensure QFES has the resources needed to adequately combat electric vehicle fires. It is this government that still has questions to answer when it comes to the testing of new helmets and communication systems.

Yet another example of this government's failure to keep Queenslanders safe is that in the middle of a youth crime crisis there has been a reduction in the number of sworn police officers. In the last financial year, the number of police officers in Queensland reduced by 202 officers, more than halfway through a commitment to increase police numbers by 1,450—yes, that is right—fewer police on our streets compared to 12 months ago and finally an admission by this minister that police numbers have gone backwards under his watch. Every day Queenslanders are seeing the effects of fewer police officers and the effects of \$8.7 million being wasted on the failed service delivery program. It means fewer resources to keep Queenslanders safe from youth crime and on our roads where, despite an increase in road fatalities, we have seen the number of random breath tests reduced by almost 900,000. It is not only the safety of Queenslanders that is under threat but also the concept of separation of powers that is under threat, thanks to the actions of this minister.

The estimates process provides for the scrutiny of the government's expenditure proposals and scrutiny of the government as a whole. That scrutiny has confirmed that when it comes to the services that Queenslanders rely on, this government has run out of ideas, has failed to deliver and has wasted millions of dollars.


When you look at the portfolios of police, fire, emergency services and corrective services, it is absolutely paramount that those particular organisations are tasked with keeping Queenslanders safe. It became clearly apparent during that estimates process that that is now under serious threat. If we have a look at crime figures, which are increasing at such a rapid rate, then we would have to question whether this government is actually fulfilling that commitment.

 **Mr HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (12.58 pm): I rise today to contribute to the debate around the budget estimates of recent weeks. Scrutiny of the Appropriation Bill allows all members to unpack the bill and essentially place it under a microscope of critique and investigation. This in turn allows the people of Queensland to rest assured that the government funding is being well-spent in as many of the priority areas as we would wish. It comes as no surprise that this is certainly the case with this government. All of the key areas are funded better than ever before, while handing down the largest budget surplus the state has ever seen, while simultaneously paying down state debt—ticking every box, really.

Thanks, as always, goes to our incredibly hardworking secretariat team who ensure that a potentially complex process runs very smoothly, but they also have to cater, literally and figuratively, to the sometimes vastly wideranging needs and demands of MPs across the entire spectrum. To my fellow committee members—chair, Peter Russo, member for Toohey; the illustrious Jonty Bush, member for Cooper; Laura Gerber, member for Currumbin; Sandy Bolton, member for Noosa; and Mr Jon Krause, member for Scenic Rim—I say thank you.

The process this year was largely very civilised and effective and, by every means, extremely balanced. For example, non-government MPs got to ask almost 70 per cent of the questions and within that context, non-government MPs received precisely twice the time allocation.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

 **Mr HUNT:** I continue where I left off before lunch. For example, non-government MPs got to ask almost 70 per cent of the questions. Within that context, non-government MPs received precisely twice the time allocation, and what use they made of it, but I will come back to it.

I would also like to thank the respective ministers involved in our committee hearings and estimates process: Mark Ryan, Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services; and Yvette D'Ath, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Very simply, the committee recommended that the proposed expenditure as detailed in the Appropriation Bill for the committee's area of responsibility be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

I am delighted to be part of a government that has, for example, set aside significant and increased funding for such things as an effective and meaningful response to the recommendations of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce report *Hear her voice*. There is \$68.7 million over four years and \$6.3 million ongoing per annum including funding for such things as addressing gaps in domestic, family and sexual violence service provision to the tune of \$58.3 million over four years and \$20.7 million per annum ongoing.

Naturally, I was very pleased to explore the funding arrangements around the Southern Queensland Correctional Centre, \$341 million of a total of \$861 million to continue the expansion of the Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct Stage 2. The new centre will be a modern purpose-built

facility with over 1,500 beds that will focus on health and rehabilitation to reduce offending. It will be a very welcome addition to our custodial infrastructure and it will provide a measure of welcome relief to the current crowding situation.

**Mr Stevens** interjected.

**Mr HUNT:** For the benefit of the member for Mermaid Beach, I say that we all know what the LNP response to custodial staff safety was.

**Ms Pugh:** What was it?

**Mr HUNT:** They closed the Darling Downs correctional centre. It was interesting to hear the justification they used, which was to rein in waste, which is exactly the same rhetoric they are currently using. In LNP speak, waste means cuts, overspending means cuts and blowouts mean cuts. The former LNP minister went on to say that he regretted the job losses, which is extremely touching. I am sure it was a great comfort to the newly unemployed QCS staff.

The LNP's statement of reservation at the end of the estimates report is of course the usual tale of whining without solution, frontage without depth and gears without teeth. In lieu of substance, the LNP wrote pages of nonsense simply to admire their own handy work. I am reminded of the words of Oscar Wilde, who stated that the only excuse for making a useless thing is to admire it intently. However, the LNP did provide some comedy relief. Having feigned concerns about the safety of Queenslanders and our firefighters, what did they zero in on as a primary concern for North Queensland firefighters?

**Mr Madden:** What was it?

**Mr HUNT:** Tsunamis. In an effort to demonstrate they are ready to govern, the LNP is tackling the big issues like the risk posed to QFES buildings by tsunamis.



**Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (2.04 pm): I, too, rise to talk to the budget estimates report of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee. Turning first to the Attorney-General's portfolios, astonishingly, the estimates hearing revealed that only 28 of the 81 recommendations from the *Keeping Queensland's children more than safe* report have been completed. That is a complete failure of this state Labor government. This unsettling pattern extends to the implementation of the Child Safe Standards. When asked if Queensland had implemented Child Safe Standards as recommended by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse it was confirmed that the government had not. When it comes to keeping Queensland children more than safe, this Labor government has clearly failed. It has been given a road map of the changes needed, yet it has not prioritised this critical reform. Why? It is because this is a government that is too caught up in its own chaos and crisis to actually deliver what it says it will. It is too caught up in its own chaos and crisis to put the safety of our children first.

I turn now to QFES and the examination of the Fire and Emergency Services portfolio. It came to light during the estimates hearing that should an electric vehicle catch fire tomorrow on our highway, firefighters would not actually have the necessary equipment to suppress the thermal runaway in a timely manner. An amount of 60,000 litres of water is needed to address an electric vehicle fire. Overseas some firefighting organisations were literally picking up vehicles and putting them in massive tanks of water that were on the side of the highway. Other measures used to control an electric fire were huge blankets that they put over the electric vehicle. It was then left to burn for a couple of days. I asked: if an electric vehicle were to catch fire on the Bruce Highway, what equipment do we have to contain that? We do not have those big fire blankets; we do not have 60,000 litres of water sitting beside the Bruce Highway ready to dump the car in. How would we deal with thermal run-off from an electric car fire on the Bruce Highway? Scarily, it was revealed at estimates that this state Labor government is not prepared.


Next I want to address a very unsettling matter in relation to the police minister's response during the estimates hearing. Concerningly, during our estimates committee hearing, the police minister revealed that he had been informed about private communications between QPS and an opposition MP. The minister then attempted to weaponise that information to sledge the opposition. I asked the minister to explain to the committee how he knew that police contacted another MP and why the minister knows about that operational detail, particularly considering the police minister's office was the office under investigation. The communication between the police minister and the MP was not public and it is concerning that the police minister was privy to that information and was allowed to weaponise it at our committee hearing.

There were more startling revelations in relation to the police portfolio. In the middle of a youth crime crisis estimates revealed the true state of our police numbers in Queensland. Despite months of prior denials it was confirmed at the estimates hearing that there was a reduction of 202 police officers in Queensland during the previous financial year. Should attrition continue at the current pace, this government would need to deliver 2,300 more officers to fulfil the Premier's promise of more police by 2024.

It is clear that morale among our police is at an all-time low. While the number of police boots on the ground is declining, the cohort of hardcore serious repeat offenders is increasing. It is now at 20 per cent. We have fewer police on the ground—the thin blue line has never been thinner—and the cohort of hardcore repeat youth offenders is increasing. Two years ago it was at 10 per cent, last year it was at 17 per cent and this year at the estimates hearing it was revealed it is now at 20 per cent. That is 20 per cent of youths who are hardcore repeat offenders committing almost 50 per cent of all the crimes, and it is continuing to go up. It has doubled under this Palaszczuk Labor government and police feel absolutely powerless to turn that tide. Why? It is because over the last eight years this Labor government have delivered weak laws, they have watered down our laws and police now no longer have the powers to turn the tide on youth crime.

It is no wonder the attrition rate in our police force is so high. The government's promise of more police is in complete tatters. This government is lurching from crisis to crisis and is failing to protect Queenslanders.

*(Time expired)*

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (2.09 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee report on the budget estimates and the Appropriation Bill. What do the Governor's Rolls Royce, hypothetical tsunamis and the location of polling booths have in common? These are the priorities of the Leader of the Opposition. These are the big questions that are affecting Queenslanders today, according to the Leader of the Opposition and the LNP. I have been in this role for nearly three years and Queenslanders have spoken to me about a lot of things, but not one person has ever queried me on whether the Queensland Governor is considering electrifying her Rolls Royce car—not one—yet this occupied the interest and the time invested by the opposition during estimates.


I was stunned to hear the Leader of the Opposition state in his contribution that the committee system is broken because it does not allow enough time for the appropriate scrutiny of the performance of departments. I am happy to share with the Leader of the Opposition a professional tip that I learned many years ago—that is, focus. A lack of organisation on behalf of the LNP is not an 'us' problem; it is a 'you' problem. We all know the time frames that we have available to us going into estimates hearings. Every working Queenslander would be familiar with how workplace meetings are run. There is an agenda and a time frame, and it is on all attendees to be organised and focused and to be clear on what their priorities are and where they want to dedicate their attention, as I did. I have heard the comments from members opposite that the government questions were Dixers. The fact that our Dixers were more hard-hitting and revealing than the questions from those opposite is also a 'you' problem.

Amongst the lines of questioning, I sought an update from the Attorney-General in relation to the appointment of a victims commissioner for Queensland. It was announced that the Palaszczuk government will recruit an interim commissioner while the legislation and the legislative framework for this permanent independent statutory appointment are being developed. The interim commissioner will be appointed, as we have heard this morning, in October this year, ahead of the introduction of legislation early in 2024 to establish a permanent victims commissioner, who will be appointed by the end of this financial year. This is something that Queenslanders are speaking to me about. The permanent independent statutory appointment is responsible for promoting and protecting the interests and the rights of victims of crime through education and training, systemic inquiry and advisory functions, together with complaint-handling functions. It is an important step to ensure victims' voices are heard and their rights are promoted and protected.

I also inquired into the recycling scheme operating at the Lotus Glen Correctional Centre. Lotus Glen established the environmental management recycling program last year after it was identified that 50 tonnes of rubbish per month, including food and plastic waste, were going to landfill. We heard from the minister that around 700 kilograms of waste are collected and sorted each day, with up to an additional 500 kilograms of food waste. The program employs 32 prisoners, teaching them skills in waste management. The centre is currently exploring the potential for formal sustainability qualification pathways for prisoners. Since the commencement of the program, approximately 180 tonnes of food waste alone have been diverted from landfill. This has prevented an estimated 12,000 kilos of methane being released into the atmosphere. Again, these are the issues that people are speaking to me about.



On a final note, it was acknowledged during estimates—and I acknowledge again—the tragic loss of police constables Rachel McCrow and Matthew Arnold, whose lives were taken through homicide late last year, as well as firefighter Izzy Nash, who tragically lost her life in the line of duty earlier this year. These deaths continue to serve as a stark reminder of the dangers that our first responders encounter in their chosen professions, and we thank them deeply for their service. I commend the report to the House.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (2.13 pm): I rise to respond to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee report No. 53 on budget estimates for 2023-24, which covers both the questions sent on notice prior and the public hearing, which operated in an open and responsive manner. I thank our chair and all in attendance for this. Questions covered a broad range of budget related matters that were relevant for Noosa and broader Queensland, as we have already heard.

The Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence answered questions on: the funding of the response to the recommendations of the *Hear her voice* report; the ability of QCAT to resolve disputes and review decisions; and what can be done when courts are not using legislative tools to address repeat offenders. Clarity was given around increased funding for domestic, family and sexual violence and the continued rollout of the DFV high-risk teams monitoring high-risk perpetrators.

The Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, Commissioner Carroll, and the Inspector-General Emergency Management responded to our questions on safety and policing. After the fires of 2020, it was reassuring to hear that the new Australian standards for fire warnings have been implemented, as was the fact that 67 of the 112 recommendations from the IGEM report have been adopted—with the balance underway and being reported on every six months on their website.

With policing and crime being the greatest issue across Queensland, the importance of obtaining facts has never been greater, whether in relation to what the increases are, pursuit policies and how adequate police numbers are calculated through to what processes are in place for hospitals should patients display behaviours that could be dangerous to family and the community. This is especially relevant in light of anecdotal reports that many tragedies being experienced have links to people with a previous history of mental health issues.


As there is no time to speak about all of the questions and issues that were covered, I have posted online the questions taken on notice and asked during the LASC hearing as well as the 55 questions sent as questions on notice to the other committees. As standing orders 181(e) and 182(1) do not accommodate this, they went to the relevant ministers. Processes that allow greater efficiency and transparency should be supported via such methods. There are additional barriers to efficiencies in our committee and estimates systems, as I have raised in previous years. Member for Caloundra, I am definitely not whining!

Without rehashing the committee hearing in its entirety, I make a couple of points. Regardless of the statistics provided during the debate in this chamber, the structure of committee hearings is inequitable for crossbenchers, who represent 50 per cent of Queensland's land mass. With some portfolio sessions lasting only an hour, after introductory speeches the opposition allocation was 27 minutes, with the crossbench receiving 17 per cent of that. This could mean one or maybe two questions to share between three parties and an Independent. Reports from these hearings again indicate that a visiting crossbencher being afforded a question is not consistent.

The system as it stands works to frustrate, making easy access to information harder than it needs to be. As I pointed out in my statement of reservation, over 10 years ago the parliament passed the Right to Information Act 2009. This envisaged an approach to government information that was pro disclosure—with information pushed out to Queenslanders rather than pulled via RTI requests or requests sent through and then rejected because they do not comply with standing orders—in order to facilitate informed debate and decisions. That vision has not been delivered in full; however, it should provide a guide for reviewing the estimates and the committee system to better inform our communities. I await the determinations from the CLA on our requests, which are now in the fifth year.

Another issue is the budget papers themselves. These fail to present the state's finances in a way that is understandable in laymen's terms for Queenslanders to scrutinise. Remember, this is taxpayers' money. If we could tackle these issues as well as the requested review, we would take meaningful steps in improving democratic processes in Queensland.

Seven committees holding hearings over seven days covering every portfolio of government is a mammoth effort, with hundreds of staff attending from departments and preparations for weeks prior. I thank all departmental staff, ministers, committee chairs, members and secretariats, including our own. I give a special thank you to our chair, the member for Toohey, who provided above the 17 per cent allocation for our questions. I appreciate that. Most of all, I offer gratitude to our frontliners, who do an amazing job every day. Thank you.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (2.18 pm): I rise in relation to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee's 2023-24 budget estimates report. As I outlined for the committee, the government is continuing to make substantial investments in, and reforms to, the criminal justice system. We are implementing the recommendations of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce to drive systemic change and improve experiences of women and girls in the criminal justice system. We have appointed the state's inaugural First Nations Justice Officer to lead the development of strategies to reduce the over-representation of First Nations people in our criminal justice system. This is the first office of its kind in this state and possibly in the nation. Further, we have established the Criminal Justice Innovation Office to deliver innovative projects to reduce demand on the criminal justice system.

The budget is making investments to continue the rollout of specialist domestic and family violence courts and new courts in Brisbane and Cairns, and it is continuing to invest in specialist courts and programs such as the Murri Court and Court Link. These important programs focus on the needs of vulnerable people in the justice system and address the underlying causes of offending. Through the budget the Queensland government is providing the funding for initiatives to improve safety of women and their children, support victims of crime and strengthen access to the criminal justice system.

Crucially, we are investing in improved support services for survivors of domestic, family and sexual violence. The budget provides \$58.3 million over four years and \$20.7 million per annum ongoing to meet immediate demands and address gaps in domestic, family and sexual violence service provision. This is in addition to the five-year \$225 million funding package to implement recommendations of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce report 2. The funding will expand the Sexual Assault Response Team to two new locations and court upgrades in 81 locations to make it easier for victim-survivors to give evidence in court. It includes an additional \$12.6 million over five years and \$2.6 million per annum ongoing to provide support for victim-survivors through their criminal justice journey.


I want to make it very clear that our government recognises the devastating and long-lasting impact on victims of violent crime. Increased funding of \$9 million has been allocated across four years to support victims of violent crime and to better meet the needs of property crime victims where violence or a threat of violence has occurred. As I mentioned earlier today, we are also moving ahead with establishing a victims commissioner. I advised the committee at our parliamentary estimates hearing that we would shortly appoint an interim victims commissioner and this morning I updated the House that it is the intention for the interim victims commissioner to commence next month. They will commence with important work while the legislative framework is put in place. As announced this morning, the required recruitment process is already underway and I look forward to saying more on this soon.

Turning now to our courts, I am pleased to say that we are supporting the sustained growth in demand in the District Court by committing funding of \$34 million over four years and \$8.8 million per annum. This includes \$17 million over four years and \$4.4 million per annum ongoing to support Legal Aid Queensland to provide its vital legal services to financially disadvantaged and vulnerable people. In relation to the District Court funding, I also want to acknowledge that we are increasing the District Court by an additional three District Court judges which is the largest increase that this court has seen in many years. The Coroners Court is also receiving a substantial funding boost, with an additional \$18.9 million over four years and \$5.8 million per annum ongoing to support sustainable resourcing of the court. Of course, we have new coroners also being appointed.

Queenslanders can be sure that the Queensland government is committed to delivering a fair, well-resourced and accessible justice system in our state. To support this ongoing work, we are committed to undertaking these important reforms to keep our communities safe. However, I note with disappointment the remarks contained in the opposition's statement of reservation. Clearly the LNP members of the committee entirely failed to engage with the answers I provided during the hearing and seem to have just copied and pasted their usual nonsense in their statement of reservation. I am particularly appalled with the LNP's insistence on politicising the horrific allegations recently made in relation to a childcare worker. I must also note with concern the inferences the LNP continues to make

against the hardworking professional staff of the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation. It just goes to show it cannot resist denigrating public servants. The last thing I note, as Minister Ryan said this morning, was that the Leader of the Opposition said he was looking forward to attending that day but was a no-show for the whole day. I do thank all of the department, my director-general, Hansard and the committee.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (2.23 pm): In speaking to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee's estimates report, this committee is one of the busiest in this parliament, not only through the estimates process but the rest of the time as well. The non-government MPs on the committee, the member for Currumbin and the member for Noosa, and other members in estimates such as the member for Clayfield, the member for Burdekin and the member for Whitsunday did a stellar job in carrying out our role in holding the government to account and getting information out of it. In a relative sense, the member for Toohey did a good job as chair. I do not think we had a single point of order raised that day. I am not one to ever praise government MPs, including chairs of committees, but thank you, member for Toohey, for enabling the process.

**Mr Langbroek** interjected.

**Mr KRAUSE:** I take that interjection: it is not often; thank you, member for Surfers Paradise.

We heard a lot about police numbers in estimates. It was revealed that their numbers have gone down by 202 within a year.

**Mrs Gerber:** Shame!

**Mr KRAUSE:** It is a shame, and this is at a time of an unprecedented youth crime crisis when communities need more police resources to not only look into crimes that have been committed but also take preventive and proactive measures to try to prevent crime. We see this shortage of officers very acutely in the Beaudesert district but also in other areas of the Scenic Rim electorate. In the Boonah area there are five police officers covering a massive area. Compared to other places there might be a lower crime rate, but there is a huge area to cover and we have massive tourism influxes every week which means that there needs to be a police presence on our roads. We need to see more police officers, not fewer, and to see 202 down in a year speaks to the level of morale within the QPS at the moment.

In relation to the Beaudesert courthouse replacement project—something I lobbied for extensively over the last few years, and I acknowledge the commitment from the government to replace that courthouse because it needs to be done—there are issues with the temporary courthouse which is going to be set up by the department in the main street of Beaudesert which is so close to small businesses. There is a real concern of the impact it will have on small businesses—concerns that I tried to raise with the department back in May but was simply ignored. It is tough enough as it is for small businesses without these sorts of outside influences. Someone was telling me recently that their power bill has gone from \$2,000 a quarter to \$3,000 a quarter from one bill to the next. That is an impact which is huge on that small business, let alone impacts that might come to it by the imposition of a temporary courthouse on a main street and all the impacts that brings to their business.

I acknowledge the government commitment of \$5 million for the establishment of a PCYC in Beaudesert. That project has been led by a terrific committee in Beaudesert and I acknowledge that the minister and the commissioner have, from time to time, engaged with that committee and listened to my representations about that PCYC and the need for funding. However, we are only part of the way there and we will continue to fight to secure the land, to get the designs done and to get more funding so that PCYC can be built.

When it comes to the statutory officers—and the member for Clayfield touched on this—the statutory officers were in estimates for an hour and a half or thereabouts, which means that non-government members had around 40 minutes to question a whole range of statutory officers. That is clearly not long enough. We had the CCC, the Public Trustee and the list goes on and on and on. An hour and a half for them to be present is completely insufficient. When I was thinking about this earlier, a quote from a recent movie came to mind—*Top Gun: Maverick*. I know the member for Capalaba is a great fan of *Top Gun: Maverick*. There is a scene where Maverick says, 'Time is your greatest enemy.' For ministers over there, time before an estimates committee is their greatest enemy, and the lack of ministers' and statutory officers' time before the committee is the public of Queensland's greatest

enemy. We do not have enough time to ask the questions we need to ask. Time is the greatest enemy of the Queensland Labor Party and its government ministers. We need more time to examine those bodies and those statutory officers.


*(Time expired)*

Report adopted.

### **Community Support and Services Committee, Report**

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): The question is—

That the Community Support and Services Committee report be adopted.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (2.28 pm): It was my great honour to serve as chair of the Community Support and Services Committee as we considered the Appropriation Bill 2023 for the committee's portfolio responsibilities, which include communities, the arts, treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships, housing, seniors, disability services and child safety. Estimates is a necessary process that allows all members of parliament, in particular, non-government members, to question members of the executive and senior public servants on the array of positive programs and initiatives being delivered by this Palaszczuk government. I felt embarrassed for opposition members of the committee as, again, they were denied the opportunity to ask questions by their self-assured colleagues, namely, the member for Everton whose conduct continues to reflect behaviour more suited to a football field. This comes at a time when the spotlight is cast on the behaviour of male leaders, including politicians, as our communities continue to grapple with gender-based violence.

The member for Surfers Paradise and I share significant history, dating back to when he was the minister for education. That is why I was disappointed when he chose to pursue a particular line of questioning of the Minister for Treaty. The minister was very clear about her motivations for, on occasion, meeting with First Nations staff to ascertain familial connections and raise awareness of any potential conflict of interest. The member for Surfers Paradise sought to take normal cultural practices and somehow make them sound inappropriate. The member for Surfers Paradise would have seen this arrangement when visiting schools as the minister for education. He knows, as I do, that it is quite common for administrators, including principals of schools, to meet with particular groups of students or teachers to address concerns that are relevant to that particular group. The line of questioning demonstrated a lack of cultural awareness and was disrespectful.


A more constructive line of questioning, which may yield the LNP more support, may have been: how can the opposition work with the government to improve one measure that may better the lives of First Nations peoples in Queensland? This could include supporting First Nations children's school attendance across every electorate in Queensland or establishing structures to mentor every Aboriginal young person across every electorate in Queensland. Of course, this approach would require a genuine will to make change, but if minority groups such as Aboriginal people succeed then it would challenge the class structures that the LNP work so hard to preserve. There are some issues that are above politics, one of which is the plight of First Nations peoples.

I thank the member for Whitsunday for her contribution to the estimates process. However, I was similarly disappointed that that member used estimates to report the alleged risk of harm to a young person. Estimates is not the forum to do this. As adults and leaders in our communities, every member of this House has a legislative responsibility to immediately report harm, alleged harm or the risk of harm to a young person through the appropriate channels.

I acknowledge the professionalism of the deputy chair, the member for Burnett. It is an honour to work with him. I am fortunate to lead an outstanding committee whose members work collegiately, diligently, deliberately and ethically, and we demonstrated that through every member of our committee's support for truth and treaty. Transparency and accountability are the hallmark of good government and I am proud to be a member of the Palaszczuk government.

Estimates provides members with opportunities to explore areas of government spending, and the facts speak for themselves. I have been advised that the committee sat for seven hours and 30 minutes, of which three hours and 40 minutes were allocated to non-government questions compared to two hours and 49 minutes of questioning by government members. Further evidence that ample scrutiny of the government's budget was afforded to the opposition was that, of the 155 questions that were asked, only 48 questions were asked by government members and 107 were asked by non-government members.

As a long-term employee with the Public Service, I am well aware of the rigour that exists regarding the expenditure of public money, as there should be. As elected officials, we should strive every day to ensure that public money is expended for the benefit of all Queenslanders. I take this opportunity to thank the three ministers I serve. I acknowledge their great leadership and the wonderful opportunity that we have to work with them. I thank our committee secretariat and the Parliamentary Service staff for their support throughout the estimates process. I commend report No. 33 of the Community Support and Services Committee to the 57th Parliament.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (2.33 pm): I rise to speak on the report of the Community Support and Services Committee following the estimates hearings. I thank them for having me as a guest. I want to make a very formal submission, which is that the estimates process is designed to elicit information on the government's stewardship. It is a unique opportunity where both ministers and officials can be questioned as to their management of the state's finances. The fact that the Minister for Treaty and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, in the course of the committee's hearings on 10 August, sought to misconstrue my legitimate questioning is a matter for regret. I table articles from the *Courier-Mail* and ABC News about this.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 19 August 2023, titled 'Minister plays the race card' [1178].

*Tabled paper:* Article from the ABC News online, dated 10 August 2023, titled 'Queensland Treaty Minister Leeanne Enoch says LNP claims of segregation over First Nations meetings are "racist"' [1179].

Relying on information from a whistleblower, I questioned the minister as to her practice of excluding non-Indigenous departmental staff from meetings. The minister alleged that my questioning was offensive and bordering on racism. That a minister should seek to divert attention from legitimate questions by making such allegations is regrettable and calls into question the minister's understanding of her obligations. If a minister chooses to exclude a class of staff from meetings then that is a matter for her. However, it is unacceptable for her to imagine that that sort of behaviour will remain unquestioned. It is equally unacceptable for her to characterise that questioning as bordering on racism. Throwing an allegation of racism around is a cheap and convenient allegation for her to make and it is one that I reject totally. If the minister is unable to defend her management practices, she should consider whether she is able to fulfil her ministerial responsibilities. My advice to the minister is simple: if the minister persists outside of the House with these baseless allegations then she can look forward to receiving the appropriate concerns notice and it will be dealt with—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): Order, members! I will not give any more informal warnings.

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Pine Rivers is warned under the standing orders.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** It will be dealt with by L-A-W law and not L-O-R-E lore.

I note that the minister was concerned about members of the committee advising their position on the Voice, which is a federal issue and not much about it is in the Queensland state budget. Through the course of my questioning, suddenly there was an interpretation that we would not be supporting the Voice. Once again, the people advocating for the Voice are seeking to demean people who might seek more information, just as we were on the day and as we have subsequently.

After the minister was quizzed about her exclusion of particular groups from meetings and over the course of the hearing, and as we have just heard the chair speak about, about 20 times the minister referred to 'cultural awareness training', 'cultural safety', 'standard cultural practice', 'normal cultural practice', 'cultural relationships' and being 'culturally capable'. That was in answer to questions from government and non-government members. The member for Scenic Rim quoted from *Top Gun* and I will quote from *Hamlet*: 'The lady doth protest too much, methinks.' I suggest that training needs to be extended to many people including, obviously, the public servants who came to our office to complain about the minister's behaviour in such meetings.

The member for Mansfield referred to meetings. I do not have a problem with people having meetings. In fact, as education minister I had meetings with lots of groups—Indigenous groups, youth, women—but you do not start a meeting and then ask particular groups of people to leave when those groups may take offence at being asked to leave. Any other interpretation of what I suggested is wrong.

**Mr Last:** And embarrasses the people who stay.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** Exactly, who then apologise about the fact that those people were excluded. You do not ask a particular group of people to leave based on race, as the minister confirmed she has done numerous times. As I have said, I have met with representatives from Catholic Education, Independent Schools Queensland and vice-chancellors. You do not ask people to leave based on race.

The member for Mansfield and chair tried to stop my line of questioning. At page 17 of the transcript of the estimates hearing, she referred to the committee giving consideration to whether the minister or the committee might refer me to the Ethics Committee. I look forward to being referred for asking a question the answer to which was, yes. When it comes to those opposite and their deliberately mistaken interpretation about complaints from staff about the conduct of the minister, I think it is pretty obvious what needs to be done: improvement from those opposite in how they explain to others how they hold meetings.

Another part of the estimates committee hearings that concerned me related to the disability sector and disability worker screening issues. They say they are dealing with these issues within one day, but Coomera has had two issues that took six months and eight weeks.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (2.38 pm): I rise to speak to the Community Support and Services Committee's budget estimates report. I thank the members of the committee, the parliamentary staff and officers from my department who supported the estimates process again this year. I also acknowledge the ongoing leadership provided by the committee chair, the member for Mansfield.

My department's \$492 million annual budget includes important funding to support Queensland's Path to Treaty, a \$3 million to boost food relief services and \$51.4 million to secure Queensland's cultural calendar and futureproof the state's cultural infrastructure. As I said to the committee, our government knows that many Queenslanders are doing it tough right now facing national cost-of-living pressures, so this budget is focused squarely on tackling those pressures and supporting Queenslanders.


One of the most significant things the Palaszczuk government will do this financial year is implement the landmark treaty legislation that this parliament passed in May this year with the full support of the Liberal National Party, the Greens political party and the independent member for Noosa. The establishment of the Treaty Institute and the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry will be a major focus of the year ahead. As the Minister for Treaty, the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and an Aboriginal woman, I am deeply committed to the foundations of the Uluru Statement to Voice and to Queensland's Path to Treaty and truth.

During estimates the member for Surfers Paradise, the shadow minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships, the LNP spokesperson for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander matters in Queensland, questioned why I, an Aboriginal person and the minister responsible for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships, might dare meet with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who work in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships section of my department—a section of government, I should add, that exists solely for the advancement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander interests and matters. Even when you say it out loud it sounds ridiculous, but I answered that question honestly and with as much dignity as I could muster, outlining what is foundational 101 cultural awareness about basic cultural protocols that anyone working in or around Indigenous affairs—let alone someone who is paid over \$60,000 more than his backbench colleagues to be the LNP spokesperson in this space—would be expected to know.

It is safe to say that this question was not about the member for Surfers Paradise demonstrating his complete lack of cultural awareness or the absence of a basic understanding of his responsibilities as a shadow minister; rather, it was an exercise in pacifying the far right of his party after the fallout of the LNP's support of the treaty legislation in this parliament. According to media reports, the Leader of the Opposition, who delivered a strong speech in support of the treaty legislation, has been under immense pressure from the LNP party structure, which is apparently enraged by the legislation and calling for it to be repealed. Instead of standing by his word in this place, the Leader of the Opposition sent the member for Surfers Paradise out to attempt to win back those who would rather see Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the issues that impact them sidelined—those who would rather see the status quo remain so that the unacceptable gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Queenslanders is never closed, those who believe that there is no special place in this state for the longest continuous living cultures on the planet. The member for Broadwater allowed his opposition spokesperson to use estimates to misrepresent the normal cultural practice and protocol of First Nations peoples simply for political purposes.

It is this lack of conviction and the blatant misrepresentation of Indigenous practices for political purposes that speaks to the need for a permanent voice to parliament for First Nations peoples—a voice that cannot be abandoned because a leader cannot stand by their own word or because it is not supported by a powerful, extreme fringe of a political party. The referendum that will be held later this year is truly a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reflect upon and contribute to the social and cultural identity of our nation and then ask our Constitution to reflect that back to us. It is not an opportunity for the LNP to find new and absurd ways to divide us as a state or a country.

I stand by this government's support of treaty and of truth and by this government's support of Voice. I thank the committee for its work. I commend the report to the House. I call on all members of this House to support Voice, treaty and truth.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (2.43 pm): I stand to give my contribution to the debate of the committee report on the estimates hearing. We came into the housing portfolio with a major announcement: the public housing waiting list has been reduced. That would normally be something worth celebrating; however, when you dig a little deeper and see how these figures have been reduced you see that 7,000 households were culled from the public housing waiting list, 5,000 people were allocated a house and 6,000 people were added to the list. In real terms, that means that the public housing waiting list in the last year increased. There were more people culled from the public housing waiting list than allocated a house. The minister comes out and celebrates this 7½ per cent decrease in the public housing waiting list without providing any context with regard to how that actually happened. It took the estimates hearing for that information to be divulged.

Let's not forget that when the LNP were in power the public housing waiting list was 17,000. Under this government it went to 32,000 households. Now it has come back to about 26,000 or 27,000. What does it mean in the end? It means that 41,000 people are still on the public housing waiting list.

**Ms Scanlon** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): The member for Gaven will cease her interjections.

**Mr MANDER**: Why? It is because for 30 of the last 35 years, Labor has been in power. It is Labor that is responsible for the housing shortage that we have at the moment.

**Ms Scanlon** interjected.

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

**Mr MANDER**: It is Labor that is responsible for this blowout in the public housing waiting list. There are tricks and deceit thrown out there all the time with regard to what they are apparently doing.

Let's go to the Housing Investment Fund, a \$2 billion fund. Why not make it \$5 billion, because it makes no difference? In the last two years, not one single house has been constructed from the Housing Investment Fund—not one. In fact, there is one project underway and it is months behind schedule. This minister goes around the state, holds a press conference every second day with a helmet on her head and gets a shovel in the ground, trying to make out there is action. Guess what: the 41,000 people on the public housing waiting list are not seeing that action. It is not just me saying this; it is also the social services sector, which would never speak out against the Labor—

**Mrs McMILLAN**: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I just wanted to make sure that the member knew that his microphone was working.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Member for Mansfield, that was an affront to proper process. You are warned under the standing orders for that frivolous point of order.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mr MANDER**: I take that interjection. It is juvenile behaviour from someone who is supposed to be the chair of the committee—ridiculous. Again, it is not taking seriously—

**Mrs McMILLAN**: I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at those comments and ask that they be withdrawn. We are not on a football field.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**: This is not an opportunity to debate the matter. Member for Everton, the member for Mansfield has taken personal offence at the comments. Will you withdraw?


**Mr MANDER**: She has? I withdraw. I think the Housing Investment Fund is the greatest fraud this government has ever announced. It is basically a program to go out and announce. There is not one single thing in the regions. There are supposed to be 77 projects being considered at the moment. We will not see any of this. Nothing will happen with this fund before 2025—if it ever happens—because normally they just make announcements with nothing to back it up.

Let's talk about a question we asked on notice about wilful and malicious damage to social housing property. What did the minister's department provide? They provided a figure of \$90,000. It was not for wilful and malicious damage; it was for excess wear and tear. When questioned about this the minister said, 'Well, that is a legal term; that is not a technical term that we use.' The minister is saying that she has made a conscious choice. She said, 'What figure will we give them? Let's give them the smaller figure: excess wear and tear'—not the figure that later was revealed to be \$1.7 million in damage through drug labs. The minister obviously was embarrassed by and wanted to hide those figures. This is all about transparency and openness. The minister made a deliberate decision to go to the lower figure.

There is another thing I will continue to pursue. Over the last five years this government have spent \$1.6 billion on Indigenous housing. What has the increase in Indigenous housing been since that time? It has been zip, zero, nothing. They have spent \$1.6 billion on Indigenous housing and the numbers have not increased. These are the people who think they champion the cause of Indigenous people. They insult them with those types of statistics.

**Mr Harper** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): The member for Thuringowa is warned under the standing orders. Before I call the next speaker, I point out that I feel I have been fairly reasonable and I have given the House a general warning that I am going to be warning members. We currently have the members for Pine Rivers, Gaven and Mansfield on the list. There will be more to join it if the behaviour continues.

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing) (2.50 pm): I am pleased to speak after the member for Everton who was, of course, the housing minister in this state when we saw social housing go backwards. It did not increase; it actually went backwards by 428 homes. He has the nerve to come into this place and lecture me and this government about social housing when we have the largest single concentrated investment in social and affordable housing in this state's history.

I have heard the conspiracy theories from the member for Everton about the social housing register and even though I said this during estimates I want to repeat it now. He refers to how the department treats people on the housing register who are uncontactable. That is the very same policy that existed under the member for Everton's watch. In fact it is a policy that has existed for my entire life. If he had such a big problem with the policy, why did he not get rid of it when he was housing minister?

When it comes to the QAO recommendations, the only changes that we have made are directly in response to the QAO recommendations. That is to provide an active and inactive list. I have been very clear in saying that, even though there is an inactive list on the register, I still define those people as being on the register. We are still reporting them. In fact, I have increased reporting to quarterly to provide transparency. That will be uploaded four times a year. That is in stark contrast to what the opposition's policy effectively was when they were in government. It was effectively to push people out of social housing. In contrast, we are building more social housing to help people on the register.

What I also find hypocritical from the member for Everton when talking about the housing register is the fact that his political party right now is blocking the Housing Australia Future Fund which could deliver 30,000 homes across the state. That is more homes than people on the Queensland social housing register, and they are blocking that investment. If they care about social and affordable housing then they should get out of the way and back in federal Labor's Housing Australia Future Fund. Otherwise, it is just rank hypocrisy.

**Mr O'Connor** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): The member for Bonney is warned under the standing orders.

**Ms SCANLON**: I take the member for Bonney's interjection. He wants to talk about the Housing Investment Fund. We have homes under construction. It takes some time to build homes. I know it is a foreign concept because the LNP did not build very many homes so they do not understand how construction works. We are also purchasing homes. We are purchasing homes that came out of the National Rental Affordability Scheme because the former LNP government axed the program.

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Ms Camm** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**: I warn the members for Mudgeeraba and Whitsunday.



**Ms SCANLON:** Your party axed the National Rental Affordability Scheme leaving vulnerable Queenslanders in limbo. We are purchasing those properties. What I hear is whingeing and whining from the opposition saying they do not want us to purchase existing properties out of the market. They do not want us to help anyone with purchasing right now. But then I have a letter from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition asking me to buy them.

**Ms Camm** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister, would you resume your seat. I am sorry to interrupt you. Member for Whitsunday, you have fallen foul of interjecting after you have just been warned. I know you are not the worst offender of the day, but it is you. You will leave the chamber for one hour.

**Ms CAMM:** I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. Can I clarify: was I warned just now or previously?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Previously.

**Ms CAMM:** I am sorry, I did not—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I do not wish to discuss the matter. You are to leave the chamber for one hour please, member for Whitsunday.


*Whereupon the honourable member for Whitsunday withdrew from the chamber at 2.53 pm.*

**Ms SCANLON:** Despite the fact that they are criticising us for purchasing properties on the current market, I then have a letter from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition asking for my department to purchase National Rental Affordability Scheme homes in his electorate. There seems to be a lot of division over there about whether they think we should purchase properties or not.

I also find the comments from them about purchasing properties pretty hypocritical when I look back at the data which shows that when the member for Everton and the LNP were in power they were purchasing new dwellings from the private market. They were also headleasing properties—another thing that they criticise us for doing right now. During estimates the member for Everton described the policy of headleasing properties as silly. He thinks that it is silly that we are helping thousands of people right now with homes who would not be able to be in a secure home if it were not for those headleasing arrangements.

I am not sure what on earth the LNP's policy is if they do not support headleasing properties and they do not support us purchasing National Rental Affordability Scheme homes. It appears that the deputy leader does but I am unclear what everyone else thinks because they seem to contradict each other all the time. While we are building more homes we are focused on making sure that we provide those other opportunities where we can, whether that be headleasing or purchasing existing properties, particularly in circumstances where they may be coming off the National Rental Affordability Scheme.

When it comes to Indigenous housing, we see rank hypocrisy. We explained at length why that data is different. That is partly because of home ownership, which is a good thing, and also because of some of the inaccuracies between councils providing some of that data. It is hypocrisy though when it was again the former LNP government that cut the remote housing partnerships agreement. We no longer have that funding thanks to the LNP, and I think that is an absolute disgrace.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.55 pm): As the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for the arts, I rise to address the Appropriation Bill 2023, and specifically the proposed expenditure of the Palaszczuk state Labor government as examined by the Queensland parliament's Community Support and Services Committee in its hearing held on 10 August 2023.

During this estimates hearing questions were asked of the director of the Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art in relation to various contracts that were recorded in the gallery's contract disclosure reports. In particular, additional information and clarity was sought in relation to the entry of almost \$30,000 of expenditure for the Four Seasons Hotel in Singapore. The gallery director's response indicated that the expenditure was 'fully funded by the patrons themselves. It was not at a direct cost to the gallery.' This certainly warranted further explanation and clarity and I am pleased that a fulsome explanation was provided by the director.

Further questions in relation to the use and awarding of contracts were also raised relating to exclusive use by the Queensland Art Gallery of a bespoke travel agency based in Rosalie. Despite the director of the Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art acknowledging the extensive use of this agency over many years, the director was unable to satisfactorily justify the exclusive selection and use of this travel agent over established state government travel booking processes, including through the use of the state's QTravel service. I would certainly encourage the government to consider looking at this.


Prior to these estimate hearings, and indeed over a number of years, concerns have been publicly raised in the media in relation to the need for additional financial support for the Queensland Maritime Museum and the heritage value of the iconic *Forceful* tugboat. It was confirmed in these estimates that the Queensland state government has not allocated specific funding to save the *Forceful* from becoming scrap metal. In addition, despite the established practice of other state jurisdictions, including South Australia and Western Australia, the Queensland Minister for the Arts confirmed that the state has no intention of bringing the Queensland Maritime Museum into the Queensland Museum Network. I would certainly encourage the government to look at what can be further done to support the Queensland Maritime Museum.

As the state member for Moggill, I note that the Minister for Communities in her opening statement proudly advised that \$39 million would be provided over three years for new builds and redevelopments of neighbourhood and community centres. I would encourage the minister to also look at what could be provided, particularly in the electorate of Moggill, because there is certainly an important need for a community and neighbourhood centre in my local area. Certainly collaborative work could be undertaken with both the Brisbane City Council and the Commonwealth government to deliver that much needed local community infrastructure.

On the subject of the electorate of Moggill and dedicated volunteers, during the consideration of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio of the Minister for Seniors and Disability Services, the Liberal National Party specifically sought answers on the support for the future of the McIntyre riding for disabled centre in Pinjarra Hills. I note that the response from the Minister for Seniors and Disability Services was that the state government had had discussions with the Commonwealth government but there were no specific plans for the state government to purchase the land and there was no direct feedback from the Commonwealth government that they were considering that either. Again, I would encourage, despite the decision-making of Help Enterprises, that anything that can be done to support local residents in their quest to continue those services which were provided by Help Enterprises and the McIntyre Centre riding for disabled would be most welcome given the importance of that for a range of local residents and also others who were receiving those disability support services.

It has been an important centre. It has been in existence there for nearly 60 years. I say to the government here in Queensland that anything that could be fostered and facilitated with the Commonwealth government as a matter of priority would be very welcomed and needs to be supported, although I do appreciate that there is a lot of complexity in relation to the current operator and the circumstances of how it came into being.

In conclusion, I thank all members of the committee, the chair, the deputy chair and the minister for her attendance on the day. It is important work that is done by the committee when we scrutinise the expenditure that is occurring here in Queensland. I acknowledge all of the contributions of the members of the committee and also the secretariat and their work in compiling the report.

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Seniors and Disability Services) (3.00 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the estimates debate, and I do so with a deep sense of disappointment in ongoing commentary from some of those opposite. The question must be asked: why do elected parliamentarians in this place insist on weaponising the lives of children and young people in the child protection system for political gain? This must stop.

Many children in state care are victims of harm, abuse and neglect. This is the brutal truth. Every four minutes Child Safety receives a report of concern for a child. In Queensland, nearly 15,000 children are subject to ongoing intervention and over 11,000 of them are in out-of-home care. I have met with our young people in foster care and residential care. They share the same hopes and dreams of youth. They hanker for love and care of a more ordinary life. Overwhelmingly, they are grateful for the support of our state-run system. Yet, if you listen to the unsubstantiated narrative of some of those opposite, our children are demonised as willing participants in crime. In the words of the Leader of the Opposition, residential care is 'a state sanctioned criminal pipeline'. Their tragic circumstances are weaponised for cheap political shots, and this must stop.

We readily accept that the system is not perfect. That is why I called for a top level review of residential care. We need to air grievances with the system. We need to be bold and brave. We want the child safety system to be the best that it can be. Yet at estimates the shadow spokesperson made serious allegations regarding residential care. She alleged, without providing any evidence, that children had been harmed. She claimed residential care workers had acted inappropriately, or even illegally, in caring for young people. My immediate response was to ask the member to provide the details of those allegations. Over the last two weeks the opposition leader and the member have


continued to repeat these allegations including yesterday in this House. It is with deep disappointment that I am advised that, other than some media sound bites, no further evidence of these allegations has been provided by the opposition to the department or to my office.

I would suggest that it is the obligation of every member of this House to furnish for investigation any matter that may be criminal. Details of any situation where a child or a carer is at risk of harm should be—must be—referred. Not to do so is an abrogation of their moral and civic duty as an elected member of this House. The only conclusion I can reasonably draw is that those members prefer to sow the seeds of fear and uncertainty. They spread discord rather than seeking solutions.

Yesterday the member for Whitsunday criticised our approach to releasing child protection data. As the shadow spokesperson, the member knows that the department releases data quarterly. Queensland has the most transparent child protection agency data in Australia and publishes more data on more measures more frequently than any other state or territory.

The member for Whitsunday made reference to the rapid growth in the number of young people in out-of-home care. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the serious social disruption saw a surge in the number of families under pressure and children who needed to be supported in the child protection system. Children in out-of-home care have complex needs. More than one-third of them are living with disability. We also recognise that for some children a residential care home can be the best placement option to support their significant needs. Some young people I have met personally have pressed this point with me. They said they preferred resi care over foster care. We must listen to them.

Our hardworking frontline officers work tirelessly to find the best placement options for children who need protection. We must listen to our front line. The issues in the child safety system are complex and challenging, and the solutions lie across many parts of government and in the community. It is up to all of us to do our duty. Let's see if we can rise above the politics and do this in a bipartisan way, because our children deserve nothing less.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (3.05 pm): The Community Support and Services Committee estimates hearing did highlight the cost of living and we identified a series of other issues putting pressure on households across Queensland. With the claims of allocation of funding and resources across the board in areas such as health, housing and infrastructure, estimates did uncover some areas of concern that, as has been said, we need to work on. I take this opportunity to thank the director-general of housing for agreeing to meet with a not-for-profit charity to discuss their endeavours to construct some crisis accommodation.

The Family Responsibilities Commission's annual reporting made reference to two communities during estimates—Aurukun and Doomadgee—and the issues around school attendance rates. I take this opportunity to acknowledge just how complex this issue is and the work that the Family Responsibilities Commission is doing. We all should be applauding their work and continuing to support them and the outcomes. The minister is working with other ministers across education and other portfolios to address this issue. The commission needs our support. I acknowledge the opportunity that I had to travel to Aurukun recently with the chair to witness the work happening in a very complex community. As I said, we are very proud of everything that is going on in that space.

The Family Responsibilities Commission report also referenced sorry business as affecting school attendance in Doomadgee and Aurukun. Unfortunately, we witnessed some of that personally. During estimates we asked what progress has been made on a protocol for sorry business as it is important that we focus on outcomes.

I take this opportunity to talk about some of the child justice triggers that we all need to continue to work on. Former commissioner Glasgow and Commissioner Williams in their annual reports both highlighted amendments to the Youth Justice Act. We want to keep this on the agenda to make sure we are supporting the work of the commissioners and the department.


The commissioner raised concerns with section 20 of the act that deals with exclusions. We have to make sure that there are opportunities for recruitment of local commissioners across the Northern Peninsula Area in discrete communities to maintain the numbers to ensure that this important work continues. We put that on the record.

We would like to again talk about the four-point plan introduced after the riots as the community have asked us to make sure that the government remains focused on their issues. As it was budget estimates, I put on the record that we would love to get to the bottom of funding a hub. This is really important in connecting community and it really needs our intervention.

Because I can—and I do it every year—I want to talk about neighbourhood centres as part of this portfolio. Again, we did not get funding for a neighbourhood centre at Agnes Water, but I put on the record that the Agnes Water community deserves a centre. We should not forget about this community of 6,000 people. In the state budget \$39 million was allocated over three years to upgrade and construct neighbourhood centres across the state which is very welcome, but we need to remember Agnes Water. For years we have been fighting for a dedicated centre in the region and I am determined to work with the Minister for Communities to see this project become a reality.

Neighbourhood centres are a universal and vital point of access for community members. Our centres are essential local infrastructure. Like I said, with a population of 6,000 people, there is funding only for one person a few days a week to operate out of a three-by-three-metre office space. We are again calling on the minister to help the Discovery Coast fund a purpose-built neighbourhood centre. Out of the estimates process we did learn the formula for how they calculate neighbourhood centres. It is now up to us to convince the department that that is the reality.

With regard to housing, the evidence has established that we are struggling in this state. The homeless must wonder about what could have been, but the private sector now is enabled. The committee managed to travel around the state and have a look at some of the good work that is going on. As a state, we have a lot of opportunities to provide solutions for those who need our help. We do know that many Queenslanders—even many working Queenslanders—are either couch surfing or living in cars and tents. The situation is desperate. We have to make sure we are not peddling the false hope that solutions are easy or do not exist. People in my region would recall that prior to the last election we did not have 30 families living under our bridge and people camped in our parks. Six families are now permanently living at the Strathdees boat ramp car park. This is a legacy we cannot be proud of. Our community deserves better. More focus on housing is an essential part of what the Bundaberg region needs.

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (3.10 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the Community Support and Services Committee's 2023-24 budget estimates report. I want to particularly acknowledge the large body of work that goes into preparing for the estimates process. It is certainly no easy feat. I acknowledge and commend the work of Minister Enoch, Minister Scanlon and Minister Crawford, their ministerial teams and departmental officers for the assistance provided during the estimates process.

The estimates process allows the opportunity for those opposite to scrutinise the government's expenditure, allowing transparency and accountability into how funds are spent. It is one of the key mechanisms to examine government expenditure, performance and effectiveness. By examining and reporting on the proposed expenditures contained in the Appropriation Bill and the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill, the committee assists the parliament in its scrutiny of the government's proposed expenditure.

The Community Support and Services Committee's estimate hearing was held on 10 August and ran for a full day. What I expected to be a gruelling full day of deliberations turned into a show of who can beat their chest the hardest. I was somewhat disappointed that those opposite did not make the best use of the time allocated to them. It was even more disappointing to witness certain behaviours directed towards ministers, senior public servants and the committee chair during the estimates process, including: talking over the committee chair; not respecting the chair's ruling; total disrespect shown to ministers and public servants and responses to questions asked. Despite all of the negativity from those opposite, I am proud of the effort and contribution made by our side to run an efficient estimates process.


When it comes to housing, the government is getting on with the job of delivering more safe and affordable houses for Queenslanders. The proposed budget comprises over \$400 million in departmental expenditure and over \$200 million in funding to be administered by the department on behalf of the state. In this budget the government continues to support Queenslanders through Emergency Hardship Assistance grants, Essential Services Hardship Assistance grants, Essential Household Contents grants, Structural Assistance grants and Essential Services Safety and Reconnection grants.

The 2023-24 budget highlights for the Department of Housing include: the continuation of the delivery and supply of social housing as part of the Queensland Housing and Homelessness Action Plan, including within remote and discrete First Nations communities; and more investment in capital programs to provide housing and support to vulnerable Queenslanders, including older women and those experiencing domestic and family violence. We will continue our investment in the delivery of Queensland Housing Summit outcomes. We will provide critical housing supply and housing support

initiatives to continue the delivery of the Helping Seniors Secure their Homes program that is being trialled in the Cairns, Townsville and Mount Isa local government areas. We know the challenges Queenslanders face when it comes to housing, and this government continues to work in the best interests of those in need.

In the portfolio areas of child safety, seniors and disability, this budget means more wraparound support for our most vulnerable citizens. The proposed budget comprises over \$2 billion in departmental expenditure and over \$4 billion in funding to be administered by the Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services on behalf of the state. The proposed \$2.381 billion in departmental expenses represents an increase of \$17.288 million on estimated actual departmental spending in 2022-23, which the department's Service Delivery Statements state is mainly in supplies, services, grants and subsidies for the delivery of programs.

There are huge investments in schemes to address the cost of living which I am very proud of, and certainly my electorate is going to benefit from this government's investment in initiatives to address the cost of living. I want to acknowledge the body of work that is going into treaty and all of the work that this government is undertaking to establish the First Nations Treaty Institute towards truth-telling and healing. We are in a really good time going into the future and I am proud of everything this government is doing. It was a good time to be part of the estimates process and I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (3.15 pm): I rise to make my contribution on the Community Support and Services Committee's estimates report for this year—another year, another estimates fortnight. As in previous years, I showed up to every day of the hearings. My key reflection is that they are seven days of my life I will never get back. It is hard to know what is more frustrating: seven days of estimates or the seven hours we have spent in here listening to more of the same nonsense and rhetoric.

This year government members have gone to new lengths trying to justify a process that they and everyone else who has seen it know is completely busted. The mental gymnastics are quite extraordinary. I would go so far as to call them ridiculous or even embarrassing in some instances. We heard a really nifty arithmetical justification from some of the chairs. We heard about the number of questions that were asked by government members of committees compared to non-government members, which is completely meaningless when you acknowledge the fact that when government members throw out their Dorothy Dixers each of them gets a good solid few minutes in response. The self-aggrandisement, self-congratulations and back-patting are really—

**Mr Smith:** That's a bit rough.

**Mr BERKMAN:** The member for Hervey Bay was there—he knows it—as was the member for Bundaberg. There is a theory at play that, for each very concerned furrow of the brow as he asked a question, the member for Bundaberg might gain himself another vote. I reckon he asked eight questions, so he has probably doubled his margin at this estimates hearing.

**Honourable members** interjected.


**Mr BERKMAN:** Yes, I know that Newman was worse. Newman was worse. There is no doubt about that. Two days is really bad, but no-one cares anymore. We are talking about this government's record and the way this government chooses to conduct itself in one of the most important exercises in transparency, accountability and government scrutiny this parliament has. It is perhaps the only one and it is completely busted.

I welcome that the LNP has come on board, and I will believe their commitment to reform estimates if and when I see it. I hope it does not come to that. I hope this mob can get themselves together and introduce a worthwhile process. The changes that are needed are really simple. It is not tough stuff: we need more time. A number of times in this estimates debate we have heard government members say that if we want better estimates we just have to ask better questions. We have heard ministers list the questions that were not asked. I have a list of questions as long as my arm that we, as crossbench members, did not have time to ask. The Minister for Transport made the observation that in four hours of estimates hearings we did not ask about X, Y or Z issue. As if four hours is a long time when you split it up amongst Dorothy Dixers! We need more time.

We need non-government chairs, and I say this without being disparaging of any one chair in particular. The member for Kurwongbah always does a cracking job—he just sits back and enjoys the ride; it is excellent—but non-government chairs could make a huge difference in terms of allowing us to have an uninterrupted line of questioning.

In terms of questions on notice, we always hear about the amount of preparation, and I have seen it myself from the inside of the Public Service. The amount of preparation that goes into estimates is extraordinary. It is a valuable process for the departments as much as it is for us as MPs. Why aren't each of us allowed the opportunity to ask questions on notice of each and every minister? I can see no reason why we would not allow that basic transparency measure.

It is so straight forward to say that the Dorothy Dixers are a waste of time in here and they are a waste of time in estimates. It really is frankly embarrassing. If the government members sitting on these committees cannot see how embarrassing and how transparently self-congratulatory and useless it is, then it is time to take a look in the mirror. It is not just the case for government members of the committees; the entire government needs to reconsider just how much of a bunch of fools they take the public for. Do they honestly think that anyone who pays attention to the way this process is operated does not look at it and see it for the joke that it is? It is an absolute joke. It is a bad joke. If the government did not have anything to hide, if they were actually interested in keeping government rather than letting the other mob take the reins, they would draw the curtains back and let us use the time.

 **Mr SKELTON** (Nicklin—ALP) (3.20 pm): I rise to speak to the Community Support and Services Committee and our work in this year's budget estimates. Our committee's areas of portfolio responsibility are: treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships, communities and the arts; housing; and child safety, seniors and disability services. On 16 June 2023, the Appropriation Bill and the estimates for the committee's areas of responsibility were referred to the committee for review. By examining and reporting on the proposed expenditures contained in the Appropriation Bill, the committee assists the parliament in its scrutiny of the government's proposed expenditure. With three-quarters of questions coming from opposition and crossbench participants, the estimates process is fair and equitable, representing the Palaszczuk government's commitment to open and transparent governance.

In the treaty, communities and the arts portfolio, there is \$44.1 million to continue construction of the new performing arts venue at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre, benefiting Queensland artists and audiences. There is \$12.2 million to continue the upgrade and construction program for neighbourhood centres and other key social infrastructure. We are also continuing to provide assistance to ease cost-of-living pressures for families. We are providing a \$4.3 million boost to food relief services, including doubling our investment in emergency relief services and providing additional funding for organisations like Foodbank Queensland and OzHarvest. These are very important measures in these times.

We will also be delivering \$2.7 million over two years to expand the School Breakfast Program, meaning more of our kids will be learning on a full stomach. We are continuing to boost neighbourhood centres, with a record \$51.8 million to boost the 128 state funded centres, as well as \$39 million for new builds and redevelopments.

The Palaszczuk government is using every lever at our disposal in housing to put a roof over people's heads. We have announced an additional \$1.1 billion investment as part of our state budget—bringing our total investment to \$5 billion—to deliver more social and affordable housing. This is the single largest concentrated investment in Queensland's history and will help us to deliver 13,500 homes. We have delivered 858 social homes across the state in this financial year. We have delivered on average 10 new social homes each week since coming to government in 2015.

We know that building new homes anywhere takes time and that there are Queenslanders who need roofs over their heads now. That is why we are applying out-of-the-box solutions, such as: purchasing or leasing vacant aged-care homes for transitional or long-term social housing within short time frames; modular homes; tiny homes; and buying up or saving NRAS homes that are exiting the scheme after the federal colleagues of those opposite wrecked it almost a decade ago. Far from, for example, the member for South Brisbane's quite frankly bizarre insistence that the Housing Investment Fund should only purchase new homes, we are spending these public funds efficiently and effectively.


In child safety, disability and seniors, cost of living is one of the most important considerations in this portfolio. There is \$1.8 billion in cost-of-living relief, meaning that around 600,000 vulnerable households, including elderly and disabled households, will be receiving more than \$1,000 off their power bills this financial year. In conjunction with seniors legal and support services, we have funded the Elder Abuse Prevention Unit, making sure we shine the light on elder abuse in our community.

We are looking to fund more delegated authorities which will give more First Nations communities self-determination when it comes to child protection. We also recently announced a review into residential care. This will specifically look at children under 12, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, and children with a disability who reside in residential care.

I would like to thank the ministers, the departments and their representatives for their continuing commitment to our state. I also thank the committee secretariat, Hansard, my committee chair and all the members on our committee who operate in a very collegial manner and examine everything that comes before us. I concur with the remarks from the chair and other government members about how disappointed I was by the behaviour of some of the visiting members and their lack of contrition since then.

The results of this year's estimates demonstrate the Palaszczuk Labor government's staunch commitment to more housing, stronger and healthier communities, and a vibrant arts economy. Only under a Labor government does public money get spent on the public good. Unlike those opposite, we will always act in the best interests of all Queenslanders. I commend this report to the House.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (3.25 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the committee report in relation to child safety. The minister confirmed quite freely in the estimates hearing what we all feared here in the opposition: that, when calculating the average case load per child safety officer, they are using funded positions and not filled positions. It is important to get this on the record. Here are the child safety officer vacancies we were told about: 19 are missing in Brisbane and Moreton Bay; 38 in Far North Queensland; 34 in North Queensland; 15 in South-East Queensland; 58 in the south-west region; and 44 in the Sunshine Coast and central region. In total, that is 208 child safety officer positions that are not currently filled. Using the minister's figures, that means 3,278 cases are currently being managed by empty chairs.

That is 3,278 children at risk of significant harm. That is 3,278 children who are now relying on less trained, overworked staff to get them out if they are in imminent danger. That is 3,278 children who need ongoing contact with a consistent officer who can track their progress. It is almost beyond belief that we are at this point after eight years of Labor. An empty position cannot make a home visit. An empty position cannot ask a child how they are. An empty position cannot see the weight loss or the suspicious marks on a child's arm and raise the alarm. Let me make it crystal clear: an empty position cannot keep a child safe.

Instead, we have a Labor government which love nothing more than flashy announcements, but they are failing to deliver for our children at risk. Queensland kids are not safe with this government. This government are more interested in protecting their own image. They are more interested in the optics. They are more interested in the flashy announcements than keeping our children safe. There is no clearer evidence of that than the fact that we have empty positions. We have 208 empty chairs.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Sorry to interrupt, member for Currumbin. The time for the debate has now expired.

Report adopted.

Clauses 1 to 6, as read, agreed to.

Schedules 1 to 3, as read, agreed to.

### Third Reading (Cognate Debate)

**Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (3.29 pm): I move—

That the bills be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bills read a third time.

### Long Title (Cognate Debate)

**Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (3.29 pm): I move—

That the long titles of the bills be agreed to.

Question put—That the long titles of the bills be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## CHILD PROTECTION (OFFENDER REPORTING AND OFFENDER PROHIBITION ORDER) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 26 October 2022 (see p. 3025).

### Second Reading



**Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (3.29 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

On 3 February 2023, the Community Support and Services Committee tabled its report on its examination of the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. The committee made two recommendations; namely, that this bill be passed and that I encourage the Commonwealth government to continue to enhance data-sharing arrangements in relation to child sex offenders and to monitor the movements of child sex offenders across jurisdictions.

I thank the committee for its support of the bill. I also thank the agencies that submitted to the committee, namely: the eSafety Commissioner; the Queensland Law Society; the Crime and Corruption Commission; the Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service; the Queensland Family & Child Commission; the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (Qld); the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties; and Bravehearts Foundation. I would also like to thank Mr Robert Heron and Ms Eileen Clark for their submissions on this important piece of work. I also thank representatives from the Queensland Police Service who made themselves available and assisted the committee during its consideration of the bill. The government's response to the committee's recommendations was tabled on 3 May 2023.

For this government, community safety is of paramount importance. It is of particular importance to ensure the utmost protections are in place to protect the innocent and the vulnerable—our children. That is one of the primary objectives of this legislation: to enhance, expand and elevate the range of tools and strategies that will help keep children safe. As we all know from our daily experiences, technology is evolving at breakneck pace. That means the methodologies of those who wish to do harm to others are also evolving. That is what this bill does. It gives police additional detection, investigative and enforcement powers to disrupt the efforts of those who wish to do harm to others. The Queensland Police Service has a well-deserved reputation for its agility and its innovative approach to community safety. This legislation supports those capabilities.

I would like to foreshadow amendments to the bill which I will move during consideration in detail. These amendments have been provided for circulation to members. I understand that they are being circulated now. The amendments to be moved during consideration in detail address technical matters that have been recently identified and require urgent legislative amendment or address matters that have been the subject of extensive examination by a committee of the Queensland parliament, the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce and the Queensland Law Reform Commission. Additionally, the government has undertaken targeted consultation with key stakeholders and experts in relation to a number of the amendments.

The first proposed amendment will remove the requirement for reportable offenders to report the media access control, or MAC, address of every digital device in their possession or to which they have access. Since the amendments were proposed, several important technological changes have evolved across software and operating systems which increase the privacy provisions around MAC address identification. These provisions, referred to as MAC randomisation, enable the operating and software systems to automatically create randomly generated temporary MAC addresses when connecting to networks. The temporary address, rather than the unique MAC address of the device, is then reflected on the device. Furthermore, a new temporary MAC address is likely to exist each time a digital device moves from one network to another, or after being connected to the same network for 24 hours. These advances make the amendments originally proposed in the bill redundant.

On 31 October 2022, the Community Support and Services Committee tabled report No. 23, *Towards a healthier, safer, more just and compassionate Queensland: decriminalising the offences affecting those most vulnerable*. It made 16 recommendations. It was a key recommendation of the committee's report that offences including section 8, begging in a public place, and section 10, being intoxicated in a public place, of the Summary Offences Act 2005 be repealed. The committee identified that these offences have a disproportionate impact on First Nations peoples and those suffering from



chronic ill health or disability, poverty and homelessness. This sentiment was mirrored in recommendation 101 of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce's *Hear her voice—report two: Women and girls' experiences across the criminal justice system*, which proposed repealing sections 8 and 10 of the Summary Offences Act as soon as possible due to the disproportionate impact on women and girls. To give effect to these recommendations, I will be moving an amendment to repeal the offences of 'begging in a public place' and 'being intoxicated in a public place' from the Summary Offences Act.

Decriminalising public intoxication will make Queensland consistent with every other Australian jurisdiction and reflect the mounting public opinion that these behaviours require a health and social welfare-based response, rather than entrenching vulnerable people in the criminal justice system through preferring criminal charges. Repealing section 10 of the Summary Offences Act will also give effect to recommendation 79 of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody 1991 final report, which recommended governments legislate to abolish the offence of public drunkenness.

Although the amendments repeal the offence of public intoxication, the Queensland Police Service must still ensure the safety of the community and the safety of the individual. Amendments to be moved will build on the existing policy by establishing an alternative legislative framework that will allow for an intoxicated person to be detained under strict criteria. The proposed amendments will authorise the detention of a person by a police officer if the officer is satisfied: the person is intoxicated and the person is disorderly, offensive, threatening or violent in a way that is likely to interfere with the enjoyment of a public place; or the person is behaving in a way likely to cause injury to themselves or another person; or the person is incapable of protecting themselves from physical harm. The purpose of this detention power is to allow, if necessary, a police officer to transport an intoxicated person to a place of safety, such as a hospital or the person's home, or hold the person in a police establishment as a last resort so that the person can safely recover from the adverse effects of the intoxicating substance.

A person detained under this framework can only be held for a maximum of eight hours or until they are no longer intoxicated, whichever is sooner. A person detained under this power may be released at any time if the police officer believes it is reasonable to do so including, for example, releasing the person into the care of an appropriate person, such as a friend or relative who consents to assume the care of that person.

The committee's report also recommended the repeal of the offence of 'urinating in a public place' in the Summary Offences Act. However, it is the position of the Palaszczuk government that, despite this recommendation, maintaining this offence is particularly important to areas such as central business districts and safe night precincts. These popular areas would be negatively impacted if this offence was repealed as police may be unable to adequately deter offending behaviour, potentially resulting in an objectionable and unhygienic environment that would act as a detriment to the business, tourism and general community enjoyment of public spaces. I therefore foreshadow that I will be moving a pragmatic response to the committee's recommendation, which strikes an appropriate balance between recognising the community concern associated with this offence and acknowledging that the offence may disproportionately impact vulnerable members of society.

The amendment will impose a requirement on a police officer to consider, before commencing a proceeding or issuing an infringement notice, whether it would be more appropriate to take no action. The circumstances to which a police officer must have regard prior to taking enforcement action include: whether the offender has any vulnerability or special health needs which have contributed to the commission of the offence; and/or whether the offender has made reasonable attempts to avoid causing offence or embarrassment to another person.

It has been reported that there have been a number of disciplinary matters within the Queensland Police Service which have been ruled invalid as a result of a Queensland Court of Appeal decision. The Police Service Administration Act 1990 provides the legislative framework for the police discipline system in Queensland. Section 7.10 of the Police Service Administration Act, 'Referral of complaint to prescribed officer', requires the commissioner or their delegate to consider certain matters before referring a complaint about a police officer to a prescribed officer for determination. Once a complaint has been referred, the prescribed officer has the power to start a disciplinary proceeding.

After the commencement of the new Police Service Administration Act disciplinary provisions on 30 October 2019 the procedure within the Queensland Police Service was to refer complaints to the Office of State Discipline generically or otherwise in circumstances that did not specify the name and

rank of the prescribed officer to whom the complaint was being referred. In other cases the referrals named another officer who was not ultimately the officer purporting to act as the prescribed officer. As a result of the Court of Appeal decision there are a number of disciplinary decisions that are invalid.

Public confidence in the integrity of the Queensland Police Service should not be undermined by minor noncompliance with a procedural requirement. But for the technical error in the initial referral, the disciplinary process managing the complaint was appropriate with the complaint properly investigated and assessed, resulting in a disciplinary decision that reflects the seriousness of the conduct involved. I will, therefore, move amendments to the Police Service Administration Act to validate disciplinary referrals erroneously made under part 7 of the Police Service Administration Act. The amendment will ensure the original disciplinary decision is given legal effect and the policy intent of section 7.10 of the Police Service Administration Act is upheld. Additionally, it enables the commissioner to take all necessary action to impose the original disciplinary sanction or professional development strategy, thus ensuring appropriate standards of behaviour are upheld which promote and maintain public confidence, and officer confidence, in the service.

In March 2023 the Queensland Law Reform Commission released report No. 80, *A decriminalised sex-work industry for Queensland*. The QLRC report makes 47 recommendations in relation to decriminalising sex work in Queensland and provides a framework for implementation. Relevant to the exercise of police powers, recommendations 2 and 5 were that there should be no specific move on power for police if they suspect a person is soliciting for sex work and that covert police powers relevant to sex work related offences should be repealed. Removing these powers will contribute to a more positive relationship between sex workers and police and it would enable sex workers to view police as protectors rather than prosecutors. This may in turn encourage sex workers to report harmful and criminal behaviour to police, thus supporting the safety of sex workers and providing necessary intelligence to police regarding potential criminal activity such as harassment, assault, human trafficking, slavery and child exploitation.

The Palaszczuk government has expressed its broad support for the recommendations and announced its commitment to decriminalise sex work in Queensland. The amendments I am foreshadowing are a step towards that commitment and omit provisions in the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act that authorise police to use controlled activities, controlled operations and surveillance device warrants as investigatory strategies for sex work related offences and allow police officers to give a move on direction to a person the officer reasonably suspects is soliciting for prostitution.

Another amendment I will be moving is in relation to the wording of section 244(1)(g)(iii) of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act as it applies to the commission of a sexual offence against any person. The wording of this section is considered ambiguous as it applies to covert investigations undertaken by Task Force Argos into online child abuse. In this regard, the committee which considers all applications for controlled operations in Queensland has determined an urgent amendment is required to clarify that, for the purposes of section 244, a sexual offence does not include a child exploitation offence. The proposed amendment is essential to ensure Task Force Argos is positioned to continue its work into the future.

Police banning notices are designed to improve public safety by excluding individuals from particular places or events who have demonstrated violent, disorderly, offensive or threatening behaviour and are considered to pose an unacceptable risk of causing violence at the places stated in the police banning notice or otherwise impacting the safety or peaceful passage or reasonable enjoyment of others at relevant places. The safety of others at the places from which a respondent is banned is reliant on the respondent having knowledge of the places they are banned from and the period for which they are banned. I foreshadowed that I will be moving an amendment to section 602G of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act to make clear that initial police banning notices may be served personally or by electronic communication, and extended banning notices may be served in several ways including personally, by post and by electronic communication.

This government makes no apology for our tough stance on youth crime. As a result of our strong laws, more young offenders are in custody for longer periods of time and this is impacting youth detention capacity. Amendments to sections 56 and 210 of the Youth Justice Act will clarify the administrative arrangements for holding young people in police watch houses until capacity becomes available in youth detention centres. They will allow the chief executive of the Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training to decide the date after which the Commissioner of Police must deliver the young person as soon as reasonably practicable. In making this decision, the

chief executive must consider a range of factors including the duties of the chief executive and the commissioner as employers as well as the needs of the young person such as age and sex, cultural background, and physical and mental health, among other considerations.

A human rights override declaration applies to this decision-making process, and the transfer of children between watch houses and to police holding cells until 31 December 2026 with the possibility of extension by regulation for up to one year. This is to enable effective management of capacity across the youth detention system. Following recent legal action it has emerged that in a number of cases some magistrates have not made mandatory orders under the Youth Justice Act. The amendments will also validate this custody and any good faith actions where the order was not made as an oversight. To remove the risk of future error, the amendments will also make certain arrangements automatic when the young person is remanded in custody.

Further, the amendments will override the Human Rights Act for the establishment of youth detention centres to allow a detention centre to be established at a police watch house or part of a corrective services facility. This provision is only intended to be used in extraordinary circumstances and is time limited until new purpose-built detention infrastructure becomes operational in Woodford and Far North Queensland in 2026. If necessary, it will ensure that immediate capacity issues can be addressed while young people are held safely.

Clarifying amendments will also be moved in relation to the transfer of adults from youth detention centres to corrective services facilities. This amendment builds on changes made by the Strengthening Community Safety Act 2023, ensuring adults can be transferred from youth detention centres in a timely manner. The amendments also make a minor and technical amendment to implement the original policy intent of section 105 of the Inspector of Detention Services Act 2023, as passed, so that the Inspector of Detention Services can have streamlined access to detention centres.

A statement of compatibility and a statement of exceptional circumstances will be tabled during consideration in detail. The statement of compatibility identifies that certain aspects of the amendments are incompatible. The Human Rights Act was drafted to allow for an override declaration in exceptional circumstances such as this. We are facing a particularly challenging set of circumstances that means demand for youth detention centres is far greater than capacity. Our government is committed to the welfare of children in custody and the welfare and security of detention centre staff and will continue to improve the youth detention system in this state.

I will also be moving urgent amendments to the Mineral Resources Act 1989 during consideration in detail of this bill. These amendments to the Mineral Resources Act 1989 are to expediently resolve an issue in relation to a workers camp at the Byerwen mine in the Bowen Basin. The town of Glenden is concerned about its ongoing viability as Glencore's Newlands mine comes to the end of its life.

In 2017 the Queensland government approved the Byerwen mine, which is a similar distance away from Glenden as the Newlands mine. A consideration for the approval of the Byerwen mine was a representation by the mine proponent in their environmental impact statement in terms of how they preferred to accommodate their workers. This included an assertion that a proportion of the workforce would want to reside in Glenden. With the Newlands mine winding down, the community of Glenden saw the Byerwen mine as an opportunity to support the longevity of the town.

While the assertions of the mine proponent about workforce accommodation in Glenden underpinned the government's approval, they are ultimately unenforceable. This is because the approval predates the Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Act 2017 and the company was not required to undertake a social impact assessment. Subsequent to the EIS, the mine proponent has sought planning approval to permanently accommodate workers in a workers camp adjacent to the mine which has been established through a temporary development approval. The application to permanently establish the camp was refused by the Isaac Regional Council.

There are several complex issues surrounding the workers camp and the town of Glenden. On the one hand, we have a town, built on the back of coal, whose long-term viability is at risk. On the other hand, we have a company seeking certainty for its billion dollar investment in this mining project. The issue of accommodating the workforce of the mine ultimately came to a head as the mine proponent sought a mining lease from the state to convert the temporary workers camp to a permanent workers camp adjacent to the Byerwen mine.

The legislative obligation of the Minister for Resources is to decide this mining lease application against defined criteria in the Mineral Resources Act. This does not currently allow the Minister for Resources to impose conditions that would require Byerwen to move its workforce to Glenden which

today would be a consideration of the social impact assessment under the Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Act. As a result, it is proposed to grant the mining lease legislatively with conditions to transition the Byerwen workforce into Glenden over a five-year period. Further, of the workers accommodated in Glenden, 30 per cent will need to be housed in residential dwellings. This transitional approach has been consulted on with relevant stakeholders and supports a balanced approach.

Importantly, these amendments will ensure that Glenden benefits from the nearby Byerwen mine and that the mine can remain open and operating, supporting hundreds of jobs. It is a cornerstone of the Palaszczuk government that communities should benefit from large resource projects in their area. This is why we have the Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Act and this is why these amendments are being progressed.

Finally, unrelated to the other amendments in this bill, I would like to foreshadow that I will be moving amendments to the Mental Health Act 2016 and the Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991. The amendments to the Mental Health Act will retrospectively validate the appointment of, and any relevant exercise of jurisdiction by, a person who acted as a member and president of the Mental Health Court during the period 14 February 2023 to 29 June 2023 but who did not have a valid commission during that period. The amendments will provide certainty in relation to the validity of decisions by the Mental Health Court made by the person as a member and president during that period. The amendments to the Supreme Court of Queensland Act will retrospectively provide for the continuation of the expired Supreme Court of Queensland Regulation 2012 and for anything done in relation to a Supreme Court district under the regulation to be valid as if the regulation had not expired and for the expiry of the regulation to be extended to 1 September 2024.

I return to the earlier amendments in this bill. They introduce a number of firsts for Australia including: requiring reportable offenders to report the details of any anonymising software, vault or black hole applications they possess or use; increasing reporting obligations for those offenders who pose an increased risk to children; recognising the reporting obligations of child sex offenders across the globe; and legislating that a reportable offender cannot be given any personal details of children they have previously reported contact with. These firsts affirm the Palaszczuk government's commitment to the toughest reporting scheme for child sex offenders in Australia.

Since the commencement of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an increase in dark web accounts linked to child exploitation. The Australian Federal Police noted an additional 800,000 new accounts. This is a terrifying trend and shows the depth of predators in our society. Child sex offenders use technology to groom and offend against children. Anonymising software such as virtual private networks in conjunction with a Tor—The Onion Router—application provide access to the dark web, where evidence of their offending can be shared amongst others of their ilk. Tactics such as masquerading as a famous person allow child sex offenders to quickly gain the trust of their victims. From here, they coerce the child to take or provide revealing images that are then held for ransom by the offender as a means to acquire increasingly explicit material from the child. The level of depravity associated with this type of offending is astounding.

In addition to sharing this material on the dark web, child sex offenders can hide explicit material in plain sight on personal digital devices through the use of vault applications, which look like normal desktop items, and black hole applications, which hide both the vault and the black hole. This bill targets this type of offending and operates to ensure child sex offenders who use technology to offend against children are more closely monitored by police to prevent and disrupt future offending against children.


This bill exemplifies the government's commitment to providing our dedicated officers from the Child Protection Offender Registry and Task Force Argos with a legislative framework that is agile and responsive to technology. This bill is not just about child sex offenders; it is also about offenders who are convicted of other serious and often violent offences against children. Those offenders can also be monitored under the offender reporting legislation where a court makes an offender reporting order because of the risk those offenders pose to children. Changes to this aspect of the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act aim to provide the courts with comprehensive information about the relationship between the offender and the child victim as well as the offender's personal circumstances. These seemingly small changes can assist the courts to better understand the circumstances surrounding the offending and possible future risks to children.

The Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 is risk focused. Rather than simply imposing the same obligations on each and every reportable offender, the bill looks at the risk each offender poses to the children in the community

and applies reporting obligations that may act to mitigate that risk. For example, higher risk reportable offenders may be required to report the details of any place they stay within Queensland for three or more consecutive days—this does not include their reported place of residence—and the Police Commissioner must be satisfied this course of action is necessary to protect children.

This bill marks a changed focus for the management of reportable offenders that recognises changing technology, risk predictors and the need for collaboration with our Commonwealth partners. Every element of this bill and the amendments to be moved during consideration in detail are aimed at delivering a safer community and a better society—the safety of children, the safety of the broader community and evidence-based policing.

In a rapidly changing world, we cannot sit still. We have to continually monitor and assess our capabilities to disrupt and respond to those who wish to do harm to the community. We have to be flexible and agile to meet head-on and head off new and emerging threats and challenges. This bill supports those objectives. I am proud to stand for this bill and I am proud to have introduced it. I commend the bill to the House and I encourage all other members to support it.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (3.58 pm): If ever we needed evidence of the arrogance of this government, we just heard it then during that contribution. For this minister to come into this place and drop those amendments with no notice, no consultation, no briefing whatsoever is an absolute disgrace! It is an absolute disgrace, and we are not talking inconsequential amendments here; we are talking about decriminalising offences and we are talking about wholesale changes to a mining lease. Would it not have been nice to have some consultation on those amendments, but instead we on this side of the House are expected to now kowtow and accept these amendments and accept the minister's word that it is all aboveboard? Off the back of that contribution from the minister, the LNP opposition will now be reconsidering our position on this bill, because it is a disgrace.

Turning to the bill, the bill proposes to amend two acts and a regulation in order to ensure the provisions of the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act reflect changing offending patterns and behaviours and enhance the ability for the act and the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act to provide for the protection of the lives of children and their sexual safety. The majority of amendments are to the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004. The effects of the proposed amendments are to require reportable offenders to provide personal details such as details of any anonymising software, vault or black hole applications they have used as well as the media access control address for any device they use. Amendments will also require reportable offenders to provide details of any residence where they stay for three consecutive days and provide relevant powers regarding this requirement to the Police Commissioner.

The exchange of information with entities such as the Australian Federal Police, the federal Department of Home Affairs and Border Force will also be enabled by the amendments, as well as making it an offence to fail to comply with reporting obligations. The amendments will also require a reportable offender who is found guilty of failing to report changes to provide those details within seven days. Amendments are also proposed to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 to make it an offence to not produce devices for inspection, to expand the offences that may trigger digital device inspections and to give police the power to enter the residence of a reportable offender in order to conduct a device inspection. I would ask that the minister clarifies whether all offenders living at the Wacol precinct are in fact reportable offenders and whether this applies to those persons, because at the moment, as we know, police and corrective services officers effectively have their hands tied when it comes to conducting those inspections.

With regard to the child protection elements of this bill, there are few, if any, Queenslanders who would not support actions to protect our children from the vile activities of the offenders who are subjected to this act. Let us be clear: the actions of those offenders have cost lives and in many cases ruined lives. The actions of those offenders must be condemned at every level. Those offenders must be held to account and government must ensure that all necessary steps are taken to protect Queensland children from these offenders.

On 29 November 2016 the minister introduced the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 into this parliament. On 11 May 2017 that bill was passed on the voices and included in that bill was clause 34, which required the Crime and Corruption Commission to review this act after five years of operation. Would members believe that this bill was introduced just two weeks after submissions to that review opened, and the alarm bells began to ring? What we had was the minister introducing a bill amending an act that was at the same time being reviewed by the Crime and Corruption Commission as a consequence of a bill that the same minister introduced to parliament.

Just a few weeks later we found out that the alarm bells had not just rung figuratively; we found out that under this minister a major breach had occurred at a supervised facility for sex offenders at Wacol, including offences being allegedly committed against a 15-year-old. It is almost impossible to believe that the minister was not aware of this breach when this bill was introduced. It is almost beyond belief that the minister was not aware of the incident when he stood in this House and talked about the toughest laws and hunting down offenders. My challenge to the minister is simple: stand up in this House and explain to Queenslanders why it took alleged offences against a 15-year-old girl and media involvement for him to undertake works, including the clearing of vegetation around the perimeter of the precinct. Stand up in this House, which he refers to as the coward's castle, and explain why routine maintenance like clearing vegetation did not happen at the precinct where some of Queensland's most despised criminals live.

The Queensland Police Service advises that there has been a clear shift in the types of offences being committed by sexual offenders. Contact offending has decreased whilst online and device offending has increased. It is a sad fact that offenders will use the internet, social media and other technology to target victims and it is those means of contact that are being used more and more by sexual offenders. As a result of this, the LNP welcomes the steps to ensure online activities can be monitored.

It would be simply reckless to consider this bill without referring to the Crime and Corruption Commission's report titled *Protecting the lives and sexual safety of children* which, as I mentioned earlier, is a review of this very act. A total of 23 recommendations were made by the CCC. Keeping in mind that the explanatory notes for this bill state that the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act underpins the child protection registry scheme, recommendations directly referencing the registry scheme are of particular importance. Included in the CCC's recommendations are for this government to commit to independent research on the scheme and a review of the registry data holdings to identify opportunities for improvement and identify requirements for additional tools and capabilities.

Continual improvement of the registry is needed to ensure that the protection of our children is optimised in every way. Included in the recommendations is a reference to consider the need for a routine audit or other review mechanism of Queensland's child protection register, but yet again we have seen concerns raised with regard to the reporting, retention and availability of data within the Queensland Police Service's QPRIME system. The finding of the inquest into the death of Hannah Clarke and her children identified issues with this very system, QPRIME. The Auditor-General highlighted the need for first responders to have 'readily accessible, up-to-date and accurate information in order to effectively assess risks to safety' and raised concerns regarding information not being available in QPRIME due to factors including system restraints.

Again, in the CCC review we have seen extremely important information not included in QPRIME and the CCC goes as far as to refer to Queensland Audit Office reviews and the identification of issues with data management in the Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service Responses to Domestic and Family Violence. The importance of the child protection system and the need to ensure police are adequately resourced is shown by the fact that during the period of the study, according to the CCC, 77 per cent of reportable offenders had been detected for at least one criminal offence and 62 per cent had been detected for more than one offence. These are not minor offences that the CCC is referring to. They are offences including indecent treatment of children, possessing child exploitation material and rape of a child, yet today in Queensland police would receive no warning if they were to engage with a known offender at a school, day care centre and the local park where children play and take part in sport.

The CCC review notes that despite the best efforts of police the failings in data integration impacted the review to the extent that the review was 'unable to establish or estimate the protective impact of the act' and that a key outcome measure—recidivism—could not be measured. There we have it. Under this minister the data systems used by the Queensland police are that antiquated that a CCC review of important legislation cannot even estimate if the act is effective. Again, the review is a review implemented by this minister with responsibility for those data systems. It is 100 per cent hypocritical of this minister to acknowledge the need to take technological advances into account when monitoring offenders, but to not give our police the technology they need to protect our children and victims of domestic and family violence is simply not on. The CCC review also recommends that the Queensland Police Service develops training for Child Protection Offender Registry members on the current legal framework and also highlighted that CPOR members in the regions stated that the only

training provided to them during onboarding was on-the-job training. Queenslanders know that under this minister our police resources are being stretched beyond breaking point—a situation that is also impacting police being able to protect children from sexual offenders.

It will send a chill up the spine of Queenslanders that the CCC review includes references to police being unable to do proactive visits or proactive compliance, let alone the fact that the review reveals that some offenders have not been checked at all and that it can take years for registry officers to meet with some offenders. While the originally proposed amendments are a small step forward in ensuring the safety of Queensland's children, there is more work to do and the responsibility for the bulk of that work sits with the Minister for Police. Queenslanders can rest assured that we on this side of the House will hold the minister to account when it comes to ensuring we keep our children as safe as possible from those vile offenders.

I will move on to the amendments as outlined by the minister that, like all members on this side of the House, I received just as the minister stood to deliver his speech. To think that these amendments have been dropped into the debate without any overview by a committee, without any scrutiny and without any consultation defies belief and to see that you have only to look at the faces not only of the members on this side of the House but also the members opposite, and they know exactly what I am talking about here. If we are serious about debating this legislation in this House then wouldn't it have been nice if we were all informed so that we could make informed decisions having considered the evidence before us?

**Mr Millar:** We have 19 minutes in the chamber.


**Mr LAST:** There it is: 19 minutes to consider legislation that decriminalises the offences of public intoxication and begging, decriminalises public urination, repeals sex-work specific police powers and amends the Youth Justice Act, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act and the Mental Health Act, not to mention the changes regarding the discipline process for the Queensland Police Service. However, the amendments that impact me the most are the changes to the legislation around the future of Glenden, which is a community that sits within the Burdekin electorate and a community that I hold very dear to my heart. Glenden is a community that I regularly visit. Over many years I have watched the community wither on the vine to the extent where it is now on life support. Whilst I note that these amendments will allow for a transition to the final milestone of 31 March 2029, I have a question for the minister. If QCoal decides to delay the uptake of accommodation until just before that date then I am not sure the community will survive. We are talking about potentially five long years before people and workers will move into the community. Will it survive? I do not know, but I like to think it will.

Good people live and work in Glenden. There are people who have their life's earnings invested in businesses in the community. Going forward, they deserve some surety about the future of their community. Whilst I note that this amendment is designed to do that, the fact that QCoal do not have to take up the houses until 2029 concerns me. I would like to think that they will step up to the plate. As soon as this legislation is passed—and it will pass because those opposite hold the balance of power in this chamber—I would like to think that QCoal will do the right thing by the community and immediately start to transition some of their workforce into the vacant housing, which numbers somewhere in the vicinity of 200 vacant properties, to give that community a lifeline. The people of Glenden are very keen to keep their community alive. It has so much to offer and we should be doing absolutely everything we can to ensure its survival.

However, there is a broader message here for a lot of our mining communities across Queensland: if it can happen to Glenden then it can happen to other communities. I have had conversations in many meetings, including with the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development as well as the former minister for resources and the Coordinator-General, about ensuring that, as we go forward, we give those communities some certainty and if we grant mining approvals and licences then they should be tied to the future of those communities as well because it is important. I have spoken to Glenden residents, to mums and dads and to students at Glenden State School. It is a great little P-12 school that, at the moment, has around 60 kids. Let's think about a P-12 school with only 60 students. It goes to show how the community has bled away over recent years because of the uncertainty around their future. They did not know what the future held.

As the local member it would have been nice to have been given a briefing on this and to have been included in the discussions instead of being blindsided and given 19 minutes notice that these changes are coming before the parliament. We will consider our position on this bill but, as I said before, the fact that the minister has taken this opportunity to drop amendments of such a substantial nature

into this House, without sending the bill to a committee, is an absolute disgrace. On that note, I will reserve my decision. The opposition will reserve our decision as to whether we support the bill until we have further considered the contents of the amendments and their ramifications overnight.


 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business, Minister for Training and Skills Development and Minister for Youth Justice) (4.16 pm): I rise to speak briefly to the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. The Palaszczuk government has a plan to address youth crime. We have invested heavily in community safety, we are targeting serious repeat offenders, we are tackling the complex causes of youth crime and we are giving a voice to victims. Our new strong laws allow the courts to declare high-risk offenders as serious repeat offenders. They are some of the toughest laws in the country and they mean that serious repeat offenders can be sentenced for longer periods to protect community safety. Longer time in detention also allows for more intensive rehabilitation to help tackle the complex causes of youth crime. The fact that the courts have already made 28 declarations shows that those stronger laws are starting to work.

A recent Supreme Court matter highlighted an error in the orders being made for young people going into detention and raised the need to validate and clarify 30 years of custom and practice that Queensland has used to hold young people in watch houses. We are committed to ensuring that young people charged with a crime should spend the least amount of time possible in a watch house. However, in circumstances where they are waiting for a court appearance or waiting for a place in a youth detention centre it is necessary to keep some young people in a watch house for their safety, the safety of our staff and the safety of the community. We do not take these decisions lightly. The chief executive must consider factors including the duties of the chief executive and commissioner as employers, as well as the needs of the young people including their age, sex, cultural background and physical and mental health, and my department has considered multiple other options.

A human rights override declaration applies to this decision-making process until 31 December 2026 or until new purpose-built detention infrastructure is operational in Woodford and Cairns in 2026. A human rights override declaration will also be made to allow a youth detention centre to be established at a police watch house or part of a corrective services facility, though this provision is only intended to be used in extraordinary circumstances. Young people who offend will be held accountable. We are building two new therapeutic youth detention centres at Woodford and Cairns, to be operational, as I said, by 2026 to further increase capacity. We have introduced strong youth justice laws to keep the community safe at the same time that we are investing an additional \$100 million in early intervention and prevention programs to break the cycle of youth crime.

Demand for youth detention beds in Queensland has exceeded built and safe capacity for some months. It is probable that demand for beds outstrips supply for two key reasons: the average daily number of serious repeat offenders is continuing to increase—for the 12 months ending 31 May 2023 the average number was 452, compared to 374 for the year ending 31 May 2022; and we are seeing offending density increase over time—that is, each young person is committing more offences, leading to the serious repeat offender cohort. This is occurring at the same time that we have seen a 35 per cent decrease in youth offending over the last 10 years; a 30 per cent decrease over the last five; and a three per cent decrease over the last year.

The provisions we speak of today will help the chief executive meet workplace health, safety and fire obligations, prevent riots and injuries to young people, minimise separations of young people, allow young people in detention to attend education and rehabilitation programs, and balance the safety and care of young people, YDC staff and the community.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (4.20 pm): I begin by expressing my surprise at the amendments tabled 17 minutes ago in terms of their significance. There will be such a lot of ramifications from the proposed amendments. The Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill is important. I acknowledge the submitters who put so much into their responses. I also acknowledge those who work every day in protecting children and keeping them safe. I thank those who gave evidence to the committee.

We know that reducing risk in people's everyday lives and sexual safety are so important. I was surprised to hear witnesses from several organisations suggest that reportable sex offenders are having their rights eroded under the bill. I have no sympathy for these convicted high-risk offenders. We must do everything we can and as often as we can in these debates to never forget the victims. We must



support legislation that seeks to ensure police powers keep up to date with the changes in technology and the way these individuals offend. We must protect children. Bravehearts in its submission stated—

... Bravehearts believes it is imperative that our legislation addresses the, at times, conflicting rights of the safety and protection of children, young people and the community and the rights of individual offenders. In discussing the rights of offenders, it is necessary that the discussion include the rights of the victims of crime, the rights of potential victims of crime and the rights of children in the community.

The police also did a lot of work in their monitoring of 3,982 reportable offenders in the community. Of these, 55 were considered high-risk offenders due to their status as a reportable offender who had previously been subject to an order under the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act and been convicted of a reportable offence. The registry comprises: 42 specialist detectives based regionally throughout Queensland; a forensic behavioural investigation specialist team—we can imagine their job and have a lot of sympathy for these men and women; as well as a registry investigation team.

Reportable offenders are required to report their details. In addition, every reportable offender is given a notice of their reporting obligations. Each reportable offender is assigned a police case worker who not only monitors compliance but also can actively assist. I still do not understand why we are giving so many opportunities to high-risk individuals to have digital devices that can potentially be used for what we all were warned about during the committee's work. 'Offenders' is a polite term. That they were permitted access to the ugliness of the internet and the increased activity that the committee heard about, particularly during COVID, opens up a lot of questions for me.

I will move away from the bill that the committee spent so much time considering over the last year. Now that we have all of these amendments, it is important that the House understands the work of the committee in its inquiry—we received 45 submissions—into the outcomes of repealing certain sections of the Summary Offences Act: section 7, urination in a public place; section 8, begging in a public place; and section 10, being intoxicated in a public place. The minister's amendments propose that the sections be removed and the acts decriminalised. Doing this represents a 'cart before the horse' mentality. This will not deal with, in many cases, the underlying problems of poverty, homelessness and entrenched disenfranchisement. That is why we made it clear that we must fix the issues before introducing legislative reforms.

The community expects us as legislators to ensure they can utilise public spaces free from begging, public intoxication and public urination. Our report did not reflect what many see as a disproportionate response to these offences and will be seen as a continuation of a soft-on-crime government. It must be said that this is exactly what this is doing: fuelling the Labor machine about decriminalising all of these activities without having diversionary centres, without providing support and without having these people front and centre of the decisions we make. We will cut them loose. This is against what the police wanted, what the police union wanted and what many other people in our community wanted. The expectation was that we would have done so much better before we went down this rabbit hole.

Concerns were raised about the proposed repeal of these provisions—in a child safety bill, of all things—particularly by local governments. Many local governments are just appalled that we would do this and throw this issue back on them. That is what will happen. We will ask local governments to pick up, clean up and deal with people exhibiting this behaviour. We also have not seen in the legislation exactly what we will do when people are violent. In some cases when people are publicly intoxicated violence breaks out. We are repealing police powers to address these things, and I think our communities will speak up against—

**Mr Smith** interjected.

**Mr BENNETT:** I take the interjection from the member for Bundaberg. All I am saying is: if we are going to repeal these provisions, the community should understand the ramifications. The bill should have gone to a committee. The amendments should not have been included in a bill dealing with something as important as internet issues around child safety. The shadow minister was appalled and so am I. This is a serious issue and represents a breach of trust for the community. The community does not trust us anyway, but then we turn around and do these sorts of things.

It really is outrageous. We are trying to deal with child safety, and now we are also dealing with people playing up, fighting and carrying on in parks and with issues around sex workers. These are important social issues. Let's have a debate and have stakeholders engaged—not just ram this stuff down our throats and expect us all to sit back and not take interjections from members who probably have not read the report that was done in June last year about public intoxication. We did a lot of good

work and we were very proud of it. The committee report made serious recommendations about what detox centres should look like. What will we do with people? If we pick them up and they are violent, are we going to throw them in the back of a paddy wagon? Will police even want to do that now, because if we decriminalise these things the police become babysitters to these people until they are sober enough to deal with their own cases. This is serious and it has huge ramifications.

The police union's submission and subsequent evidence provided to the committee highlighted that its members believe a multifaceted approach to public intoxication and begging is required to meet the expectations of the community and public safety. No-one on the other side of the House is talking about public safety tonight. Imagine Surfers Paradise and the glitter strip if we take away the offence of public drunkenness. Imagine the streets in particularly some of our remote communities, where public drunkenness is a real scourge on the community. None of us feels very comfortable about that.

In terms of public safety, there is a role for departments, non-government providers and third parties to assist in the care and wellbeing of individuals. That is not in this bill. We are just cutting them loose. We are just removing the provisions to see where it falls and then we will have to deal with it. In many examples in other jurisdictions where decriminalisation has occurred there was a need for the introduction of protective custody legislation which gives police the powers to apprehend persons as a last resort to keep them and the community safe. There is nothing in the amendments or the explanatory notes about that, either.

The committee heard from police around the state who are doing this work. They are concerned. A major concern of members of the committee was the impact on police banning notices in safe night precincts. This will serve as a slap in the face in terms of that piece of legislation which has seen some good work across a lot of communities. Basically, safe night precincts will now be a thing of the past due to the reckless removal of sections 7, 8 and 10 of the Summary Offences Act.

Before any decriminalisation of offences under this act is considered, the government should consider our international human rights obligations to uphold essential rights under the Human Rights Act and establish a culturally safe health and welfare approach to public intoxication affecting the poor, mentally ill, homeless and First Nations people. Nothing in these amendments talks about that. It is just not on. We have to ensure we do this correctly. I do not understand the urgency when the committee was running around and doing this inquiry last year. The committee completed its report but suddenly the issue is urgent. I ask the minister to explain why this is suddenly an urgent issue.

During the inquiry many issues were raised. Recommendations 79 to 91 talk about diversionary centres, particularly for First Nations people. What an insult it is that we have not moved to provide opportunities for intoxicated First Nations people in their communities to be treated with respect. We have no idea what will happen now. The police will be left without direction. They will be making up their minds about how they deal with people who are intoxicated in public.

The many consequences of the failure to provide the support services, the resources, important infrastructure and the serious issues confronting intoxicated persons are not dealt with in these amendments either. Of concern to me is the way this has been done here tonight. It would have been great if this parliament could have done more work to make sure we understand what this will mean in the long term. I have real concerns about the lack of consultation. The fact is that these amendments were thrown on us 17 minutes before the debate. I heard members yelling out before that we still have 12 minutes to sort it out. It is going to take a lot of work before this side of the House can either support these important reforms or not.

No wonder people do not trust us when we are dealing with amendments related to resources, social issues and amending the Summary Offences Act. The amendments deal with kids and detention centres. They talk about kids being moved from detention into watch houses. This is a serious issue. This is a bad thing to do in this parliament when the issue is bad enough.



**Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (4.30 pm): I rise in support of the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. As chair of the Community Support and Services Committee, I want to thank those individuals and organisations who made written submissions on the bill. The committee's task was to consider the policy to be achieved by the legislation and the application of the fundamental legislative principles, as well as the bill's compatibility with the Human Rights Act 2019. The committee made two recommendations: that the bill be passed; and the Minister for Police and Corrective Services encourage the Commonwealth government to continue data sharing arrangements in relation to child sex offenders and monitor the movement of child sex offenders across jurisdictions.


Principally, this bill continues to expand on the Palaszczuk government's commitment to ensuring that the Queensland Police Service has more resources and stronger laws. We all know that our technological world is rapidly evolving. We witness it on a daily basis. We know that those predators who would seek to do harm to others in our community are adapting their methods to use this technology to their advantage. On this side of the House, we recognise the importance of this bill because we know it will provide the police with the necessary additional detection, investigative and enforcement powers they need to disrupt the efforts of those who target our most vulnerable—our children.

Among other things, this bill will assist in dealing with the advent of anonymising software and black hole or vault applications by requiring reportable offenders to report the possession or use of this software as a personal detail under schedule 2 of the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004. Furthermore, this bill will expand the relevant prescribed offences for the purpose of a device inspection, ensuring that reportable offenders who have been convicted of these offences are subject to a higher level of monitoring by police, as they should be.

I turn now to the minister's comments in relation to the proposed amendments to be moved during consideration in detail of this bill, particularly with regard to the repeal of certain offences under the Summary Offences Act 2005. On 31 September 2022 the Community Support and Services Committee table report No. 23 titled *Towards a healthier, safer, more just and compassionate Queensland: decriminalising the offences affecting those most vulnerable*. The report made 16 recommendations.

As the deputy chair of the committee indicated, the committee was very proud of the 16 recommendations made to the government in relation to the decriminalisation of the three summary offences. Perhaps chiefly among those recommendations, the committee recommended that the offences at section 8, begging in a public place; section 10, being intoxicated in a public place; and section 7, urinating in a public place of the Summary Offences Act 2005 should be repealed, subject to the appropriate community-based diversion services being in place. In making this recommendation, the committee recognised that these offences disproportionately affect persons experiencing periods of vulnerability and are our most marginalised Queenslanders and that Queensland is currently the last jurisdiction in the nation where they are criminalised.

I welcome the Palaszczuk government's considered and pragmatic approach to addressing the issues identified by the committee during its inquiry. Those of us on this side of the House will always work to ensure security, safety and equitable treatment for our most vulnerable. As we now commence down the Path to Treaty, it is vital that we address these injustices so that we can move towards a more just, fair and compassionate Queensland. I commend this bill and the proposed amendments to the House.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (4.34 pm): I rise to make my contribution on the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I am going to table a copy of the speech I had planned for this debate at the outset because I have a strong suspicion I will not get to it given the number and the significance of the amendments that have been dropped on this House just now. The member for Burdekin and I do not have a great deal to agree about, but to call this disgraceful is an understatement. It is an absolute dog act for this government to introduce amendments like this with no prior warning.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Pause the clock. Member for Maiwar, you have used some language that, according to the advice I have taken, is unparliamentary. I would ask you to withdraw and refrain from using unparliamentary language.

**Mr BERKMAN:** I will withdraw. I will table that speech and turn my attention to the amendments.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022—MP Second Reading Speech' [[1180](#)].

For a little bit more context here, as a House we have agreed to a business program motion that affords us 45 whole minutes to debate the amendments and the bill in its entirety in consideration in detail. Sure, we will have a little window to properly understand the amendments—again, without the benefit of committee scrutiny. As the member for Burnett and the member for Burdekin have already indicated, we are supposed to give a contribution to the second reading debate on this bill with less than 45 minutes notice of what is in here. Let us consider the breadth and magnitude of these amendments.

In terms of the public space offences, sure, the Community Support and Services Committee, my committee, looked into these public space offences and we made, what I think, are good but very broad recommendations about the repeal of certain offences, including public drunkenness and begging. That is all well and good. I still cannot condone for a second the practice of putting amendments like this up without them going through a committee because we require that kind of scrutiny and input from stakeholders who know what they are on about and who know what the detail of these amendments is going to mean in practice. But we do not have the benefit of that.

What are the implications of the additional detention powers that these amendments propose? Sure, we are going to remove the offences to an extent but then create new police powers to what effect? What about the interaction of these offences—those that are being repealed and the new powers that are being introduced—as they interact with public nuisance offences, which we heard plenty about in the inquiry? The committee knows that. The chair might have chosen not to address it in her contribution just now, but she knows full well that these are complex provisions and their application in practice is going to matter. It is going to make a difference to people who will be detained.

The repeal of covert police powers and move-on powers around sex work is fine. Notionally that is all well and good, but the devil is in the detail. Why are these amendments happening in isolation? The broader question of decriminalisation of sex work has been to the Queensland Law Reform Commission. They have done a detailed inquiry. They have provided a detailed report back. Why is it that these particular amendments will not be put before a committee for scrutiny to pay respect to the very least to the work of the Law Reform Commission, to the work of those organisations and submitters who participated in that inquiry? It is disgraceful disrespect to all of those organisations, to the processes in general and to democracy in this state for these amendments to be dropped like this—and I have not even made it to the worst bit yet!

Let me ask a rhetorical question. How many times have we had to suspend the Human Rights Act in the state? It was a point of great pride for the government to introduce the Human Rights Act and it has so far been suspended once. What was the purpose of that suspension? It was to make sure that we could lock up more kids. They had to suspend the Human Rights Act to make sure that this government's agenda of locking up more kids could be put in place. What is the consequence of that? We have more kids in watch houses. We have more kids in detention. Now, the flow-on effect is that they are proposing to suspend the application of the Human Rights Act again in respect of all of those children being detained in watch houses.

**Mr Harper:** Criminals.

**Mr BERKMAN:** 'Criminals', they say. No, they are not. We are talking about kids who are being remanded, kids who have not been found guilty, kids who have been picked up—we have just been talking about powers that are given to police to pick up someone for drunkenness and detain them in watch houses if they see fit. The member for Thuringowa can sit there and say that all of these kids are criminals and we can lock them up and throw away the key. That appears to be the attitude of this government. What we are actually going to see is some of the most vulnerable people in our community stripped of their rights under the Human Rights Act!

This law reform—I hesitate to even call it that: it is just bad law that was passed recently—is a consequence of the government being embarrassed a few weeks back by a court case where YETI successfully made a case of habeas corpus against the government. The government was unlawfully detaining these children. They are embarrassed about it, and their response is to strip those kids of their human rights. It is not just disgraceful; it is sad. It is actually really, really sad that there is so little regard for such vulnerable young people. The Human Rights Act is there to protect vulnerable people. These are some of the most vulnerable people in our society. Watch houses as a place for children? I do not know how many folks here have been to watch houses. There are a whole bunch of cops in the place. Does any one of you think that a watch house is a place to detain a kid?


Let's consider this as well. This is the entire application of the Human Rights Act that has been suspended here. We are not just talking about their rights under the Human Rights Act as they relate to being detained separately from adults. We are not just talking about their rights under the Human Rights Act to be treated in a way that is appropriate for the child's age. We are also talking about their deprivation of liberty. We are talking about their right to be treated with humanity and respect for the inherent dignity of a human. We are talking about their right to education. We are talking about their right to health care. We are talking the cultural rights of Indigenous children.

All of those rights are being stripped away by amendments that the government introduced at the eleventh hour—at 30 seconds to midnight—with no committee scrutiny, with no community consultation. They have done all of this so that the Premier and the police minister can stand in front of a press pack and tell everyone in Queensland how tough on crime they are. To say they should be ashamed is an understatement. The constraints on parliamentary language do not allow me to describe this move as I should. I have already been pulled up once. Let me say that if I had more latitude there is plenty more I could say about it.

The mind-boggling thing about this is that they keep stepping further and further to the right. They keep pulling out more and more conservative moves—and for what? Is it in the hope that the *Courier-Mail* or the LNP will leave them alone? Is that what this is about? Do they really think that if they just keep locking up more kids—fill up the new detention centres they are going to build, fill up all the watch houses in the state and strip away their human rights so that they can continue to do that without being embarrassed—that is going to make the issue go away? They know as well as anyone else that the solutions to this problem are about providing supports to disadvantaged children, to meeting those needs in their lives that are unmet. These are children who have extraordinarily high rates of cognitive impairment, of disadvantage, of trauma.

The observation has been made all too many times that these problems are not going to be solved overnight. That is true enough. In the meantime, if we spend all of our efforts and all of these resources and suspend the Human Rights Act to lock up more children, the problem is only going to compound. That is why we are in this situation now because of busted, useless policies that have put us in a position where more and more and more children are being criminalised and locked up. That is the only outcome of these amendments. It is insanity for the government to keep pushing down this line and think it is not going to make any difference.

*(Time expired)*

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (4.45 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. This is a very important bill that demands careful consideration, especially when it comes to implementing strong measures to protect Queensland's children. As society advances, it is important that our policies and legislation keep up to date with these changes.

We all love digital technology. It is efficient, useful and brings forth so many benefits to our lives. While there are many positives associated with the advancement of digital technology, I am very aware that these platforms create a favourable medium for people with bad and evil intentions. Advances in technology have provided new ways for child sexual offenders to engage, groom and offend against children without leaving their home, and this puts our children in a very vulnerable situation.

The Queensland Police Service regularly reviews the act, with expert input from the QPS Child Protection Offender Registry, to ensure it remains contemporary and continues to meet its purpose. Regular reviews are an important step towards minimising online risks to children. It was through these regular reviews that QPS identified advances in technology that can be exploited by reportable offenders, changes in how offending is occurring as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic and opportunities to enhance the protection of children through the child protection registry scheme.

Other advances, such as masking applications, provide an opportunity for child exploitation material to be held in a vault or a black hole on a digital device without protection. The bill's proposed reforms are aimed at ensuring the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004 remains current and meets its purpose of protecting children and providing relevant information to police about reportable offenders to reduce the likelihood of reoffending. It is vitally important that the government demonstrates urgency and is responsive to emerging and changing technologies in order to protect the most vulnerable members of our communities—our children.

The objectives of the bill are to ensure the provisions of the act which underpin the child protection registry scheme reflect changing offending patterns and behaviours, and to enhance the ability of the act and the PPRA to provide for the protection of the lives of children and their sexual safety. The bill proposes to achieve this by establishing a child protection register; requiring reportable offenders—offenders convicted of sexual or other serious offences against children—to provide and update specified personal details for inclusion in the register; providing for periodic reporting and reporting of any travel outside of Queensland by reportable offenders; imposing reporting obligations for prescribed periods, depending on the number and severity of offences committed and other relevant factors; allowing for the recognition of reporting obligations under foreign laws; and allowing orders to be made against particular offenders who commit other particular serious offences against children or who engage in concerning conduct.

The bill focuses on specific measures that follows trends and patterns of reportable offenders and looks to implement strategies to minimise potential risk to children. Extending the prescribed offences relating to device inspections allows police to be proactive in identifying changes in reportable offenders' risk profiles and recognises the recidivist aspect of this type of offending.

It breaks my heart every single time I pick up a newspaper or scroll through socials and read another story about individuals in our communities committing horrific acts on children. We are never going to remove these parasites from our communities. Unfortunately, they will always be part of our society; however, we can work smarter to monitor trends and disrupt predatory behaviour in order to prevent offending.

This bill supports strong mechanisms to enhance our ability to closely monitor reportable offenders. It will help us identify changes to a reportable offender's risk profile. Recognising the recidivist aspect of this type of offending is going to keep our children safe. The bill requires that reportable offenders provide the MAC address of all devices in their possession. A MAC address is a unique code which is permanently attached to a digital device. It allows a device to connect to a network and is used as an identifier for other networks. A MAC address can also be used to find the geographical location of the device. I want to quote Bruce Morcombe, the father of the late Daniel Morcombe, who said—

The monitoring and tracking of at-risk offenders is everybody's concern, and it should be everybody's will that the police have the required powers to do that. We want to make sure that Australians, particularly Queenslanders and particularly kids, are safe. To reduce or improve the deterrent effect that tracking devices may have and the access of material that police have is a good thing. It is good for the high-risk offender because it is a deterrent. It will mean hopefully that they do not offend.

There is so much about the dark web that I, and I am sure everyone here, does not understand, and I want to give credit to the Queensland Police Service for the amazing work they do. I think that space needs to be closely monitored, and that is everything this bill is going to focus on and address. Child exploitation material offences, child trafficking, and other grooming offences have been identified by QPS as presenting the greatest risk to children in the community. This bill requires the possession of anonymising software. On the dark web everything is encrypted and it takes expert knowledge to work through all of that, so I again give credit to the Queensland Police Service for all the work they are doing.

In the brief time that I have remaining I want to make some comments about decriminalising public offences. It is some of the good work this committee has done. We have taken this inquiry across Queensland and listened to many stakeholders in many different communities. I particularly want to talk about the high representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are charged or incarcerated as a result of these public offences. I think it needs to be acknowledged today because of the social impacts relating to the high number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders pretty much being treated as criminals in this space. I have been getting a lot of feedback from communities about this inquiry and how it affects people expressing their views about communities. What is even more disheartening is that the feedback has always been with reference to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

This is an opportunity to start a different level of conversation. If we are going to move towards reconciliation, voice, treaty and truth, we need to acknowledge there is so much happening in this community that provides a layer of complexity which affects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. I firmly believe that decriminalising public offences will also bring to the surface issues around health, mental health, housing and the low socioeconomic background of these people. There are so many different layers that need to be looked at. I feel that decriminalising these public offences is going to support the conversation that needs to be had. It is also going to support better collaboration between agencies. We know there are a lot of agencies out there doing amazing work, and we met a number of them throughout the inquiry. It is probably important that we all lean on each other and give each other support. I know there is a lot of vulnerability. We talk about cost of living—cost of living also affects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are homeless on the streets and turning to these sort of behaviours. I think it is a positive step forward. I look forward to the outcomes in future and I commend the government for doing what it is doing.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Before I call the member for Southern Downs I want to remind those people who are on warnings, including the members for: Pine Rivers, Gaven, Mansfield, Thuringowa, Bonney, Mudgeeraba and Whitsunday, although I think one of them at least may have already served their time.



**Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (4.55 pm): I rise on behalf of the people of Southern Downs to make a contribution on the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. The 'other legislation amendment bill' is the significant part of

this bill. I share in and echo the dismay expressed by my honourable friend the shadow minister when he talked about the sham of a democratic process we see here. If you look at the relative thickness of the bill and its associated greens and the amendments and its associated greens, the amendments are thicker. My good friend the member for Theodore was just telling me there are 48 pages for the bill and 57 for the amendments. Those tawdry comparisons aside, that represents a betrayal of the proper process for legislation in this state.

**Mrs Frecklington:** It displays arrogance.

**Mr LISTER:** I take that interjection from the member for Nanango: it is arrogance. 'We know best.' I was talking to my honourable friend the member for Burnett, who is the deputy chair of the committee. He was genuinely dismayed. He was happy with the effort that he and other members put into the committee report on the original bill. Whilst not everyone always gets their way, I felt he was proud of what had been achieved in scrutinising that bill, consulting with affected parties and the public, and ensuring it received the proper attention that any form of legislation coming through this House should receive. Now we see a ragbag of amendments thrown in with—the member for Burdekin may correct me—17 minutes notice. It was effectively the length of the second reading speech by the minister. There are 57 pages of amendments.

It is very difficult for an opposition—indeed, for a community—to properly assess and express its wishes with respect to the bill and its amendments when we have so little time in which to look at it. I think that is exactly what the government was aiming for. I challenge any member on that side as they speak in the course of this debate to justify the presentation of so many amendments to such a diverse array of acts and consequences for the community with so little time. It is indefensible. I share in and applaud the passion that the member for Maiwar just displayed. Whilst I do not always agree with the member for Maiwar on things, I certainly share his dismay with the roughshod way the legislative process is being treated in this regard.

I would specifically like to rebut something the Minister for Youth Justice said when she spoke before. I do not deny that the Minister for Youth Justice has been courteous to me and has met with me and Lawrence Springborg, the mayor of the Goondiwindi Regional Council, which is in my electorate. She is available to me and I appreciate that. I appreciate the sincere beliefs that she holds regarding the best way to deal with youth crime in my electorate, particularly Goondiwindi.

If I recall correctly, she was talking about how there are a great number more serious repeat offenders and offenders in detention at the moment. My view on that is that they are primarily—almost exclusively, in fact—on remand, so when the minister makes that point to try and illustrate how the government has succeeded in dealing with youth crime, I think that needs to be taken to task. In fact, the law should operate as such that the time spent on remand should be as little as possible and the cases should be heard as quickly as possible. The problem is that the Youth Justice Act provides that an array of alternatives have to be implemented by a magistrate in sentencing a youth offender before they can be given a custodial sentence. The reality is that, once most of these offenders have done their time on remand, they go before a magistrate and they are set free because the law says that they should be.

Debate, on motion of Mr Lister, adjourned.

## MOTION

### Vehicle Theft



**Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (5.00 pm): I move—

That this House—

1. expresses its concern that, since July 2016, motor vehicle theft has risen by:
  - (a) 132 per cent in Cairns,
  - (b) 95 per cent in Townsville,
  - (c) 322 per cent in Rockhampton,
  - (d) 215 per cent in Bundaberg,
  - (e) 373 per cent in Hervey Bay-Maryborough, and
  - (f) 119 percent in Brisbane; and
2. calls on the Labor members who represent these areas to join their communities and the opposition in supporting laws and strategies to reverse this crime crisis.

'It's not a game. People are dying.' That was said to me today out the front of this place at the victims of crime rally by a victim. When you look into the eyes of the victims of crime—the sons and daughters, the husbands and wives—like we did today, it brings it home. We see the sheer devastation and the pain that is evident on their faces. They are still going through that pain today and that will never be erased. They are looking for hope and they are looking for answers from this government, but that is not forthcoming.

I said at a crime rally in Townsville on 17 June this year that I would be their voice in this place because the local members could not be bothered to turn up. Those on this side of the House will continue to be their voice. We will continue to stand up for victims of crime in this state because they deserve it. The fact that no-one from that side could go down there today and meet with those victims of crime is an absolute disgrace. They are genuine, decent people—they are Queenslanders just like all of us—and they deserve better. They deserve to have us wrap our arms around them and support them because I can assure the House that they are hurting. They are seriously hurting.

If we look at the front pages of the newspapers across Queensland today, the *Townsville Bulletin* said, 'It's just not good enough,' while the *Cairns Post* stated, 'How did we get here?' That is a pretty good question, isn't it? How did we get to the point in Queensland today where we are being ripped apart by a youth crime epidemic that is not showing any signs of abating? The number of serial repeat offenders is going through the roof, and this government is clueless in terms of addressing the youth crime issue.

The statistics do not lie, but they paint a sobering picture in terms of how much motor vehicle theft has risen in the last 12 months. It has risen by 132 per cent in Cairns—you cannot get your head around some of these figures; 95 per cent in Townsville; 322 per cent in Rockhampton; 215 per cent in Bundaberg; 373 per cent in Hervey Bay-Maryborough; and 119 per cent in Brisbane. I hope members opposite stand up here tonight and try to defend that because I want to know—as do all the members on this side of the House—what their solutions are and what they are doing about this crime epidemic. Their residents deserve answers, and their residents deserve to know and want to know that their member is standing up in this place and going in to bat for them.

**Mr Bleijie:** Where were they today? They didn't even go to the rally.

**Mr LAST:** That is exactly right. It was an absolute disgrace that they could not find it within themselves to go down there and meet with victims of crime. I looked into the eyes of those young girls who have lost their mothers and their fathers. They are devastated and they will never recover from the loss of their parents. Each and every one of us in this place has a responsibility and a role to play in addressing this issue. The Premier came in here this morning and said that this state has the harshest penalties and that they have spent \$1.4 billion trying to address this issue, but what has it achieved? Absolutely nothing. Crime is still going through the roof. It might be well and good for the Premier to say that there are no quick fixes, but they have had eight long years and Queenslanders will not forget that. They will not forget that at the next election—that they have had eight long years to address this issue and by the time the election rolls around it will be nine.

The government can accuse me of scaremongering and whatever they like, but the facts remain that crime in this state is spiralling out of control and this mob are absolutely clueless in terms of addressing it and in terms of giving Queenslanders hope. I can assure Queenslanders tonight that we will never give up the fight in making sure that we address this issue.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Before I call the next speaker, I would like to remind the House that the following members are on warnings: the members for Pine Rivers, Gaven, Mansfield, Thuringowa, Bonney, Mudgeeraba and Whitsunday.



**Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (5.05 pm): I move the following amendment—

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

- '1. notes the published crime statistics including motor vehicle theft in Queensland, including Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton, Bundaberg, Hervey Bay, Maryborough and Brisbane;
2. values the views of victims of crime;
3. notes the Queensland government's record \$3.281 billion investment in policing, including \$10 million for an engine immobiliser trial in Mount Isa, Cairns and Townsville to prevent car theft;
4. notes that the LNP supported the government's strong youth justice laws, which included:
  - (a) increasing the maximum penalty for unlawful use of a motor vehicle from seven years to 10 years; and



- (b) laws to allow the courts to declare a young person a “serious repeat offender” which can lead to longer sentences; and
5. calls on all members to support the Queensland government’s strong investment of more than \$446 million into targeting serious repeat youth offenders, tackling the complex causes of youth crime and investing in community safety.’

In speaking to the amendment, I want to reinforce this government’s sincere and genuine commitment to ensuring that victims of crime are supported, that they are heard—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr RYAN:**—and that they are assured that we are all on the same page when it comes to this principle of doing everything we can to keep the community safe. We just heard from the member for Burdekin who said that this is not a game. It is not a game, but we hear with the interjections of those opposite that time and time again they want to drag this serious issue—which impacts so many people’s personal lives and has traumatic effects on them—down into the political gutter. They do it time and time again.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr RYAN:** The reflection here is that the member for Burdekin was heard in relative silence. He was able to make his points and he made those points, yet look at what happens whenever this side of the House gets up to talk about the thing that unites us. To use the member for Burdekin’s words, it is not a game, it is not a competition. We are united on this. There is not one person better than the other when it comes to being united on this issue. We all want a safe community, and for those opposite to suggest otherwise is incorrect and it reinforces—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr RYAN:** Again, they want to drag it down into the political gutter. We are united on this in wanting a safe community.

The member for Burdekin referred to a number of newspapers today. One newspaper he forgot was the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, a News Ltd publication. Their editorial states, ‘But the opposition’s answer’—

**Mr BLEIJIE:** So you are about to politicise the issue, are you?

**Opposition members** interjected.

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

**Mr RYAN:** The member for Burdekin quoted from newspapers. I wonder if he was selectively quoting—

**Mrs Gerber** interjected.

**Mr RYAN:** I think there was some unparliamentary language there.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** I will manage the chamber, thanks. Are you raising a point of order?

**Mr RYAN:** I take offence at what the member for Currumbin said and ask for it to be withdrawn.

**Mrs GERBER:** I withdraw.


**Mr RYAN:** The member for Burdekin was making his point by quoting some newspapers—selectively quoting some papers. The *Gold Coast Bulletin*, a News Ltd publication, in the editorial states—

But the Opposition’s answer to how it would solve the issue appears to largely be a grab bag of tried approaches which they were campaigning on and implemented during the Newman Government era more than a decade ago. The much vaunted youth boot camp was later torn to shreds by both KPMG and the Auditor-General in a report as being ineffective, making no difference to recidivism and were prone to enormous cost blowouts presided by then attorney-general Jarrod Bleijie, now the LNP’s Deputy Leader.

It goes on to say—

The LNP’s approach of presenting reheated, decade-old concepts is hardly inspiring and doesn’t bode well for their electoral platform in 2024.

We are united on this: everyone wants a safe community. The government is throwing everything at this—stronger laws which were supported by those opposite, more investment in policing and more investment in other resources. We all want to solve this.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (5.11 pm): I will say this to the police minister: if we are united in this fight on behalf of victims of crime, where was the police minister this morning? Where was every single member of the Labor government? Where was the Premier? Were they out there

addressing the victims of crime? Don't come into this chamber and say that we are united in the fight when the Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the shadow police minister and many on this side were all out there talking and listening to the victims of crime. This is not to be politicised. Let's look at the police minister's record when it comes to politicising victims of crime. We only need to remember the Pullens who are still aggrieved at how they were used—

**Mr Perrett** interjected.

**Mr Minnikin:** Disgraceful!

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** The disgraceful way—

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Resume your seat, please, member. Member for Gympie and member for Chatsworth, you are both warned under the standing orders. You are interjecting and making it difficult for me to hear your own speaker.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I will say this: actions speak louder than words. We know that not one person from this government had the absolute intestinal fortitude to just face up to the fact that the victims out there have lost family members.

**Mr Mander:** It is common decency.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I will take that interjection. It is simply common decency. This motion that the shadow police minister has brought up today, which I am here supporting, talks about some horrific figures. In Maryborough, there has been a 373 per cent increase in motor vehicle theft. It is not right! In Bundaberg it has increased by 215 per cent. Let's talk about Maryborough. That is exactly why we need John Barounis there to protect the local people because he understands the importance of victims of crime—

**Mr Saunders** interjected.

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

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** He understands that the member for Maryborough and the member for Bundaberg have left the Wide Bay to their own devices, and that is exactly why in supporting—

**Mr Saunders:** Four more years!

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I take the member for Maryborough's interjection. Four more years. Let me say some of these words: talk about arrogance, ignorance, hubris, denial, stupidity—

**Mr Saunders** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Pause the clock! Member for Maryborough, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** It is that sort of ignorant speak that is why the people of Maryborough want to see the back of this joker, and it is why ever since—

**Mr Saunders** interjected.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** I will be taking some advice before I take your point of order. Firstly, member for Nanango, you have used some unparliamentary language. I ask you to withdraw.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I withdraw.


**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Maryborough, you were on a warning. I ask you to withdraw for an hour.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Maryborough withdrew from the chamber at 5.14 pm.*

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, you no longer have a point of order.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** When we talk about Bundaberg, you only need to look at the record of the current member for Bundaberg. Since that member has become the member for Bundaberg, what have we seen? I take the member for Burnett's advocacy for that region, on behalf of that region. Apart from the 215 per cent increase in motor vehicle thefts, we see a tent city popping up in Bundaberg—not just popping up; it has only been there since the member for Bundaberg has represented that area. It is because the Palaszczuk government completely ignore the people of Wide Bay when it comes to crime. They certainly ignore it when it comes to the victims of crime. No wonder we have 202 fewer police than this time last year. Who is out there looking out for the people of the Wide Bay? It certainly is not the current member for Maryborough or the current member for Bundaberg, and that is why at the next election they will be replaced.

We only need to look at the failures upon failures of this government. In the Wide Bay, we have the South Burnett and Cherbourg region, and this government come in here and try to talk about what wonderful things they are doing in relation to youth. I have asked the minister why the South Burnett and Cherbourg have not been included in the Youth Development Partnership Fund. We are still waiting on an answer for that and we will continue to advocate for that. It is quite obvious that this is a government that only throws money into areas that they are trying to sandbag right now. I can tell the House that the people of Queensland have sat up and listened to this incompetent government. Why are we here? Eight years ago, in relation to her first piece of legislation as Premier of this great state, she came into this chamber and she weakened the laws. No wonder the people of Queensland are facing a crime crisis. It will only be the LNP that can change that.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (5.17 pm): I rise to support the amendment to the motion put by the minister, but I have to start by saying that I do not disagree entirely with the original motion circulated by the member for Burdekin. There are two elements to the member's motion. The first is recognition that vehicle crime has increased in some places in Queensland and it calls on members to express concern for that. That is correct. Motor vehicle theft has increased recently in some places in Queensland. Here in Queensland we publish all of our crime statistics so no-one is trying to hide the fluctuations in crime that Queensland experiences, like every other jurisdiction does. Crime statistics have a long history of rising and falling. This is the pattern of crime trends that occurs globally and it has been occurring for centuries. There are a number of reasons why that happens. The most notable is that in most Western countries, including Australia, it is becoming easier and safer to report crimes to law enforcement. We want victims to come forward to report crime. We should not react with fear when, as a result, reported crime increases. That is not to say that we are unconcerned. Of course we are concerned; we are all concerned. Any crime, including vehicle theft, is an insult and a threat to a vibrant community. No-one here denies that.


The third part of the original motion calls on members representing these areas to join their communities in supporting strategies to reverse the crime crisis. My electorate, like others in Brisbane, is not immune to crime. I will meet with locals who have experienced crime any day. I am happy to work with locals who are victims who want to reverse the impacts of crime and who have experienced that crime. I have spent the best part of 23 years working with victims of crime. It is so offensive to me to have members opposite make assumptions about what members here may or may not have done. It is extremely ill-informed.

Here is what we know drives down crime. It is intervening early, ensuring that all Queensland children are engaged in school as soon as they are ready. The recent announcement by the Palaszczuk government of free kindy is already driving up those enrolments. It is working with people to understand and treat the root cause of their offending behaviours like keeping young people in school, reducing suspensions and exclusions, the creation of flexi schools and centres to make school feel safe and working with offenders while they are detained so they come out a better version of themselves. Programs that are often criticised by those opposite as being soft on crime are the programs that have been evaluated and the programs that work. Just because the Leader of the Opposition cannot understand them or because he cannot sell them does not change the fact that these are the programs that have been independently evaluated to work not just here but everywhere. The opposition do not want to talk about evidence because that does not work with their narrative and they cannot score any votes from it.

To highlight the political nature of this motion for the benefit of the House, the member for Burdekin comes in here and puts forward motions relating to youth crime and vehicle crime. However, not once do I recall him putting forward a motion relating to violence against women. One in three women experience violence at the hands of their partners and one in five women experience sexual violence. Where are his motions relating to that? Where is the member for Burdekin's concern for the women in Queensland who continue to experience violence at egregiously disproportionate rates? Why talk in a complete and comprehensive way about crime when he can just cherrypick a figure that speaks to a particular crime type, extrapolate that across the whole state and call it a crime crisis?

The amended motion refers to the importance of the victims' voice, and I want to lend my support to that sentiment. The importance of speaking with victims in a genuine way, in a meaningful way, where victims can be supported and where their experiences can influence government policy is so critical. I know it does not feel like it when someone suddenly becomes a victim of crime, but Queensland has regularly led in the victim support space. I am truly encouraged by the additional steps that the Attorney-General has announced today including the employment of a victims commissioner.

It is because of Labor's responses to victims of crime that I chose to join this party. I am proud to be a member of a government and I am proud to be a member of a political party that prioritises the needs of victims here in Queensland.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (5.21 pm): In May when the Premier moved the ministerial deckchairs she said that it marked a new beginning. That is what the Premier said: a new beginning. As she recycled a failed attorney-general back into the old attorney-general's space and a failed youth justice minister back into the youth justice minister's space, how many times will there be a new beginning for this government when it comes to youth justice?

We saw it today. The people out the front of parliament would not think it is a new beginning here in Queensland. In fact, on the contrary, they would believe that what we are seeing is a continuation of the crime crisis that began nearly 10 years ago when the Palaszczuk Labor government weakened the laws here in Queensland. There is no new beginning; it is just a sad repetition of history.


I am also reminded that six months ago on the main street of Toowoomba Robert Brown died. That was six months ago. Since that time notwithstanding the many changes to the youth crime laws those opposite still have not adopted the solutions put forward by the opposition and I continue to meet victims of crime day after day. I am sick of hearing from young couples held at knifepoint, stabbed, hit with a car jack and robbed. I am sick of meeting with young teachers who have been terrorised—them and their families—in their homes. I am sick of meeting with young kids who cannot walk from Harristown to Clifford Gardens. I am sick of hearing from business owners who have been repeatedly and violently targeted. We will continue to be their voice—and we have heard from the member for Burdekin—and I am going to continue to be the voice of victims of crime in Toowoomba, in my city.

We know that the Premier does not want to talk about it. We know that. She refused to meet the organisers of the victims group today. She refused to come to Toowoomba to meet the victims of crime in my city. The Premier does not want to talk about it. We know that. Those on that side of the House do not want to talk about it. We know that. There are no more egregious examples of members of parliament who do not want to talk about victims of crime than the members in Far North Queensland: the members for Barron River, Cairns and Cook. That is the beautiful city of Cairns that is held hostage by repetitive hardcore offenders on the streets. Businesses that desperately need to get ahead in that proud tourist city have been targeted repetitively by the same offenders because the government's laws will not deal with it.

For all the silence of the Far North Queensland members of parliament, there is one voice in the far north that will be ready to stand with victims and speak up for them. That is Yolonde Entsch, our candidate in Cairns, and there are many more wonderful candidates in the far north and across regional Queensland to come. They are coming and they will be the voice for victims in this House. They will speak up for stronger laws, gold standard early intervention and the right kind of approach to youth justice in the criminal law in this state.

The Premier talked in May about a new beginning. We have seen with the recycled Attorney-General and the recycled youth justice minister that there will be no new beginning. We are just getting more of the same. We saw this afternoon on a dark day for democracy in Queensland exactly what this government is all about. Never forget that the failed attorney-general brought 17-year-olds into the youth justice system and she removed breach of bail. The former and failed youth justice minister was the one who oversaw the implementation of 17-year-olds into youth justice without a plan that saw the watch house crisis. We are continuing to see the changes through that this afternoon.

In relation to the dark day for democracy here in Queensland that we have seen this afternoon, that is not the first time for them. We know they have form: 235 amendments, over 100 pages introduced at 9.30 at night from the Attorney-General. We have seen repetitive changes to the law over and over again with no plan from that side of the House. We have an Attorney-General that will take political donations from entities that she regulates. There is only one way for a new beginning here in Queensland and that is the election of a Crisafulli-led LNP government.

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (5.26 pm): I rise to contribute to the motion and oppose the LNP motion—surprise, surprise. Crime is real and the victims are real and the hurt faced by those victims is real and it is felt by them. However, for real crimes we need real policies and real solutions. We know that on this side we support real policies and real solutions. That is why in Bundaberg in the last financial

year we had a 38 per cent decrease in proven crimes by youth offenders, because we are investing in the front line; we are investing in intervention, in jobs, in health and in education. In fact, in this budget alone we have included two more general duty officers on the front line in Bundaberg at the patrol station. There are two new senior sergeants in CPU and six 24/7 district duty officers.

**Mr Head** interjected.

**Mr Sullivan** interjected.

**Mr SMITH:** Members opposite should listen: Two more general duty officers—two more than they have in policies, that is for sure.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Callide, member for Stafford, cease your interjections across the chamber.

**Mr SMITH:** Those opposite can interject all they want, but they are an embarrassing wreck, and we will get to their record soon.

We are investing in the safe night precinct—Jack's Law. On the streets of Bundaberg we are actually wanding, keeping people safe in Bundaberg. That is our record: policies that work, policies that they have to support because they do not have any. We have our ChaplainWatch that are doing great work out there on the streets of Bundaberg in the safe night precinct, making sure they are taking away the risk of criminal activity.

There are school-based police officers. What a wonderful job our police officers do, yet we hear the LNP disrespect our police officers time and time again. It is absolutely disgraceful the way that the LNP always show disrespect to our hardworking police on the front line—absolutely disgraceful—but that is what we get from the LNP.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member on his feet is misleading the House. I take personal offence and I ask him to withdraw.

**Mr SMITH:** Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** I will rule on the point of order first. First, if a member is misleading the House there is a process for dealing with that, and it is not taking a point of order. I could not hear anything personally directed at you, so there is no point of order in relation to that.

**Mr SMITH:** Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker has made it very clear that that process is not through taking a point of order in the House. I wonder if that is not frivolous and worthy of a warning.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** There is no point of order, member for Bundaberg.

**Mr SMITH:** What about jobs? We back in jobs. We have heard the Premier say time and time again that the best way to get a young person away from offending is to get them a job for their future. That is the best way: to get a roof over their head and for them to get a job. That is why we have the Back to Work program; that is why we invest in Skilling Queenslanders for Work; and that is why we have excellent pre-apprenticeship programs in Bundaberg—getting people of all ages into a new career. A responsible government invests in the future. We are building infrastructure as well. We are building a brand new hospital. We are building classrooms in our high schools, giving young people a future so they can raise a family and stay away from the risk of crime. We are backing in jobs, health and education.

I thought today I would write down on a notepad all of the policies the LNP put forward. If they propose motion after motion on crime, surely they have some policies. We heard nothing. I had faith in them. I asked for a 50-page notebook.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Member, put the prop down.

**Mr SMITH:** I could not take any notes, because they do not have a single policy. The best I could do is draw a cartoon of a bloke with tall hair and a guitar who looks like Elvis. I do not know who that is, but it is someone on the other side of the House—that is for sure. The LNP used to have policies, in the Newman government. They were an absolute disgrace. They sacked 110 senior police. That is the record of those opposite. We can see that opposition members are looking down because they know that is their record. They cut police training. They reduced firearms training. They forced police to pay for their own body worn cameras. Imagine that. The people out there on the front line, protecting our communities, were forced to pay for something that would assist in taking criminals off the street. That is what those opposite stand for.

Let's not forget that it was this government that had to fix up the disgusting mistake of the LNP when they cut police monitoring of more than 1,700 sex offenders. Tough on kids, weak on paedophiles—that is the LNP's record. They are an absolute disgrace. They have no policies, no plans and no idea. Who could forget when the Newman LNP government told police to tighten their belts because the funding would not be there? In fact, funding for new police equipment fell from \$77.5 million to \$53.8 million.

We will continue to invest in our young people. We will continue to invest in our police. We will continue to create jobs and provide better health services and better education. We will not turn our backs on Queenslanders. We will make sure that we are investing in young people. We will not let the LNP continue to cut police numbers and disrespect them the way they did under the Newman government. Deb, come on back—

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Bundaberg, you will use correct titles and direct your comments through the chair.



**Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (5.32 pm): It is obvious that Labor has turned its back on the Gold Coast when we look at the statistics contained in this youth crime motion—55 cars stolen every day in Queensland. In my community of the Gold Coast, more than 1,100 cars have been stolen on the Gold Coast over the last six months. Yesterday, there were cars stolen from open garages. It is happening in Paradise Waters, Benowa Waters and Clear Island Waters.

**Mr Stevens:** Mermaid Beach.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** I take that interjection. Mermaid Beach was on last night's news. You go upstairs to check whether you have a library book to return, and while you are up there someone steals your car. It is proof positive that this Labor government has given up on the Gold Coast with fewer police resources, weaker laws, restrictions on the judiciary and instructions given about detention being a last resort. To see this, you only have to look at the actions of the government. I have been here a long time, and I remember when previous governments had community cabinets. Say whatever you like about Peter Beattie and Anna Bligh; they would have open-house community cabinets which MPs and members of the public could go to. Last week the Gold Coast community cabinet was secretly held somewhere out at Robina, at the TAFE.

This government is not prepared to listen to Gold Coasters and not prepared to hear about these issues of youth crime because the people of the Gold Coast—as Murray Watt has said for a long time—will not elect Labor candidates because of the poor quality of those candidates. In the 56th Parliament we had a minister supposedly for the Gold Coast who was not even from the Gold Coast. Now we supposedly have a minister from the Gold Coast whom nobody ever sees. All we get is poverty cosplays from this supposed minister for the Gold Coast. There is no representation of the coast from the Labor Party. That is why the Labor Party's attitude to the Gold Coast is to turn its back on the issues that are affecting it.

I want to tell people about some of those issues. I table a copy of a photograph of someone in my street attempting to kick down a door. That offender came back hours later, to another house in my street, and stole the same car he had stolen a few weeks before. Two nights ago in Benowa Waters, people are paying up to \$360 per day for private security for a street. In Benowa Waters just the other night we had an offender carrying something that looks like a weapon. I table a photograph. I also table an article titled 'Fearful residents enlist night watch'.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of documents relating to local crime [\[1181\]](#).

In another incident that affected me personally, my car was broken into recently and the offender was apprehended. My materials were recovered, but I subsequently found out that the offender, who had been apprehended by police, sent me a direct message on Instagram. When I mentioned in the paper that my materials had been stolen, this person said—

Please get it right I was the person that stole from your car, not the other person ok get your story right

Check the cameras.

A couple of days later I mentioned how overtly this young person had acted and that they were 16 years of age. I got another direct message—

Lovely car


And then another—

15 just to correct you

She was saying, 'I am not 16. I am 15.' That is how brazen she was. I table a deidentified copy of those direct messages, because the last thing we want to do is show these people that their social media is getting any traction.

*Tabled paper:* Extract, undated, from a social media account of the member for Surfers Paradise, Mr John-Paul Langbroek MP, in relation to local crime [1182].

It is obvious that Labor have given up on the Gold Coast. In contrast, when we had that bikie riot in Broadbeach in September 2013 our government was firm and decisive. It is the only time in my political life that people have come up to me spontaneously in the street and said, 'Thank you for what you did about bikies and bringing in the VLAD laws.' Subsequently, this government has wound everything back. We are in the situation we are now and our local police are unable to deal with relatively minor issues such as hooning, shoplifting and noisy exhausts. We just do not have the police resources. As the member for Nanango said, we do appreciate our local police but they need more resources. In today's announcement by the Labor Party about some sort of special squad, there was no mention of that coming to the Gold Coast. That is why we need new members in Bundaberg, Rockhampton, Cairns and Hervey Bay, and we will see that in October next year.

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (5.37 pm): I rise to speak in support of the amendment. There is no quick fix to the issues surrounding youth justice, as we know. We know that the issue is complex. Often the young people involved come from broken families—these crimes are not restricted to Townsville or indeed to Queensland—but that is no excuse for people committing crime. No amount of crime is acceptable. I will always ensure community safety is my No. 1 priority. We will continue to tackle this issue from all angles, making sure those who do the wrong thing are caught and held to account. That is why we have reversed the presumption of bail. This is making a real difference. Young people must now prove why they should get bail and why they are not a public risk. We have expanded the number of offences with a presumption against bail. People who are passengers in stolen vehicles, commit burglary or enter a premises to commit an indictable offence will now have a presumption against bail.

Those opposite are bringing nothing to the table—we just hear crickets. In fact, they voted for our youth justice laws, which passed this House earlier in the year. They are the toughest laws in Australia and they are working. If young people are doing the wrong thing they must be held to account, and we have given the courts that exact power. I expect them to use those tools and to ensure those sentences are meeting the community's expectations.

Those opposite, and in particular the member for Currumbin, want to bring back the LNP's failed boot camps. On 25 January this year the member for Currumbin complained that we got rid of their failed boot camps. These are the same boot camps the member for Kawana established. I am happy to give those opposite a lesson on the program. It was a complete rort and a complete fail. In fact, a report from the Queensland Audit Office said—

The lack of transparency also weakened the program administration as it was clouded which party was responsible for what costs. It also ultimately leaves the process of awarding the two contracts open to accusations of favouritism, which in the absence of a clear documentation trail, cannot be readily rebutted.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr STEWART:** Absolutely. There were also the other factors for the benefit of those opposite: there was a \$16 million cost blowout and more than a 90 per cent recidivism rate from the program. Will those opposite come clean about what their plan is? I bet members they will not because, that is right, it has been 957 days since the member for Burdekin said that the LNP would release its crime plan. Since then it has come up with three dot points and not much else. I am happy to stand here and talk about exactly what we are doing. As a government we have always said that we will look at anything we can do to reduce crime in our community. We are doing it with our nation-leading secondary engine immobiliser trial. In the two weeks since applications opened, almost 5,000 Townsville residents have applied for a \$500 engine immobiliser subsidy voucher.


**Mr Head** interjected.

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

**Mr STEWART:** Community safety is absolutely paramount and this technology will make a real difference to people's lives, which is why we are investing in it. This week we announced the Palaszczuk government is contributing \$56 million in funding to boost infrastructure and program delivery at PCYC centres right across Queensland. These include upgrades to the Upper Ross PCYC and Palm Island as well as Mount Isa and the Burdekin. Just today we announced that a new Rapid Response Police Taskforce has been established to target serious repeat juvenile offenders. The Youth Flying Squad

teams are able to saturate problem areas and, alongside local police, help foster a positive rapport with high-risk and at-risk young people. Our hardworking police officers and expert youth justice workers will solely be focusing on youth crime and will provide immediate support to local police to disrupt youth offending. We will continue to work constructively with the community and our Police Service to do all we can to tackle this issue.

No amount of crime is acceptable, so it is understandable that people are angry, and I am angry too, but we will never give up. We will continue to invest in early intervention programs like Project Booyah and Townsville Street University to tackle the root causes of youth crime. We will continue to hold those to account who commit crimes and do the wrong thing. We will continue to review what is working and what is not working. It is the Palaszczuk government that is investing \$446 million in targeting serious repeat offenders, tackling the complex causes of youth crime and investing in community safety. We will always back our communities, we will always back our police and we will always back our frontline workers to tackle the issues. We will give them what they need to do their job because that is what is expected and that is what the community demands of us.

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (5.42 pm): We have just heard the member for Townsville try to talk tough on crime when it is his community that is racked by youth crime. In Townsville there has been a 95 per cent increase in motor vehicle theft. Queenslanders have heard it all before from the member for Townsville, yet crime continues to rise under Labor. In the last year alone, 200,000 Queenslanders had their cars stolen or were broken into or were robbed. That is a 25 per cent increase. That is 200,000 victims of crime that this government has failed. When we are talking about car thefts, we know that more than half of car thefts in Queensland are young criminals—54.6 per cent in fact—who know that their rights are greater than the rights of the victims: Labor's generation of untouchables. They are not just stealing these cars; they are using them as weapons. These young criminals are ramming police cars. They are running at police, not running from them.

Why are we here? How did we get to this point? We got to this point because eight years ago the Palaszczuk Labor government made a decision to water down our laws and it made that decision—that conscious decision—and that has created a generation of young offenders, a generation of young criminals, who know that their rights are greater than the rights of victims. They have no respect for police, they have no respect for our justice system and they have no respect for the courts. Do not take my word for it: the latest data shows that juvenile reoffending in Queensland is now at 69 per cent. That means that seven out of 10 young criminals are going on to reoffend. The rate of Indigenous kids who are reoffending has also increased. They are now 11 times more likely to have contact with the youth justice system than non-Indigenous kids. Youth are responsible for 54.6 per cent of car thefts, 53.3 per cent of break-ins and 33 per cent of robberies. These are not just numbers. These are not just statistics. These represent victims of crime who have not had a voice under this Palaszczuk Labor government—a government that refused to meet with these victims today, a government that has refused to listen to them.

Under the LNP, Queensland will not be a playground for young offenders. We will rewrite the Youth Justice Act to ensure there are consequences for actions. We will unshackle the judiciary and remove detention as a last resort, and we will ensure there are gold standard early intervention programs to turn kids around and put them on the right track, because kids should be given a second chance. The system should be able to support kids to turn their lives around to become valuable members of society, and there are excellent programs out there doing just that. In my own community of Currumbin there is a program run by Fight 4 Youth and it is making a real difference to the lives of kids. It runs a number of programs, but one of its most successful programs is its suspension program. It takes kids who are suspended and is turning them around, keeping them off the streets and from a life of crime. At estimates the youth justice minister said—

If any member ... has any proposals or any evidence-based programs that can assist to address this complex problem, I would welcome those ideas.


In fact, she gave a commitment at estimates to meet with Fight 4 Youth, to contact it and learn more about its program. Well, three weeks later, Minister, Fight 4 Youth is yet to hear from you or your department. I urge you—

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Comments will come through the chair.

**Mrs GERBER:**—to keep your commitment. Those opposite are all talk and no action. This government is all about the optics and it does not care about victims of crime, because if it did the youth justice minister would have stuck to her word. She would have contacted Fight 4 Youth to better understand how this amazing program is turning the lives of youth around, but the government does not actually care.



Cairns needs the LNP's Yolonde Entsch. Thuringowa needs the LNP's Natalie Marr. John Barounis is needed by the people of Maryborough. Keppel needs Nigel Hutton and Redlands needs Rebecca Young. These communities need these candidates to turn the tide on crime. These candidates are standing up for victims in those electorates. Where are the local members standing up to talk on behalf of victims? We cannot hear them. They are not out there. They were not out there meeting with victims of crime today. They were not there speaking with people about their true suffering. These people have been to hell and back, yet the state Labor government refuses to listen. It is more concerned about optics than it is about victims of crime.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (5.47 pm): I rise to speak to the amendment, and I do so because I know from personal experience just how hard our fantastic police work to protect our community. In my role as the member for Mount Ommaney and due to my proximity to the Wacol precinct I am very grateful to often be called on to represent the minister at police graduation ceremonies as well as Corrective Services, Community Corrections and Protective Services graduation ceremonies. I have done over 50 since I was elected. Our fantastic police are relentless in targeting those who wish to do harm to our community. My local police work proactively with our fantastic Neighbourhood Watch groups that have been long established to ensure a safe and harmonious community. The work that our local police do in educating residents is invaluable alongside our hardworking volunteers in policing and our Neighbourhood Watch volunteers and committee members.

I know how the police are proactively working to attract new recruits. In fact, the New Zealand recruitment campaign that is currently running has made international media. It has ruffled quite a few feathers across the ditch, but we make no apologies in this place for pulling out all the stops to recruit every single new officer that we can, international relations aside. As I said, it is a matter of great pride to me that I have been able to attend many of the graduation ceremonies for police officers at the Oxley police academy. The pride that I see on the faces of their family and friends at those ceremonies makes it clear to me that Queensland is incredibly lucky to have so many wonderful people who want to make our community as safe as it possibly can be. I note that there are an increasing number of CALD and multicultural background applicants to those positions, and in Multicultural Queensland Month I want to note that that is very welcomed and very important.

The Police Commissioner said that currently there are more than 400 recruits undergoing training at our police academies. The commissioner said that between now and the end of the year another 600 recruits will enter those academies. She also said that another 1,200 will enter the academies next year and another 1,200 the year after that. This is part of the biggest investment in police personnel in more than three decades. This investment by the government will deliver more than 2,000 extra police personnel. The commissioner stated that that will mean 300 extra police officers for the Brisbane region. In anyone's language, that is more boots on the ground and more boots on the ground supports community safety. In addition, right now, thanks to additional government funding, police are conducting extreme high-visibility police patrols right across the state. They certainly are in my community. People are seeing more police, more often, right across Queensland. The commissioner said that these extreme high-visibility patrols are having a real impact disrupting and preventing crime.

I am sure we can all agree that any level of crime is unacceptable. For every crime there is a victim and the impacts can be traumatising and long-lasting. That is why this government is doing everything that it can to support community safety. That is why we have introduced the toughest youth justice laws in the nation. It is why the government has introduced a presumption against bail for repeat young offenders and, for the first time in Queensland's history, made breach of bail an offence for young offenders under the Bail Act. It is why Queensland has the strongest anti-hooning laws in the nation, including a reversal of onus that means that the owner of a vehicle detected hooning must face the consequences unless they can prove that they were not driving the vehicle at that time. We have also increased the penalties for the unlawful use of a motor vehicle, and a trial of engine immobilisers is underway in various locations throughout Queensland.

Today the Police Commissioner unveiled a new rapid response task force. Teams of detectives and youth justice experts will, through intelligence, identify not only areas that are hotspots but also areas that could become hotspots. Under the police flying squad model, the task force guardian teams will deploy and saturate an area. This search capability will enhance the efforts of local police and youth justice teams. We are approaching community safety from all angles with tough laws, record investment in police, co-responder models that enforce but also offer early intervention and diversionary supports to break the cycle of offending. There are no simple solutions to these issues. That is why the government is doing everything we can.



**Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (5.52 pm): What a litany of excuses we have been subjected to for the past 55 minutes from those on that side of the House. We had a pusillanimous, pathetic, prevaricating police minister who said that we should all be in this together and that we are all united. I have news for the Labor Party: we are not united with you on your youth crime failures. We are not going to support your failures, your excuses or your treatment of victims of crime.

Today, the Premier refused to meet with honest everyday Queenslanders who are sick of being ignored by her government. They are sick of the excuses. They are sick of the mendacity. They are sick of hearing 'I meet with Queenslanders every day'. What did we find out today? She had enough time to do a grab with Lee Lovell, who was whisked away by his local member, Chris Whiting, under false pretences, but she could not find 30 minutes to meet with other victims of crime! She cannot use the excuse that she did not have the time because she found 30 minutes to meet with Mr Lovell, one of the victims, while ignoring the rest. That tells you everything you need to know about this Palaszczuk Labor government and the treatment they believe victims of crime deserve. All the others who turned up were ignored. Their crimes were not bad enough. It reminded me exactly of the Pullens: it was the same media opportunity and the same lack of action.

We heard from other Labor members. The member for Bundaberg spoke. Five votes, member for Bundaberg—five votes. That is five cars that are broken into.

**Mr SMITH:** Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take deep personal offence. It was nine votes. I ask the member to withdraw.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Bundaberg, you are warned. That was a frivolous point of order.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Not only does he not know the law; he cannot count. That is minus five votes for the member for Bundaberg and five votes for the other side. That is five cars that are stolen and five houses broken into. With a 215 per cent increase in the crime rate in Bundaberg, he should not be counting his chickens before he is home and that is absolutely clear.

The member for Townsville spoke. Has anyone heard a less impassioned defence of the government: 'I'm concerned too'? That was the entire extent of it, yet there is a 95 per cent increase in vehicle theft in Townsville. For the past six years, Townsville has been ground zero for crimes including theft and break and enter.

The member for Cooper spoke. I was not sure whether or not she supports the motion. It was one of those more obscure contributions that I think was well meant by the member for Cooper but actually went nowhere and achieved nothing.

No doubt the member for Bulimba will spruik some of their successes. The member for Bulimba, along with the Attorney-General, who is not on the speaking list today, is the author of the litany of loss that victims of crime are suffering in Queensland right now. They proudly introduced the presumption of bail because they had a watch house problem. They had so many people in watch houses that they could not find enough room to keep them, so they changed the presumption of bail. They would rather the criminals go free than do the right thing. They have rejected, at every opportunity, sensible and reasonable propositions put forward by the LNP since 2016.

I say to the Palaszczuk Labor government, which is increasingly chaotic and crisis ridden, that since 2016 we have voted against every one of its laws that weakened youth justice laws—every single one of them. Now they have been caught out and are adopting the laws and the policies that we proposed, so of course we support them. What has been the most successful of those in the past two years? Breach of bail as an offence! We heard both the minister and the Premier parrot their success with 440-odd unique offenders being charged with 1,900 individual offences. It is LNP policy word for word.

There are other examples of their failures, but time does not permit me to outline them all. Here are some of the things that the Labor government have done: weakened the laws; ignored the warnings; followed a flawed left-wing ideology; ignored victims' rights; ignored the increasing crime rate; and only this afternoon, in a breach of decency and accountability, introduced a bill suspending their own Human Rights Act and introducing 57 pages of legislation. They opposed every one of our policies. In 2017 we said we should build extra youth detention centres. We promoted the introduction of breach of bail as an offence, \$3 million for advocacy, a police helicopter in North Queensland and rapid action patrols. There is one guilty party and it is the Labor Party.

*(Time expired)*



**Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business, Minister for Training and Skills Development and Minister for Youth Justice) (5.58 pm): I rise to speak against the motion moved by members opposite. I make it clear that I am addressing the issue they raised of motor vehicle theft, but just because I am the youth justice minister does not mean that I am implying that every single one of those offences has been committed by a young person, which is what they would like to imply. Of course, they never let the facts get in the way of a good story.

Certainly, motor vehicle theft is a key concern. It is why, as part of our Strengthening Community Safety Bill, we introduced a specific offence of motor vehicle theft as an aggravated offence. The statistics are clear and we are clear on those numbers. In fact, I thank the opposition for supporting those laws. They always seem very embarrassed about that, but basically that is what they did. As I have said today, as of June 2023 there have been 681 charges containing one of the new unauthorised use of a motor vehicle circumstance of aggravation, with 96.4 per cent of offenders convicted. In terms of that particular offence of concern, we have certainly put deterrents in place.

We have put prevention measures in place. We talked about the engine immobiliser trial—\$10 million into an engine immobiliser subsidy, which is being used to supply up to 20,000 engine immobilisers for residents in Mount Isa, Cairns and Townsville. The specific offence that has been raised in this motion we are addressing in a practical way.

As I have said many times, solving crime and solving youth crime is complex. There is no one single solution. It is why we have introduced some of the harshest laws in the country. It is why we are building two new detention centres, which are therapeutic detention centres. It is why we are addressing the complex causes of youth crime. It is why we are listening to the voice of victims.

One of the big reasons I cannot, in any way possible, support this motion is that it contains an oxymoron. The very last bit talks about supporting the opposition's laws and strategies. What? They have none. Recently there was a great article in that wonderful paper the *Gold Coast Bulletin*. It states—

... the Opposition's answer to how it would solve the issue appears to largely be a grab-bag of tried approaches which they were campaigning on and implemented during the Newman Government era more than a decade ago.

The much-vaunted youth boot camp was later torn to shreds by both KPMG and the Auditor General in a report as being ineffective, making no difference to recidivism and were prone to enormous cost blowouts presided over by then Attorney-General Jarrod Bleijie, now the LNP's deputy leader.

... the LNP's approach of presenting reheated decade-old concepts is hardly inspiring and doesn't bode well for their electoral platform in 2024.

I table the article.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, undated, titled 'Editorial: New direction' [[1183](#)].

I actually think the paper is being very generous, because all I have heard about their strategy is that they are calling on the whole of parliament to support three slogans and 13 words—13 words to solve one of the most complex issues you would probably imagine.

Today the police minister, the Attorney-General, the Police Commissioner, my director-general and a number of senior police met with Voice for Victims and heard some of their stories. They are stories that we have been hearing across the state. We know that victims need to be heard, and we are intent on doing that. For those opposite to say to people who have suffered the most intense trauma, 'We are going to solve the most traumatic thing you have experienced with 13 words'—how insulting and offensive! Then they talk about us softening some law. The opposition's breach of bail law was not even called that. In fact, people were more likely to reoffend under the opposition's law than they are now. Those opposite should give some credit and respect to victims and come up with some ideas and strategies. The member for Currumbin told me that she had hundreds of them. It turns out that she had sent them to the wrong address.

*(Time expired)*

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

**AYES, 46:**

**ALP, 46**—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, S. King, Lui, Madden, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

**NOES, 34:**

**LNP, 30**—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Gerber, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

**KAP, 3**—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

Pairs: A. King, McDonald; Lauga, Frecklington; Linard, Simpson; Pitt, Hart.

Resolved in the affirmative.

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

**AYES, 46:**

**ALP, 46**—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, S. King, Lui, Madden, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

**NOES, 34:**

**LNP, 30**—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Gerber, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

**KAP, 3**—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

Pairs: A. King, McDonald; Lauga, Frecklington; Linard, Simpson; Pitt, Hart.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Motion, as agreed—

That this House—

1. notes the published crime statistics including motor vehicle theft in Queensland, including Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton, Bundaberg, Hervey Bay, Maryborough and Brisbane;
2. values the views of victims of crime;
3. notes the Queensland government's record \$3.281 billion investment in policing, including \$10 million for an engine immobiliser trial in Mount Isa, Cairns and Townsville to prevent car theft;
4. notes that the LNP supported the government's strong youth justice laws, which included:
  - (a) increasing the maximum penalty for unlawful use of a motor vehicle from seven years to 10 years; and
  - (b) laws to allow the courts to declare a young person a 'serious repeat offender' which can lead to longer sentences; and
5. calls on all members to support the Queensland government's strong investment of more than \$446 million into targeting serious repeat youth offenders, tackling the complex causes of youth crime and investing in community safety.

## **CHILD PROTECTION (OFFENDER REPORTING AND OFFENDER PROHIBITION ORDER) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

### **Second Reading**

Resumed from p. 2342, on motion of Mr Ryan—

That the bill be now read a second time.



**Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (6.11 pm), continuing: Before the intervening debate, I was speaking about the crime in Goondiwindi and I was offering a rebuttal to some of the things that the Minister for Youth Justice had said in her contribution earlier in this debate. What I was saying is that the government's talk about the number of offenders who are in custody or in detention at the moment reflects largely the number of those who are on remand. It hides the fact that the Youth Justice Act and its sentencing principles still make it a requirement that magistrates only imprison or incarcerate offenders who have been convicted as a last resort.

The effect of that is that whenever an offender gets to court after being on remand they walk straight out of the courtroom. It might be technically that they are on some kind of supervision order or some other arrangement which does not explicitly say they are set free, but in practice they are free. In the experience of my communities such as Goondiwindi, when they are free they continue to commit crimes. They continue to steal cars, to ramraid businesses, invade people's properties, to go to motels and identify a car that they like sitting in a particular car park—say, it is No. 4—and kick down the door

to No. 4. In recent times we have seen a trend towards pre-emptive violence where offenders have not even given the terrified occupant of the motel room or the house an opportunity to hand over the keys to their car, they have just clobbered them.

I stress that I say this in rebuttal to some of the things that the youth justice minister said in her contribution earlier in the debate. I understand that she sincerely believes that what the government is doing is the right way to go. However—and I have expressed this to the minister—I feel that it is logically and practically impossible to protect the community whilst allowing offenders to return to the streets. If we have to balance competing rights and priorities, then on the one hand we have the interests of youth offenders and the complexities of their situation—they come from sullied homes and backgrounds, trauma and all those sorts of things—and on the other hand we have the victims of crime or potential victims of crime. This is a binary thing. We either prevent those youth offenders from continuing to offend or we do not. We either lock them up—on remand, which is less than ideal, or by convicting and sentencing them to some form of custody—or we do not. We either look after the interests of good, law-abiding citizens who live by and uphold the law or we do not.

I listened to the contribution of the member for Maiwar and I mentioned earlier in my speech that I was impressed by his impassioned and articulate criticism of the government springing 57 pages of amendments upon the House—which is a great discourtesy to the House, I would say—which have had no scrutiny at a committee level and no public disclosure whatsoever. What I disagree with him on is his reflection on the most vulnerable people in the community. He was talking about not only the youth justice implications of this bill but also the matters around decriminalising public urination, public intoxication and begging for vulnerable people. He said that we are talking about locking up the most vulnerable people in the community.


I disagree with the member for Maiwar on that particular point because in my estimation—and I would say in the estimation of any fair-minded person on the street of Goondiwindi—the most vulnerable people in the community are those who are subject to home invasions. I know many people in Goondiwindi who have been home invaded more than once—some three times—and had their cars stolen. Some have been traumatised by the experience. These are people who have been minding their own business in their homes—their castles. Any relativism about the rights of the community and the rights of youth offenders is a nonsense. It is a sham. It is a fig leaf to cover the Labor Party's commitment to the bleeding heart, left wing values that say that the offenders themselves are victims and therefore they need to be looked after.

I say that what we do is lock them up now and then we continue those conversations about how to prevent the causes of the crime. Anybody in this House who says that that is not the way to do it is effectively saying that those offenders ought to be free on the streets to continue to commit their crimes, and that is not on. That is incompatible with the expectations of the community. I think the protest outside was an indication of that, if nothing else.

Lastly, I just say that the mystical rapture about decriminalising offensives such as public urination, public intoxication and begging is also, in my view, irrational because we are all equal before the law. When someone says that this type of person is vulnerable therefore they are subject to a different interpretation of the law than everyone else, that is a very slippery slope. I think it indicates to the community that, in order to deal with decay and deal with problems which should be fixed at their source, we are just going to water down the laws that apply to those people.

I also take umbrage at the moves to take away the powers of police to move on somebody suspected of soliciting for prostitution. I can imagine a number of scenarios where someone would not want that happening outside their home.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr SKELTON** (Nicklin—ALP) (6.17 pm): I rise to support the Palaszczuk government's Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. Before I do, I express my gratitude—and probably the gratitude of all Queenslanders—for the ongoing advocacy and education of the Morcombe Foundation when talking about online predatory habits and keeping our children safe online. I think the member for Cook referred to this earlier.

This bill seeks to modernise the framework underpinning the existing child protection scheme by enhancing the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act and the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act. By targeting emerging technologies that are used as a means of offending against our children and by increasing reporting obligations for high-risk offenders, this bill represents the Palaszczuk government's commitment to protecting Queensland children.

The act was passed by the Beattie Labor government in 2004, establishing the child protection register. This act: introduced the requirement for reportable offenders to provide and update specified personal details for inclusion in the register; mandated periodic reporting and reporting of any travel outside of Queensland by reportable offenders; imposed reporting obligations for prescribed periods, depending on the number and severity of offences committed and other relevant factors; allowed for the recognition of reporting obligations under foreign laws; and allowed orders to be made against particular offenders who commit other particularly serious offences against children or engage in concerning conduct.

The Queensland Police Service regularly review the act to ensure that the law is modernised and continues to be fit for purpose. This amendment bill is the result of these reviews, as the QPS has identified advances in technology that can be exploited by offenders, changes in how offending is occurring as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic and opportunities to enhance the protection of children through the child protection registry scheme.

Recent advances in technology, spurred by the COVID-19 pandemic, have provided new ways for offenders to target and groom children without even leaving the house. Other advances, such as masking applications or virtual private networks, VPNs, enable people to anonymise themselves online, freely accessing, disseminating and receiving information without their personal information being revealed to others. Whilst it obviously goes without saying that these advances in technology have revolutionised internet privacy and freedom for users, this technology can be and is exploited by convicted child offenders to hide further offending and disrupt police monitoring of their activity.

The use of anonymising software also directly impedes early intervention strategies by preventing police from identifying at-risk offenders in a timely manner. Early intervention and diversion, such as referral to a specialist external agency or increased monitoring or reporting, are crucial in preventing reoffending. Our laws must remain modernised in order to facilitate this.

Consequently, the bill includes that offenders subject to reporting requirements must disclose the possession or use of any anonymising software under schedule 2 of the act. End-to-end encryption services such as iMessage or WhatsApp are not considered to be anonymising software. However, they are reportable applications under schedule 2 of act. 'Incognito' web browsers and antivirus software, which do not include a built-in VPN, are not considered to be anonymising software as they do not sanitise information in the same way.

Vault and black hole applications are designed to hide sensitive information downloaded from an electronic communications platform such as the internet or cloud storage and/or held on a digital device. Vault applications are designed to look like a common desktop icon such as a calculator. By comparison, black hole applications hide other sensitive applications, such as a vault application, from view. These types of applications can provide an additional layer of security for members of the community who are legitimately storing sensitive information on a digital device. However, they also allow child sexual offenders to secrete child exploitation material or other child related sexual offending on their digital devices without detection by a casual observer.

The bill targets the use of vault and black hole applications by requiring reportable offenders to report the details of their possession and use of these applications. Items 14 and 15 of schedule 2 require a reportable offender to provide information about the social networking sites, chat rooms and email addresses they use, as well as the details of internet usernames and passcodes or passwords to social networking sites.

Police currently have some capacity to interrogate digital devices in the possession of reportable offenders. However, this is currently limited to an initial three-month period when a reportable offender has been released from government detention or sentenced to a community-based supervision order and then four times per year if a reportable offender has been convicted of a prescribed internet offence under the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act. Offenders who use an online platform or a digital device to engage in child exploitation or other sexual offences that are not prescribed internet offences can only be monitored in the same way if a court makes issues an order or warrant for a device once it is satisfied the reportable offender poses an increased risk to the lives or sexual safety of children.

Section 21B of the PPRA prescribes offences that trigger a device inspection for reportable offenders. These offences are specific to internet offending. Where police are concerned there is an elevated risk of reoffending in connection with offences that are not prescribed under this section, they must apply to a magistrate for either a device inspection order or a search warrant. A search warrant is far more intrusive as it allows police to undertake a complete search of a residence or place including part of the residence or place used by a person other than the reportable offender. A search warrant also allows police to seize devices for a forensic inspection.


Device inspections allow police to be proactive in identifying change in an offender's risk profile such as viewing or downloading child related data. It can also identify the presence of child exploitation material on the device which provides police with an opportunity to disrupt and prevent offending behaviour.

The application of the new offences as prescribed offences will operate retrospectively to ensure the current cohort of offenders convicted of these offences are subject to the higher level of monitoring by police. All offences prescribed under PPRA section 21B will operate regardless of whether the offending material was accessed or disseminated through a network, such as the internet, or is held on a standalone device such as a USB or hard drive.

Currently, the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act only recognises corresponding reportable offenders from within Australia. This allows overseas offenders to relocate to Australia with no reciprocal reporting obligations. To resolve this, the act will be amended to recognise international child offender reporting schemes as corresponding schemes for Queensland, ensuring consistent monitoring of offenders who commit sexual or particular other serious offences against children, regardless of where the offence was committed.

The bill will recognise any international scheme where an offender is required to report to a registrar because of the offences they have committed against children. These offenders will be required to comply with the provisions of the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act when they enter Queensland. These new laws will continue this government's strong record when it comes to targeting child sex offenders in our state.

Our government and the community's message to child sex offenders is: you are not welcome in Queensland. Do not come here. Do not offend here. Our laws are the toughest in the nation, and our Queensland Police Service is one of the best in the world. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (6.25 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. I intend to spend most of my contribution on that bill as it is something that I am passionate about, but I do want to put on the record the minister's long list of amendments which he tabled without any prior consultation or announcement only a few hours ago—a list of amendments that in length exceed the number of pages in the bill.

It was interesting that in the minister's contribution on the motion he talked about listening to the community and listening to victims. He talked about hearing them and working together. Yet only half an hour prior to that he tabled amendments that drastically reduce police powers in the PPRA in relation to prostitution enforcement and that drastically decriminalise offences in the Summary Offences Act which potentially could impact upon societies and communities across Queensland. I am not at this point indicating whether I or others are supportive of that because we have not had a chance to have a look at it. For the minister to get up here only half an hour ago and talk about listening and working together and hearing communities and victims but then table a long list of amendments which outweigh the length of this bill just flies in the face of what this minister said. It is just another example of a government that is in crisis and chaos.

I want to preface my contribution in relation to the CPORPO amendments that this bill was tabled earlier this year in the absence of input from the Crime and Corruption Commission, who were charged with the responsibility to conduct a review into the operation of the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004. Despite the completion of the commission's review and publication of their findings in June this year, the government has waited until today to make amendments. It is simply unconscionable that this government, which has had since June to announce or foreshadow the amendments off the back of the CCC report, has waited until the absolute last minute. Not only have these amendments been made on the hop; they have been made without any consultation. Where is the transparency and accountability? Where is the scrutiny? This is just another example of a government in chaos and crisis engulfing this tired and lazy third-term government. They have checked out and their appalling record on law and order and their failure to keep communities safe is being headlined in the media every day as more and more victims of crime muster the courage to speak out.

The CCC's report entitled *Protecting the lives of children and their sexual safety* contains 23 recommendations that seek to improve the 2004 CP(ORPO) Act. Yet in a staggering display of arrogance, the government has not addressed or acknowledged the CCC's recommendations by way of a revised bill, rather it has wilfully wasted the commission's time at great taxpayer expense for what can only be described as procedural window-dressing.

During their review, the CCC dutifully called for submissions, interviewed specialist police who administer the act and prosecutors from the DPP. They collected official quantitative data from the Queensland Police Service, Queensland courts, Corrective Services and reviewed peer reviewed journal articles. They also examined the public submissions made to two recent bills that sought to amend the act—bills, mind you, that were essentially incomplete without the CCC's input and were tabled in parliament without the government's due diligence. This demonstrates a flagrant disregard for the CCC's importance and role. How insulting! How arrogant! Yet the government, day in day out, expect Queenslanders to believe they have their best interests at heart. How do they do this? Simply by selling half-truths masquerading as solutions to problems the government does not generally understand nor want to address.

The summary of recommendations by the CCC are grouped under four key areas that are set out to improve the operation of the policies and practices of the act, known as the scheme: improve the targeting and capture of the scheme; demonstrate the protective impact of the scheme, otherwise how do we know if it is working; improve the safeguards within the scheme; and improve the clarity about risk and response within the scheme. These are the cluster crucial adjustments and strengthening of amendments recommended by the CCC. Alas, ignorance is bliss for this lazy Labor government and remain just words on a page.

You just have to look at the lack of police resourcing to gauge the government's appetite for real change. There are currently 3,971 registered child sex offenders at large across Queensland and only 44 dedicated police officers to monitor them. My LNP colleagues and I, together with QPS officers, have repeatedly called on the government to address this shortfall. Police officer numbers have fallen well below historic police-to-population ratios, and without addressing this reality recent amendments to the CPOR bill will place approximately 1,700 extra reportable offenders on the register by 2028, taking the total to 5,722, making it even harder for police who are already struggling to monitor dangerous sex offenders. Senior police admitted during the committee hearing for these amendments earlier this year that they had not requested that legislative change and that it was a decision of government. Perhaps this government could start listening to frontline police and experts and maybe even listen to the recommendations made by the CCC before legislating announcements that may sound good in a press release but fail to enhance law enforcement's ability to better protect our kids.

The Queensland Law Society is also on record as stating that the amendments proposed to the offender reporting scheme are inextricably linked to matters being examined in the CCC's review, which we now know have been ignored and filed away somewhere. Put simply, the police powers and resources available to monitor compliance are simply not there. Tougher laws are nothing without the ability to enforce them. We must protect our children with real laws that are backed up with real resources. Anything less is a fairytale.

There is nothing more heartbreaking, more heinous and more unthinkable than the sexual exploitation and abuse of innocent children. There has been a harrowing increase in the incidents of online and device offending since the start of the COVID pandemic. In 2020 the then home affairs minister, Peter Dutton, reported there had been a 163 per cent increase in downloads of child sex abuse material in just three months between April and June that year. Advances in technology have provided new ways for child sex offenders to engage, groom and offend against children without leaving their home. Online device offences include: using the internet to procure children under 16; possessing child exploitation material; trafficking in children; grooming a child to engage in sexual activity outside Australia—which is an offence in the Commonwealth Criminal Code; and possessing child exploitation material, to name a few. It may surprise many mums and dads to know that, under current child protection laws, police are prevented from entering a convicted child sex offender's home to inspect a device without the offender's consent. Little wonder police in this state feel powerless to keep their community safe.

The ability to forensically inspect an offender's digital footprint is crucial to stop or interrupt reoffending. The eSafety Commissioner told the Community Support and Services Committee that nearly one in three children aged between 14 and 17 years of age have experience in the practice of sexting, in which children publish intimate images on their phone. Thus is the nature of the world our children find themselves in today—so vulnerable, so unwitting and so exposed to the underbelly of adult crimes. We seem to be losing the battle of retaining innocence, privacy and safety for our children, and we are fighting the war on multiple fronts.


The LNP federal government called on all states to sign up to a national register of child sex offenders to help stop perpetrators from going undetected in different states. Premier Palaszczuk said that Queensland would not sign up because greater sharing of information about these criminals would



force them further underground. Really? How much further underground can they go? Queensland's first register of child sex offenders was established in 2004. Of the 3,982 reportable offenders in the community, 55 are considered high risk because they have been subject to a dangerous prisoner sex offender order.

It is a vital priority of government to keep pace with emerging trends and crime patterns, and feedback from frontline personnel like police provides timely and important data about new threats to our safety. Changing offender patterns and behaviours have placed our children at significant risk and we must act quickly, but we must get it right. Even though the CCC found holes and recommended important improvements to our child protection system, the government has not listened and still has not mandated further checks and balances to better protect our children in the best possible way. As I mentioned at the outset, the appropriateness and efficacy of the bill's amendments have not been considered by the CCC prior to the CCC's much anticipated 2023 review. Whilst I do support some of the specific amendments in relation to the CPOR bill, due to the number of amendments that were tabled without notice by the minister I am not in a position at this stage to support this bill.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): Before I call the next member, I remind the following members that they are under a warning: the members for Pine Rivers, Gaven, Mansfield, Thuringowa, Bonney, Mudgeeraba, Whitsunday, Gympie, Chatsworth, Maryborough, Callide and Bundaberg.

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (6.35 pm): I rise today to speak on the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I specifically wish to speak in support of the amendments circulated that amend the Mineral Resources Act 1989. These amendments achieve an outcome for a workers camp at Byerwen mine in the Bowen Basin which has been heavily scrutinised. While I am on my feet it is probably a great opportunity to acknowledge that in the public gallery we have with us tonight members of the Isaac Regional Council. I would like to acknowledge Deputy Mayor Kelly Vea Vea, Councillor Gina Lacey and Daniel Wagner, who is the director of planning and many, many other things, I understand. Well done! It is great to have them here, particularly for this really important piece of legislation.

The amendments are about more than just the scrutiny of that miners camp: the amendments provide certainty for all involved. They provide certainty to the mine and its many hundreds of workers as the mine continues to operate. They provide certainty to local government in relation to land use approvals and economic outcomes, but most of all they provide certainty to the people of Glenden. These amendments seek to secure the long-term future of Glenden, and they will ensure that the residents of Glenden share in the economic and social benefits of a billion dollar resource project in the Isaac region.

The residents of Glenden, a small mining town, have increasingly been concerned about the town's future, as had the Isaac Regional Council. This comes as the nearby Glencore Newlands mine winds down its operations. Fortunately for Glenden, the end of one mine does not necessarily mean the end of a town. In 2017 the Byerwen mine was approved. It is a similar distance away from Glenden as the Newlands mine is—about 45 kilometres west by road. It is fair to say that, as a consequence of the commitments made by the proponents of the Byerwen mine in terms of how they prefer to accommodate their workers, the residents of Glenden saw the Byerwen mine as an opportunity to stop the decline of the town and encourage its growth again. The Byerwen mine is a significant project—a significant project. It employs 750 people, and that is expected to rise to around 900 people at peak production. That is an amazing number of workers.


This government has a strong track record in making sure that regional communities get their fair share, particularly from significant resource projects in the area. This is demonstrated through the introduction of the Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Act 2017, which banned 100 per cent fly-in fly-out workers and promotes employment opportunities for locals. The amendments being considered today are an extension of those requirements as the Byerwen mine predates that act. In practice, they will give legislative effect to the grant of a mining lease that considers the social impacts of the resource project on the town of Glenden.

This would have happened under the Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Act should the social impact considerations of that act have applied to the mining lease application, but they do not. To achieve this important outcome, legislative backing is necessary to grant the mining lease with conditions supporting the long-term viability of Glenden. Several existing mine leases for this mine, as well as any future leases, will also be conditioned to require that Byerwen mine's workforce transitions to Glenden. In fact by 31 March 2029 the entire workforce at Byerwen mine will need to be accommodated in Glenden.

Another important component of these requirements is that, of the workers accommodated in Glenden, 30 per cent will need to be housed in residential dwellings. It is intended that these workers are provided residential dwellings—such as houses, townhouses or units—for them to reside in on an ongoing basis. This means that Glenden will see the benefits of a large workforce living in their town in a mix of long-term and short-term accommodation. These arrangements are also consistent with Byerwen's environmental impact statement and workforce accommodation strategy for the Byerwen Coal Mine project.

I have consulted directly with Byerwen Coal and the Isaac Regional Council to determine a way forward on the lease that might balance their competing interests and concerns. It is my expectation in the first six months that an implementation plan will be developed with these stakeholders. I would like to thank Byerwen Coal, Glencore and the Isaac Regional Council for their input right throughout this process. We understand that time will be required to get this transition right. As a result, we have included a five-year transition period in the legislation. This allows for the investment in accommodation, the transfer of assets and relevant planning approvals to take place. The Queensland government will work with Byerwen Coal, Glencore and the Isaac Regional Council to facilitate a smooth transition.

Ultimately, the amendments seek to provide a fair and balanced approach to securing a long-term future for both the Byerwen mine and the town of Glenden. They keep the mine open and operating, supporting hundreds of jobs, and we show that the Queensland government is going to support regional communities. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (6.41 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. I would like to follow some of the comments of previous speakers on this side of the chamber about the lack of consultation when it comes to the amendments which were tabled about 17 minutes before the bill was debated—I repeat, 17 minutes. These amendments are greater than the bill in its entirety. We are looking at 48 pages of legislation, and there are 57 pages of amendments.

In this parliament we have one legislative chamber, so we rely heavily on our committee system to scrutinise legislation and get community feedback about legislation. I notice that there were a fair few submitters to the original bill itself, including institutions like the Queensland Law Society. They always like to put their point of view on very important legislation. They did not get an opportunity to talk about the amendments which were tabled 17 minutes before debate on this legislation began.

**Mrs Gerber:** Amendments that decriminalise offences.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** I take that interjection from the member for Currumbin. These amendments have far-reaching consequences and they need to be scrutinised. We have one chamber in this parliament. We do not have a Legislative Council like other parliaments in Australia. We rely on our committee system to be robust, and if that committee system is circumvented by government members in this parliament then it turns the whole system into a sham.

I am very passionate when it comes to child safety and child protection. I always have been. I have two beautiful daughters and one beautiful son. Like all members in this chamber, we want to make sure that the laws in place are the toughest and strongest they can be. As I said, we rely on our committee system to act as a check and balance to ensure that the laws we debate in this place are the best they can be. What we see here tonight is an absolute failure in the Westminster system and a failure of democracy in this state. These laws should be put before a committee and discussed by submitters and interested parties throughout this state to make sure there are no unintended consequences.

I am absolutely furious. I share the anger of the member for Maiwar about this. It is just ridiculous that we are in this chamber debating literally a whole new bill. The opposition members and the crossbench members have not had any time whatsoever to properly scrutinise this and to allow community groups to properly scrutinise this.

In all honesty, I am not upset about some of the amendments that have been put forward, such as those to do with ever-changing technology with MAC addresses—that is, media access control addresses. I understand where the police are coming from in that respect, but it would be better if we could properly scrutinise it through a committee process. We set up the committee process because we do not have an upper house: we do not have a Legislative Council.

**Mrs Gerber:** They are in too much of a state of chaos to be able to do it properly.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** I also take that interjection. We are in a state of chaos in this parliament. It is like we are literally chasing after—

**Mr Watts:** We are not; Labor are.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** Labor is literally chasing after issues which are continuously happening out in the community.


I would like to discuss the point about VPNs and changing technology. Technology is continuously changing. You can easily change a MAC address through software, and I understand where the amendments are coming from with that. In terms of child safety in our schools, I was on a committee a few years ago—and the member for Townsville was the committee chair—and the inquiry discussed sexting and the transmission of images over mobile devices, such as mobile phones. When we found out how common that was, it was truly horrifying. If parents knew how common that was, they would be truly shocked. So, yes, those parts of the legislation do actually have merit, but what are the potential unintended consequences of these changes? That is why this system needs to be properly scrutinised. We need the submitter groups to properly look at the legislation to ensure we get it right. Giving us 17 minutes to go over something which for all intents and purposes is a whole new bill is completely unacceptable and is a slap in the face of the residents—

**Mr Watts:** And democracy.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** And democracy. We were elected in this place to scrutinise this type of legislation. As I said, I am very passionate when it comes to child safety. I want my family to be as secure as possible when it comes to these online predators—and I am sure every other member in this place feels the same—but we need to make sure we get the legislation right in the first place. We seem to always be coming into this chamber and facing all of these amendments because something has gone wrong with an amendment at the last minute, and then we have to change it again and change it again and change it again.

This reminds me of groundhog day. We are going back over and over issues when we need to ensure that the committee system holds proper consultation with the community and with people like the Queensland Law Society and all these different submitters.

As the member for Currumbin pointed out earlier, in the amendments which were tabled, there is only half a page of consultation. That is absolutely ridiculous. This is really important legislation. It is disgraceful that we are debating something with so little time to properly scrutinise it and properly read over it. It is like we are covering this up. The problem is we are continuously seeing a government in chaos and in crisis, and this is not in the best interests of Queenslanders and certainly not in the best interests of child protection.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (6.50 pm): I rise in support of the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. As we know, technology is constantly evolving: we see it in our everyday lives. Whilst that brings benefits, it also means that the methodologies used by those who wish to visit harm onto others are also evolving as that technology evolves. The bill that is currently before the House which we are debating is a bill that gives our police additional detection, investigation and enforcement powers to catch and disrupt the efforts of those who would wish to visit harm upon the most vulnerable in our society—our children. These are vile offenders that have evil in their hearts. That is the primary objective of this bill.

This bill seeks to achieve that objective through enhancing and expanding the range of tools and strategies that will help keep Queensland children safe. We will do this through technology that is based on catching offenders that are using anonymising software or vault and black hole applications, anonymising software such as virtual private networks and Tor software—technologies that have provided new ways for child sexual offenders to engage in grooming and offending against children without leaving their home and unable to be detected because this software helps prevent their identity being tracked. A person who is using this anonymising software can access, disseminate or receive information without their personal information, including their geolocation, being revealed to others, including our police. It hinders and prevents our police from monitoring the online activities of these offenders.

This bill requires reportable offenders to report the possession or use of this anonymising software as a personal detail, and it also requires that these offenders also report what is called vault and black hole applications. These are applications that are designed to hide digital information and keep it secure. These applications can look like common desktop icons—for example, a calculator. They do have legitimate uses because people use them to store their sensitive personal information, such as banking or business information, but there are those such as these vile offenders who use these applications for nefarious purposes. This bill requires that the possession or use of these vault or black hole applications are reported to the police.

The bill also provides amendment for the framework around device inspections where reportable offenders that are convicted of an offence under the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act are subject to device inspections. This bill empowers police to be able to enter the residences of these reportable offenders to undertake an inspection, and require offenders to produce each device they possess or use for inspection. This bill includes an offence provision where a reportable offender fails to comply with this requirement to produce a digital device. This new offence is an indictable offence with a maximum penalty of 300 penalty units or five years imprisonment. It is good to see these offence provisions being substantially strengthened.

The bill also expands the number of prescribed internet offences by an additional nine offences which have been included to catch child sexual offenders, including such things as child exploitation material offences, trafficking and grooming offences. Importantly, these new prescribed offences will operate retrospectively to ensure all reportable offenders who have been convicted of these offences are subject to much higher levels of monitoring by police.

It was a Queensland Labor government that introduced the Dangerous Prisoner (Sexual Offenders) Act in 2003 and the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act in 2004—the strongest legislation in the nation at the time and which was copied by other jurisdictions. It is the Palaszczuk government that recently increased reporting periods for child sex offenders to 10 years for the first reportable offence, 20 years for the second and then reporting for life for subsequent offences.

To contrast that with the record of the LNP when they were last in government, they cut police monitoring of sex offenders, they closed prisons and they sacked police and corrective services staff. I want to acknowledge the work as a corrective officer of the member for Caloundra who has spoken in this place about his personal experience and his colleagues' experiences under an LNP government and how their cuts and their sackings absolutely decimated corrective services here in Queensland. The LNP in government cut the monitoring of more than 1,700 sex offenders. This is despite the LNP having evidence that 14 to 16 per cent of sex offenders reoffend in the first five years after their release. The very evidence that the LNP relied on at the time to justify cutting the monitoring of these 1,700 offenders from the Child Protection Offender Register indicated that they were still at risk of reoffending.

Under the watch of the LNP we saw a murderer escape from low security, we saw a serial paedophile who was caught kissing and groping a 12-year-old boy in public—we saw so many instances of horrible, vile crimes after they cut the monitoring of these sex offenders.

I am proud to be able to stand in this place to support this bill under the Palaszczuk Labor government that is going to bring forward a tougher, more stringent and more effective set of laws and regulations that will empower our police to monitor, to catch and to punish vile sexual offenders in Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr McCallum, adjourned.

## ADJOURNMENT

### Buderim Electorate, Noise Abatement; Disability Assistance Animals



**Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (7.00 pm): Residents in my electorate have had enough. Residents in Sippy Downs, Tanawha and Mountain Creek have all had enough. They have had enough suffering under constant droning road noise at their back fence emanating from the Bruce Highway and the Sunshine Motorway. Residents have had enough of government inaction, bureaucratic processes and excuses.

In each of those suburbs the Department of Transport and Main Roads has undertaken noise monitoring. In Tanawha noise monitoring was completed in May 2019 and February 2021. In both instances the 10-year horizon prediction was 69 decibels, which exceeds the departmental threshold of 68 decibels at which point noise attenuation measures should be implemented—a threshold, I might add, that I think is too high. Despite exceeding those measures, there will be no noise attenuation barrier built under this Palaszczuk Labor government.

My constituents have told me of young children waking up at all hours because of constant road noise and of exhaust brakes at 3 am. Steven told me that his Sunday morning front porch coffee is now just about loud road noise and he has given up. Residents cannot have their neighbours over for a barbecue. They cannot leave their windows open to cool their house on a warm Sunshine Coast evening. Allison and Terry tell me that since the vegetation along the Bruce Highway was cleared, the

increasing noise has been 'horrendous' and that it has had a huge impact on their mental health. Steven, Allison, Terry and their neighbours should not have to suffer because the state government will not listen to their concerns and because it will not build the noise attenuation barriers that would ease their burden.

After years of being ignored by the state government, Tanawha residents asked me to present a petition highlighting their concerns in relation to the removal of vegetation, the increase in highway noise as a result of the vegetation removal, and the lack of noise and safety barriers on the Bruce Highway, the Ilkley overpass and the Sunshine Motorway. I table a petition highlighting their concerns and I ask that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads respond to their concerns.

*Tabled paper:* Nonconforming petition regarding concerned residents of Tanawha about Department of Transport and Main Roads [1184].

If the state government will not listen to the concerns of Tanawha residents, Sippy Downs residents and Mountain Creek residents and build adequate noise attenuation measures to reduce the impact of road noise, then I will make sure that a future LNP government does.

In the time I have remaining I would like to address the issue of disability assistance animals and the importance of facilitating access for all members of our society. Unfortunately, many Queenslanders who rely on an assistance animal consistently face barriers and discrimination that limits their ability to take advantage of the services that most Queenslanders take for granted.

Today Palmview resident Mr Scott Dwyer and I met with the deputy director-general, tourism to raise the need for more work to be done to support those members of our community who utilise assistance animals when visiting tourism destinations. Scott is an advocate who has travelled extensively with his assistance dog and he shares his experiences to better educate the community and to drive better outcomes for those who rely on assistance animals. I would like to thank the deputy director-general for taking the time to listen and for his offer to work collaboratively with Scott to leverage his lived experience, particularly given that this year is the Year of Accessible Tourism.

### Voice to Parliament



**Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algerie—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (7.04 pm): The year before I was born, Quandamooka woman Oodgeroo Noonuccal was a key campaigner in a once-in-a-generation opportunity, the 1967 referendum, which urged two very modest alterations to the Constitution. They were alterations that ensured First Australians were included in the national census for the first time since Federation and provided the ability for the Commonwealth parliament to make special laws pertaining to First Peoples of this country wherever they may live should the Commonwealth parliament see fit.


History tells us that over 90 per cent of voters voted in favour, which made it the highest yes vote ever recorded in a federal referendum. Sadly, history also shows us that Commonwealth governments of all persuasions since and with varying levels of goodwill have made less than satisfactory progress on the appalling gap that exists between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

In the time since that referendum, there have been numerous commissions of inquiries, reviews and reports brought about by the unacceptable treatment and marked disadvantage being experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across the nation, all recommending in one way or another the need for a First Peoples voice to help shape the policy and program responses needed to make change. Since that referendum, Commonwealth governments of all persuasions have stood up and/or abandoned several representative bodies through which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians were formally involved in the processes of government affecting their lives: ATSIC, the national Indigenous council and the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples. Consequently, the unacceptable levels of disadvantage have persisted.

This year as we prepare for this once-in-a-generation opportunity, a referendum that seeks to end this sad, sorry cycle and enshrine a body in our Constitution that cannot be abandoned by government, I cannot help thinking about the late Oodgeroo Noonuccal, my Auntie Kath Walker, and the many Indigenous and non-Indigenous people who campaigned so hard in 1967 to begin the journey toward a fairer Australia. I think about their sense of generational responsibility, how each generation faces their challenges seeking to make things better for the next. I think about the conviction they maintained with every conversation, some of which I am sure would have been just as challenging as those we are having today.

I recently attended an information session about the referendum with community leader Noel Pearson in my electorate of Algeester at the Belong community centre. Not all participants were in absolute agreement, but I am sure all understood that this is a significant moment in time, in the same way it was in 1967. Leading into this session I spoke with Yuval, a local volunteer at the community centre, who was deeply passionate about building better opportunities for people across the community. He is embarking on respectful conversations with his family, friends and neighbours to help dispel myths and support a yes vote, the same way that Oodgeroo Noonuccal did in 1967 and the same way that I am and that many other Australians are this year. We on this side of the House support Voice, treaty and truth.

### Rural Fire Service Volunteers

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (7.07 pm): Further to announcements today about budget allocations for rural fires and providing new replacement vehicles and increasing investment, I need to raise what appears to be a disappointing bureaucratic decision in dealing with our 26,000 Rural Fire Service volunteers across the state. Rural Fire Service volunteers have raised many times the need for a supply of a dress uniform which has been denied with the response, 'No, you are not entitled.' I sympathise with our volunteers who turn up to events like Firefighters Remembrance Day, medal and award ceremonies and funerals et cetera after asking for a dress uniform like all other organisations have. It is embarrassing when urban fires are all dressed the same in dress uniforms looking really professional and the rural fires present, in their words, looking like Brown's cows. It is an absolute embarrassment and an affront to rural members, who show pride in the various brigades, to have to present in operational uniforms.

I have received reports of members applying this year for jackets and winter apparel only to be told no. We have heard of requisition forms being submitted for a pair of dress boots to be utilised at official functions only to be refused on the grounds that members already have a pair of boots. The existing boots are turnout boots which are worn while fighting fires and in everyday operational activities and then they are expected to wear them at these important events.


On behalf of the volunteer rural firefighters in Queensland, I request that they be issued a dress uniform, which has been suggested to me—a shirt, a tie, long pants all of the same colour and some elasticised boots that they can utilise. It needs to be stressed that the ongoing issuing of cargo pants and polo shirts should be specifically used for deployment and training only.

I take this opportunity to again raise the issue of a blue card on behalf of many volunteers across Queensland and in my electorate who are still battling. This is affecting recruitment and retention. These issues have not gone away. I share their concerns that we have lost thousands of volunteers due to the ludicrous rule that classifies them as 'health workers'. I do acknowledge this issue has been raised several times. Of course, it is about child safety. We are not trying to cheapen the issue, but I do say it would be very rare to see a child on a fire ground.

The issue that has been brought to my attention is not so much when getting the card but when renewing it. Now that they have moved over to the transport department, they have to produce a new photo on a regular basis. That puts another bureaucrat burden on these men and women volunteers who provide so much.

In the time that I have left to me, I want to remind members that the Parliamentary Friends of Rural Fire Brigades will here in parliament, in the Undumbi Room, on 12 September. I mention the member for Nicklin, Rob Skelton, and the member for Hill, Shane Knuth, for their work. I give a shout-out to the member for Maryborough and others who have been to Camp Gregory recently for the second-hand appliance that was repurposed. I thank all who did the important work for the fire brigade.

### Stafford Electorate, Charities

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (7.10 pm): I rise to talk about the wonderful charity arm of the Prince Charles Hospital, the Common Good. I am proud to represent in this place the Prince Charles Hospital, the Common Good and their staff. Other members might know the Common Good for their iconic Ekka strawberry sundaes. I know that the Premier and the minister for agriculture—the farmer's friend—have spoken about the success of this year's Ekka. I want to reflect on the lasting legacy the Ekka will leave for the important medical research that is underway at the Common Good, co-located at the Prince Charles Hospital.


I thank CEO Steve Francia, general manager Mick Dwane and the entire team at the Common Good who manage a whole matrix of moving pieces, both at this time of year and across the entire year, in terms of building partnerships and getting support for the medical research they deliver. I thank the thousands of volunteers who made it all happen. It was great to work alongside them. To be honest, the Common Good make no apologies: they put us to work. I did my shift on People's Day, on the Wednesday public holiday, as did Darren Mitchell from my office. I still have a few cuts from the strawberry chopping and the scooping, but it is worth it. I am sure he will not mind me mentioning that one of the customers I served—I handed a strawberry sundae to him and his family—was none other than the Clerk of the Parliament. I think he was legitimately shocked at being recognised in his civilian clothing at the Ekka, the poor guy.

**An honourable member:** He wasn't wearing a suit.

**Mr SULLIVAN:** I might make a complaint to the Speaker: he was not in a suit. It was terrible! I am yet to hear any constructive feedback as to the quality control on the sundae. I hope that the ratio of strawberry to ice cream was sufficient for Mr Neil. I hope it was fine. In great news, this year a record 150,000 sundaes were served, beating the previous record of 127,000. It was fantastic.

I say a particular thank you to Stone & Wood. The week before, they launched a craft strawberry sundae flavoured beer. Those who know me know that my wife is a professional who has a career in her own right. With kids, sport and everything else, we have to crosscheck our calendars. I had in the diary 'Common Good event'. When I walked out the door and said, 'I'm off to launch the craft beer at Stone & Wood,' I will not repeat what was said; it was not parliamentary! It was a very successful day. Thank you to Stone & Wood and all of our other corporate partners.

### The Polish Place

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (7.13 pm): If any members have visited Tamborine Mountain, there is a chance they may have visited the Polish Place. In September 1983, Phil and Ania Sowter started this restaurant and accommodation business. Recently they announced that the restaurant will close its doors on 3 September 2023—40 years to the day since it opened. I wish to place on record the region's appreciation for the Polish Place.

**Mr Stevens:** The pork ham hocks are beautiful!

**Mr KRAUSE:** I take that interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. Phil and Ania Sowter and the Polish Place were true trailblazers on Tamborine Mountain and helped to set the example and the tone for tourism businesses on the mountain. They have worked so hard for so long to ensure the people who visited Tamborine Mountain—the jewel in the crown of Scenic Rim tourism, one of the Lonely Planet's top 10 regions of the world to visit—had an unforgettable experience. The Polish Place is renowned for warm welcomes, the spectacular views to the west out over the Scenic Rim, delicious authentic Polish food and, of course, Polish drinks. I have enjoyed their hospitality, including some Polish beer, as have thousands of others from all around the world.


The Polish Place is famous in the Polish community in Queensland and Australia. More than that, the Sowters and the Polish Place are an institution on the mountain. I have spoken with Phil quite a number of times about his fond memories of teaching at local schools in earlier years, before the Polish Place became his full-time enterprise. Ania's imprint on the place is undeniable. As a native of Poland, she has ensured authenticity in the name 'the Polish Place' from 1983 until today.

The true grit and inner strength of this family was on display in 2016 when fire tragically destroyed the restaurant. Giving up and not rebuilding was not an option for this family, and they rebuilt. It was an arduous process of dealing with insurers, builders, designers, local government and state authorities to ensure the end of the Polish Place was not marked by the tragedy of fire but at a time of their choosing.

Phil and Anna's two daughters, Bella and Kathryn, have also played their role in this family business, and I thank the entire family for their hard work and for their warmth and generosity towards everyone who visited the Polish Place. I wish them all the best for whatever comes next in their life.

The accommodation business will still be open, so people are welcome to stay at the Polish Place any time. Along with many others, I will miss the opportunity to sit with the lorikeets—and there are a lot of lorikeets that come to their deck—look out over the Scenic Rim and enjoy a beer and hearty Polish fare. Thank you Phil and Anna, Bella and Kathryn for your contribution to tourism and businesses on Tamborine Mountain. I wish you all the best for the future.

### Vietnam Veterans; Vietnamese Women's Association

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (7.16 pm): It has been sensational to have some amazing events in all of our communities over the winter recess. Just last weekend I had the real privilege of attending two events that were not only very special but also interconnected. As members would know, last weekend we commemorated 50 years since the allied forces left Vietnam. My Centenary RSL, capably led by president Georges, gathered with many Vietnam veterans and many more community service members to pay their respects to our fallen and returned servicepeople. Many members of my Centenary RSL are, of course, Vietnam veterans, so the day was especially poignant for them. Servicemen Lancaster and McDougall shared fantastic—I will not call them speeches—recollections of their time in the armed forces. At the end, and at the beginning, there was a fantastic flyover. There was also an incredibly moving presentation to the veterans of scarves that were made in Australia.

That night, the RSL and special guests gathered at the fabulous Que Huong restaurant in Darra which, loosely translated from Vietnamese, means 'my homeland'. All of the personnel were presented with cufflinks and a tiepin for their service by the mighty Keith Buck. He is 100 years young and still has a sharp sense of humour. He is our oldest RSL member in the community. What was especially poignant was to have a significant cohort of the Vietnamese Women's Association at both events. Led by the wonderful Mai Nguyen, they were there to remind everybody in the community about the millions of Vietnamese who had to flee their homeland and who now call countries like Australia home.


My community of Mount Ommaney, as members would be aware, has a very significant Vietnamese Australian community. Many members of the Vietnamese Australian community came to Australia on boats, lived in the Wacol Migrant Centre in the electorate of Inala, just a stone's throw from my community, and settled nearby in the western suburbs. I do not need to tell members about the significant contribution they have made.

I am also very excited to tell members about the wonderful dinner hosted by the women's association on Saturday night. Hundreds of people came from all over Australia to celebrate Vu Lan, which is a Vietnamese mothers celebration. The day was emceed by Tram and Lin. Members may be interested to know that in Vietnam Mother's Day is not a one-day celebration; it goes for the month of August.

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms PUGH:** That is right. I talk about birthday months, member for Pine Rivers; they have the right idea for Mother's Day. It is the mothers month of August. It was fitting that I could take my oldest daughter to celebrate Vu Lan. We had such a wonderful day. We wore our Ao Dais, and there was dancing by Belest and karaoke. One of the Vietnam veterans, John Bradley, sang a song in Vietnamese. It was amazing.

### Voluntary Assisted Dying


 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (7.19 pm): In response to requests, tonight I share the gratitude from those who have passed with dignity and their families since the voluntary assisted dying legislation commenced this year as well as our palliative doctors, nurses and hospices that have ensured that their last wishes of choosing their time of passing surrounded by loved ones are honoured. We have heard many heartwarming stories. As with any piece of new legislation, we know that there may be need for improvements after implementation. Brought forward so far to our office has been the need to look again at some of the constraints and barriers to Queenslanders. These include the criteria of residency, as to access VAD you must be an Australian citizen, a permanent resident of Australia or have been ordinarily a resident in Australia for at least three years prior to making the first request. Seeking exemptions when you have been out of the country for family or work reasons can be problematic.

There remains uncertainty around using telehealth for some parts of the VAD process due to an alleged conflict with sections of the Commonwealth Criminal Code designed to prevent the use of carriage services. This is presently causing issues with some doctors hesitant to be involved, impacting patients in remote areas. We then have situations unforeseen. As shared by one family, their loved one had made arrangements for an end-of-life injection by the administering practitioner on a particular day. However, when the pain became unmanageable, with the only option available sedation, this day needed to be brought forward which was initially not possible as the designated practitioner was not available. This led to a distressing situation for his family to find a way to honour his wishes as the legislation requires that an administering practitioner may only administer VAD if at the time the person has decision-making capacity, which sedation takes away.



How does the patient or their family choose the incredible pain and suffering for days just to retain decision-making capacity to work in with the availability of an administering practitioner? This could be avoided if there was capacity within the process for a second administering practitioner should the first become unavailable. The requirement for decision-making capacity at time of administration is vital. However, when a patient has already undergone an extensive process of a first assessment, a consulting assessment, a second request, a final request and a final review, their intent is known. Would not their wishes before sedation be accepted as having decision-making capacity? With Victoria and Western Australia about to undertake their own reviews, may we take their experiences as well as ours forward into our own review in January 2026.

### Nicklin Electorate, Events


 **Mr SKELTON** (Nicklin—ALP) (7.22 pm): It was a busy weekend in the electorate of Nicklin. Friday night under lights I watched the Nambour Toads at 'Toad Manor' in Woombye clinch a nailbiting 13-12 win over Noosa in the senior men's Rugby grand final. Sorry, Sandy. On Saturday in Nambour I dropped into the museum with a beer glass from the old Sunshine Plantation kindly found and returned by my good mate the member for Mundingburra at a garage sale in Townsville. Curator Clive said it is almost 50 years old and it joins the rest of the Big Pineapple collection. Also on Saturday in Nambour I attended the new Challenge Accepted gel ball facility on Price Street for a tournament championship. I had the great pleasure of having a blast and handing out the prizes in this new and exciting sport.

On Sunday the town of Yandina held its first annual Yandina Street Fair since before the COVID-19 pandemic. This was a momentous day for Yandina. Thank you to all of the businesses, community organisations, committee members and volunteers that worked so hard to make the 2023 Yandina Street Fair such a success. It was wonderful to see everyone in attendance celebrating our region and everything it has to offer. The main street of Yandina was full and bustling with thousands of visitors—a surely welcome sight for local business owners and the community. I want to personally thank each of the committee: Greg, the chairman; Terri, who took the roles of secretary and administration and organised the street performers; Jo, who took care of finance as well as public relations alongside Holly; Belinda, who organised the entertainment; and stalls and amusements were managed by Cindy and Noah. The Yandina QCWA had its successful raffle, with prizes donated from local businesses and organisations going to some very thrilled winners. Well done, Maureen and the ladies! The hall of arts had a wonderful local history display, with local Deb Collier getting around in an 1870s dress that she handmade herself to add to the colourful spectacle. The stall holders included the Yandina State School and the Nambour Yandina United Football Club, to name just a few.

Overall, the Yandina Street Fair was an outstanding event with a huge amount of effort and input from the Yandina community and the Street Fair Committee. It was my pleasure to be a sponsor and hand certificates of appreciation to the other people who also sponsored it. Congratulations to the winners of the eight raffles that were up for grabs on the day. It is a great thing to see our local communities in Nicklin busy and thriving. I speak for everyone when I say we are looking forward to next year's Street Fair with great anticipation. My apologies for not being able to name everyone involved and everyone that I have spoken with over the days since.

Lastly, I give a special shout-out to the Yandina North Arm Rural Fire Brigade that was there beforehand to help set up at 5.30 and stayed afterwards until well after 7.30 to clean up and hose down the streets. It was a long day for the crew, who have since already been out this week back-burning. Your local member owes you a few tinnies. It was a pleasure to attend all of the events and it is a privilege to represent this community.

### Mermaid Beach Electorate, Sex Workers

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (7.25 pm): I am aware that there is a proposal being promulgated by the CFMEU and the radical left of the Labor Party to allow multiple sex workers to ply their trade in residential areas. This is another example of the extreme left in the Labor Party in control, as no-one with any sense of practical outcomes would allow this flawed policy to become law. It has been tried before with disastrous results, and that is why the Labor Party's own legislation restricted multiple sex workers to industrial and commercial areas. After all, it is a business and I am loath to call it 'home occupation'. As a former mayor of Albert shire, we had two big burly ex-coppers in our compliance department—big Bob Lee and big John O'Connor—who would move freelance sex workers on from residential areas, with some being in high-class suburban streets. The alerts to this activity would come from neighbours of the said property who would get knocks on the door at all hours, with

sex work customers asking, 'Does Ruby, Fanny or Antoinette live here?' That is quite scary and infuriating. It would be even worse if sex workers are operating out of a Gold Coast high-rise—no pun intended.

From the sex workers' point of view, when the existing legislation was passed by Labor we were told that controlled and organised brothels in industrial and commercial areas gave safety and security to workers who might otherwise be subjected to pimps and protection men and other criminal activity. What has changed? Added to that, the significance of health checks through the existing regime is an important facet of an industry where not all of the participants are 100 per cent socially responsible about caring about passing on sexually communicable disease. Is that a good outcome for a chaotic and crisis-ridden health system? I think not. This will open the door for criminals exploiting the sex industry, with overseas young women being placed in residential apartments and homes without monitoring and due care.

I cannot believe the Palaszczuk government would sign off on legislation that will lead to exploitation and degradation of young women at the hands of unscrupulous operators. The current controlled, checked and operationally directed regime for the sex work industry seems to be working appropriately under the existing legislation. I cannot imagine what has prompted this kneejerk reaction from the loony left faction of the ALP, but I am sure my communities of Mermaid Beach and Broadbeach will be inundated with promiscuous behaviour in my suburbs and the aptly named Hooker Boulevard in Broadbeach will end up being just that. Surely common sense should prevail and this ill-thought, problem-creating, suburb-sabotaging legislation should be abandoned before it sees the light of day in this House. The old adage 'If it ain't broken, don't try to fix it' should apply to this different and ancient existing industry.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): Member for Mermaid Beach, did this anticipate the debate?

**Mr STEVENS:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I checked the amendments to the legislation this afternoon and this does not impinge on it at all. It is a different matter that is not contained in the amendments that were moved today.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, member.

### **Mansfield Electorate; Layt, Mr S**



**Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (7.28 pm): As usual, the Mansfield electorate has been a hub for exciting activities and events. Recently, it was wonderful to spend my weekend at the Mount Gravatt Show. This beloved show has run for an impressive 107 years and brings an exciting buzz to the streets and homes of my community. I would like to extend my congratulations to the President of the Mount Gravatt Show Society, Greg Goebel, and his team on such a successful event.

In July, I held the second meeting of my Youth Advisory Council at Wishart State School. The topic of the meeting centred around vaping and its impacts on our young people. It was a pleasure to facilitate those conversations, culminating in the students writing a submission to the Health and Environment Committee to aid their inquiry.

Currently, my office in Upper Mount Gravatt is a donation point for Care Kits for Kids. The not-for-profit organisation's co-founder, Stephanie, is a Mansfield local and a former teacher. Stephanie and her team provide free care kits for vulnerable children in their time of need. Recently, I had the privilege of thanking the organisation with the councillor for Morningside, Lucy Collier.

Like many of us, I have been in awe of the mighty Matildas for not only their skill on the field but also the impressive way they have brought our nation together and paved the way for women's sport. The Mansfield electorate and I have a personal connection with this sensational team. Talented midfielder Katrina Gorry grew up playing junior soccer for our beloved Mount Gravatt Hawks. Katrina also attended Cavendish Road State High School where I was formerly the principal. I know our entire community is proud of Katrina and all that she has achieved.

This morning I was very sorry to learn of the loss of one of our local community members, Stuart Layt, who was a respected journalist at the *Brisbane Times* and AAP. Stu was a Mansfield State High School alumnus and later settled down at Rochedale with his wife, Rose, and young daughter, Chloe. Unfortunately, Stu passed away this week at age 40 due to an aggressive form of bowel cancer. Stu's friends have described him as a gentleman and 'one of the nicest guys you could ever meet'. He was highly regarded as a Queensland political reporter and later as a science reporter for the *Brisbane*

*Times* and Nine newspapers. Today, in state parliament the Premier spoke very highly of Stu. My thoughts are with his beloved wife and daughter and his many family and friends. Certainly my community and electorate will mourn his loss.

The House adjourned at 7.31 pm.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Head, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly, King S, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Lui, MacMahon, Madden, Mander, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Perrett, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting