



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 24 August 2023

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THURSDAY, 24 AUGUST 2023


The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

Mr Acting Speaker (Hon. 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.

REPORT


Register of Members' Interests

 **Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I table the 36th report on the Register of Members' Interests.

Tabled paper: Thirty-Sixth Report on the Register of Members' Interests [\[1185\]](#).

PRIVILEGE

Acting Speaker's Ruling, Referral to Ethics Committee

 **Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 13 April 2023, the member for Bundaberg wrote to the Speaker alleging that the member for Nanango deliberately misled the House on 15 March 2023. The matter relates to statements the member for Nanango made during her contribution to the debate on the Strengthening Community Safety Bill, specifically—

... in following the member for Bundaberg ... He did not even mention the victims and hardworking police officers ...

...

Look at them all over there! The member for Bundaberg did not even talk about the victims. He did not even talk about the hardworking police officers.

...

We have been calling for bringing back breach of bail as an offence for years and years and years. I could read pages and pages and pages from history with all of these statements, including from the police minister, the youth justice minister, the Acting Leader of the House right now and the member for Bundaberg. I have got quotes right here.

The member for Bundaberg argued that this is misleading because it misrepresents the contribution he made immediately preceding the member for Nanango in which he mentioned police and victims of crime.

I sought further information from the member for Nanango about the allegation made against her in accordance with standing order 269(5). The member for Nanango submitted her view that a single reference to the word 'victim' does not advocate for victims of crime. The member also apologised for her inadvertent reference to the member for Bundaberg when listing other members who had made past contributions about breach of bail.

Standing order 269(4) requires that in considering whether such a matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee I should take account of the degree of importance of the matter which has been raised and whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter. In considering the submissions before me, I acknowledge that contributions to debate are often made off the cuff. However, consideration of this defence must be balanced with a member's obligation to ensure that statements are accurately attributed to members to avoid any misleading of the House.

Irrespective of the member for Nanango's views on whether the member for Bundaberg adequately advocated for victims of crime, the member for Bundaberg clearly made 'mention' of both victims of crime and police officers during his contribution. On balance, I consider that there is sufficient

material before me to warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee. Therefore, I will be referring the matter to the Ethics Committee. In doing so, I wish to emphasise that I have formed no view as to whether there has been a breach of privilege but, rather, that there are sufficient issues in play to warrant the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I remind members that standing order 271 now applies and members should not refer to this matter in the House.

ACTING SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

School Group Tours



Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from: Emmaus College Jimboomba in the electorate of Logan; Helensvale State School in the electorate of Theodore; Coutts Crossing Public School in New South Wales—I have no member to look at there; Cooloola Christian College in the electorate of Gympie; Toowoomba State High School in the electorate of Toowoomba North; and Clifford Park Special School in the electorate of Toowoomba South.

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

Revocation of Protected Areas and State Forest Areas



Hon. MAJ SCANLON (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing) (9.35 am): I lay upon the table of the House a proposal under section 9 of the Marine Parks Act 2004 and sections 29, 30 and 32 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and a brief explanation of the proposal.

Tabled paper: Revocation of state areas: Proposal under section 9 of the Marine Parks Act 2004 and sections 29, 30 and 32 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and an explanation of the proposal, relating to the Great Sandy Marine Park, Wickham Timber Reserve, Beerwah State Forest, Deer Reserve State Forest, West Cooroy State Forest, Luttons State Forest, Mount Mee State Forest, Daintree National Park, Kamerunga Conservation Park and Tallebudgera Creek Conservation Park [[1186](#)].

NOTICE OF MOTION

Revocation of Protected Areas and State Forest Areas



Hon. MAJ SCANLON (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing) (9.35 am): I give notice that, after the expiration of at least 28 days, as provided in the Marine Parks Act 2004 and the Nature Conservation Act 1992, I shall move—

1. That this House requests the Governor in Council to:
 - (a) revoke by regulation under section 9 of the Marine Parks Act 2004 the declaration of parts of a marine park;
 - (b) revoke by regulation under section 30 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 the setting apart and declaration of the entirety of one timber reserve and one State forest, and parts of four State forests;
 - (c) dedicate by regulation under section 29 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 the revoked areas of the aforementioned State forests and timber reserve as three new conservation parks, part of two existing conservation parks and an addition to one existing national park;
 - (d) revoke by regulation under section 32 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 the dedication of parts of one national park and parts of two conservation parks;

as set out in the Proposal tabled by me in the House today, viz

Description of areas to be revoked

Great Sandy Marine Park	An area of 0.3214 hectares, under, and within 30 metres of the public boat ramp on the north bank of the Kolan River adjacent to the caravan park near Miara Road, Miara, illustrated on the attached sketch as 1.
Great Sandy Marine Park	An area of 0.11 hectares, under, and within 30 metres of the public boat ramp identified as W041 near Burkitt Street, Bargara, illustrated on the attached sketch as 2.
Great Sandy Marine Park	An area of 0.5196 hectares, under, and within 30 metres of the public boat ramp identified as W031 near the Esplanade, Innes Park, illustrated on the attached sketch as 3.

Great Sandy Marine Park	An area of 0.1299 hectares, under, and within 30 metres of the public boat ramp identified as W011 and the public pontoon identified as W012 on the north bank of the Elliott River near McIntosh Avenue, Riverview, illustrated on the attached sketch as 4.
Great Sandy Marine Park	An area of 0.0632 hectares, under, and within 30 metres of the public boat ramp identified as HB56 and the public pontoon identified as H1374 on the south bank of the Burrum River near Ross Street, Burrum Heads, illustrated on the attached sketch as 5.
Great Sandy Marine Park	An area of 0.4743 hectares, under, and within 30 metres of the barge ramp identified as HB13 on the north bank of the Mary River on the eastern side of North Head near North Esplanade, Bingham, illustrated on the attached sketch as 6.
Great Sandy Marine Park	An area of 0.0429 hectares, under, and within 30 metres of the public boat ramps identified as MB40 and MB41 on the west bank of Big Tuan Creek near Bottlebrush Road, Tuan, illustrated on the attached sketch as 7.
Great Sandy Marine Park	An area of 0.0036 hectares, under, and within 30 metres of the public boat ramp identified as T181 near Boat Ramp Drive, Tinnanbar, illustrated on the attached sketch as 8.
Great Sandy Marine Park	An area of 0.3439 hectares, under, and within 30 metres of the public boat ramp adjacent to Log Dump camping area in Tuan State Forest, near Tinnanbar Road on the north bank of Kauri Creek, illustrated on the attached sketch as 9.
Great Sandy Marine Park	An area of 0.2153 hectares, under, and within 30 metres of the public boat ramp identified as W121 at the mouth of Teewah Creek near Toolara Road, Toolara, illustrated on the attached sketch as 10.
Great Sandy Marine Park	An area of 0.6179 hectares, under, and within 30 metres of the barge ramp identified as W150 near Bullock Point Road, Bullock Point, illustrated on the attached sketch as 11.
Great Sandy Marine Park	An area of 0.2092 hectares landward of a line starting at the intersection of the marine park boundary and the parallel of latitude 25°14.687' south, then running progressively westerly along a geodesic to the point of 25°14.702' south 152°48.700' east and then southerly along a geodesic to where the mainland at Highest Astronomical Tide intersects the meridian of longitude 152°48.721' east, that is under and adjacent to the public boat ramp at Point Vernon identified as HB38, illustrated on the attached sketch as 12.
Great Sandy Marine Park	An upstream area of the Kolan River Park containing an area of 7.1192 hectares, near Avondale, associated with relocation of the upstream boundary of the marine park approximately 400 metres downstream, to exclude significant public infrastructure i.e., a rail corridor and weir, from the marine park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Great Sandy Marine Park	An upstream area of the Mary River containing an area of 10.9882 hectares, near Beaver Rock, associated with relocation of the upstream boundary of the park in this waterway approximately 330 metres downstream, to a location that can be more clearly defined, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Great Sandy Marine Park	Two areas at the upstream limit of Snapper Creek containing an area of 5.1213 hectares, at Tin Can Bay, to provide separation between the marine park and significant public infrastructure, i.e., a sewage treatment plant, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Wickham Timber Reserve	An area of about 198 hectares described as lot 766 on FTY1420 excluding lot 766 on AP6326 (to be described as lot 766 on AP23772), for dedication as part of the existing Plunkett Conservation Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Beerwah State Forest	An area of about 129 hectares described as lot 1 on AP22457, for dedication as the new Mooloolah River Conservation Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.

Deer Reserve State Forest	An area of about 994.9696 hectares described as part of lot 637 on FTY1905 (to be described as lots 1, 2 and 638 on AP23775), for dedication as the new Deer Reserve Conservation Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
West Cooroy State Forest	An area of about 1150 hectares described as lot 234 on FTY879 (to be described as lot 234 on AP23773), for dedication as the new West Cooroy Conservation Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Luttons State Forest	An area of about 61.4536 hectares described as part of lot 766 on FTY559 (to be described as lot 1 on AP23774), for dedication as part of the existing Glass House Mountains Conservation Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Mount Mee State Forest	An area of about 16.9031 hectares described as part of lot 893 on FTY1883 (to be described as lot 5 on AP23776), for dedication as part of the existing D'Aguilar National Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Daintree National Park	An area of 8.5687 hectares, described as lot 10 on SP296958 and lots 91 to 94 on W3451, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Kamerunga Conservation Park	An area of 0.821 hectares described as parts of lots 254 and 734 on NR7826 (to be described as lots 100 and 101 on SP339709), as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Tallebudgera Creek Conservation Park	An area of 0.0493 hectares described as part of lot 1 on WD804791 (to be described as lot 2 on SP340173), as illustrated on the attached sketch.

2. That Mr Speaker and the Clerk of the Parliament forward a copy of this resolution to the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for Multicultural Affairs for submission to the Governor in Council.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Vaping



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.36 am): Many of those in the House remember the successful anti-smoking campaigns of the nineties and 2000s which made a huge contribution to driving down smoking. Despite this success, we now find ourselves in a position where children are being consciously and deliberately targeted by e-cigarette makers. Bright advertising, maliciously deceptive packaging and flavours like fairy floss, cola and ice cream are concealing dangerous poisons and addictive nicotine. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, more than one in five young people aged 18 to 24 and almost one in six aged 15 to 17 have tried vapes, with that number expected to increase. It does not just stop with vaping; research shows adolescents who vape are three times more likely to take up smoking cigarettes.

In March this year we commissioned a parliamentary inquiry into vaping. In May this year the inquiry released preliminary results into the ingredients found in a random sample of vapes—and the results were shocking. All samples tested positive for nicotine, despite many being marketed as nicotine-free, and many contained chemicals like arsenic, lead and others. These are the chemicals children are inhaling each and every time they vape and they are getting hooked because they secretly contain nicotine.

In May we passed laws to strengthen controls on smoking and vaping, including harsher penalties for anyone selling or storing illegal tobacco. Two weeks ago these laws were put into action with more than \$2 million worth of illegal tobacco products, including 54,000 illegal vapes, seized in 11 coordinated raids across this state, proof these laws are working.

We know from the anti-smoking campaigns of the past that we need behavioural change as well, which is why I am pleased to launch today a new anti-vaping campaign with the health minister, developed in partnership with young Queenslanders to target young Queenslanders. The public health campaign 'There's Nothing Sweet About Vapes' will target children aged 12 to 17 through social media sites like TikTok, YouTube, Snapchat and Twitch. The campaign will highlight the harmful chemicals found in vapes and educate young Queenslanders on the long- and short-term health impacts. It will also involve a dedicated website with advice for adolescents on how to quit, along with support for parents. This campaign complements the \$5 million anti-vaping high school program we are rolling out across the whole state, in partnership with Griffith University. We cannot and will not sit by and allow people to sell these illegal and poisonous products to our kids.

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Delivery



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.40 am): This past month has seen the benefit of investing in major infrastructure in this state, including in stadiums. There would be no FIFA Women's World Cup without Suncorp Stadium and Pink would not be performing two shows in Townsville had this government not supported the construction of Country Bank Stadium from the very beginning. Country Bank Stadium has hosted everything from the State of Origin to Elton John, bringing to the people and business owners of Townsville and North Queensland opportunities that used to pass them by.

Since opening in early 2020, Queensland Country Bank Stadium has hosted 60 major events and attracted more than 800,000 spectators. In the past year alone, the stadium poured \$148 million into Townsville's visitor economy. Thirty-one per cent of tickets to Townsville's first Pink concert went to fans from outside the region. I am advised that Victorian fans alone snapped up 1,200 tickets. When visitors travel to Townsville, they support accommodation and hospitality providers and they explore North Queensland's outstanding tourism experiences.

The economic benefits of the FIFA Women's World Cup are still being counted. We know that the NRL Magic Round, for example, adds \$28 million to the local economy, which is up from \$20 million in 2019. We need to keep the Magic Round in Queensland. It means smiles on the faces of cabbies, hotel and cafe owners and jobs for Queensland families. All of this will pale in comparison with the benefits of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

As the sports minister reminded me, it is nine years today until the opening of the Paralympic Games. I welcome this week's senate inquiry into preparations for those games, in which our government participated. Once again it has affirmed that nothing we build is just for a few weeks of competition in nine years time. For example, the Gabba is not being redeveloped for the games; it is being redeveloped because it needs to be. After the games it will be used, just as it is now, for AFL and cricket and whatever else the community needs.

We are talking about not just the stadium. The priority development area is about urban renewal and is already attracting billions of dollars worth of proposed development, including more social and affordable housing. Unlike most other Olympic cities, our main stadium is within walking distance of Brisbane's CBD and will be a two-minute train ride via Cross River Rail. Sixteen Olympic sports are planned for around the centre of Brisbane.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Chatsworth must be very happy with Cross River Rail.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! Comments will come through the chair.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, just nasty and vicious from those opposite and rude.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! Premier you have the call.


Ms PALASZCZUK: And childish. Sixteen Olympic sports are planned around the centre of Brisbane, meaning spectators will be able to walk between the athletics, swimming and football events. Even equestrian events will be centrally located at Victoria Park.

Like Suncorp Stadium and Country Bank Stadium in Townsville, the benefits of the Gabba and Brisbane Arena, not to mention 14 new or upgraded venues across Queensland, will exist for decades after their construction. Community sporting venues built for the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games have rarely been out of use in the five years since. Those are what some of our new venues are based on.

This week I was also pleased to meet with a delegation of South-West Queensland mayors. They are working for their local communities offering to supply the gold, silver and bronze for the Olympic medals and volunteer uniforms to be made by local companies, and they are hoping that Red Ridge gets a say in that. I can tell the minister that we will definitely be putting them into the procurement process. They are also pitching themselves as locations for the 204 countries that will compete in our games and will need places to train ahead of 2032. That is exactly what we want to happen under our Q2032 Procurement Strategy with \$180 billion worth of government contracts available over the next nine years. They were even pitching the bilby as an Olympic mascot.

We were awarded these games because they unite all sides of politics and all levels of government. We will deliver them with that same spirit of teamwork. All of Queensland will share the pride and the benefits of hosting the world's biggest events.

Japan, South Korea and Singapore, Trade Mission


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.44 am): My recent trade mission was vital for developing growing opportunities with trade partners in Japan, South Korea and Singapore that are very keen to invest in Queensland. The delegation included the Mayor of Gladstone, Matt Burnett; the Mayor of Townsville, Jenny Hill; Townsville Enterprises CEO Claudia Brumme-Smith; and Powerlink CEO Paul Simshauser. Strategic engagements were secured in the hydrogen and renewables industry with ENEOS Group, which is a significant investor in Queensland. While in Tokyo and Singapore, I met with the CQ-H2 consortium to progress what will be Queensland's largest renewable hydrogen projects. In Seoul, I witnessed the landmark agreement with Han-Ho H2 consortium, partners for a proposed green hydrogen hub in North Queensland. In Singapore, I met with sovereign wealth fund Temasek Holdings and promoted investment opportunities across Queensland.

The trade mission also promoted opportunities in agriculture, tourism, education and screen production. This included meeting with Brisbane-based production company Alt.Vfx in Tokyo. Alt.Vfx has recently reached an agreement with Netflix Japan for post-production on a feature-length film. I am advised that they have secured more business following their attendance at a trade event that I hosted in Tokyo. Earlier this month I was very pleased to cut the ribbon at Alt.Vfx's brand new production hub, SteelBridge Studio, at Kangaroo Point. Another example of a Brisbane company making it big on the international stage is homegrown Populous and I was pleased to help officially open their Tokyo office.

This trade mission was all about promoting our Energy and Jobs Plan and, of course, our Critical Minerals Strategy. Since the mission, I had the privilege of opening a new office for the CopperString 2032 project in Townsville following a meeting with key investment partners including Queensland-based Vecco in Tokyo. The office will be co-located with the new SuperGrid Training Centre and Transmission Hub, which will house 60 workers while a new purpose-built facility is being built. I am confident there will be more investment outcomes as we continue to cement Queensland as a leading energy exporter and place to do business, now and into the future.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Members, before I call the Deputy Premier, it has come to my attention that we are having some technical issues with the attendant call system. If you are calling for an attendant, please use manual systems to gain their attention. Yes, I will tolerate those sorts of gesticulations, member for Condamine. This is probably a good time to advise members that the system that we use for broadcast and communications in the chamber will be upgraded over the Christmas period to a totally new system. Like an old Casio tape deck we are keeping this one running for just a couple more weeks.

Resilient Homes Fund; Resilient Australia Awards

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure) (9.46 am): That will bring us all the way to the 1990s, Mr Acting Speaker. It is an unenviable title, but Queensland is the most disaster impacted state in Australia. However, that means that we are amongst the best in the world at disaster response, recovery and resilience. That is why we introduced the \$741 million Queensland Resilient Homes Fund, the first resilience program of its kind to be offered in Australia.

Initially, around 500 homes were identified for purchase but, as home assessments progressed and flood and risk data was analysed, it became clear that actually around 800 households would need our help. Today I am happy to announce that 304 homes have now settled under the buyback program. In total, 497 home owners have accepted offers for buyback out of 676 offers that have been presented to home owners. Nearly 800 valuation inspections have already happened and 110 homes that are not fit to be lived in anymore have been demolished or removed, allowing those impacted residents to move to a safer location without the risk of future flooding. Flood impacted home owners were also given the option to choose to register for a resilient retro fit or home raising. So far more than 820 applications have been received for home repair or raising works, totalling more than \$51 million. We know that incorporating resilient building design can significantly reduce the effort, cost and time to return people to their homes following a flood.


We cannot stop natural disasters, but the Palaszczuk government is doing everything we can to ensure their impact is minimised as much as possible. When you take into account the homes that we are buying back, along with assessments done by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority's team of assessors, 90 per cent of properties that were impacted by the South-East Queensland floods are no longer showing signs of damage. Next, our hardworking QRA officers will travel to North-West Queensland to again check on properties impacted by the recent monsoon floods there.

Finally, I want to congratulate all the winners and nominees from last night's Queensland Resilient Australia Awards. They include the Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, Woodridge State High School, Moreton Bay regional council—

Ms Boyd: Moreton Bay City.

Dr MILES: Moreton Bay City council, I stand corrected—Balonne Shire Council and Woolloongabba architecture firm JDA Co. When the going gets tough, Queensland's resilience shines through and that is something for us all to be very proud of.


Indonesia and Taiwan, Trade Mission

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.49 am): The foundation of Queensland's economic security is trade. Under the Palaszczuk Labor government, trade in Queensland has never been stronger. Our exports are valued at \$140 billion and are responsible for one in five jobs across the state. The Palaszczuk government's \$150 million Queensland Trade and Investment Strategy 2022-2032 is opening new opportunities across the world. My recent trade mission to Indonesia and Taiwan with Trade and Investment Queensland, the Queensland Investment Corporation and the Queensland Treasury Corporation highlighted the opportunities available to Queensland in our region.

Indonesia is the world's third fastest growing consumer market. In 2022 Indonesia was Queensland's 10th largest export market, with total goods exports valued at \$3 billion. Our goods exports to Indonesia have increased by 26 per cent since 2021 and have almost tripled since 2017. It is a trend that should only continue to climb. While in Indonesia I hosted a round table with executives from Queensland and Indonesian companies across the engineering, aviation, resources, digital and manufacturing sectors. Queensland businesses like Frosty Boy, Far East Gold, GreenGold Technology and Privy are all committed to strengthening the Queensland-Indonesia trade relationship. I also reconfirmed our sister-state relationship with Central Java first signed in 1991.

The energy and enthusiasm for Queensland was just as strong in Taiwan. Queensland's goods exports to Taiwan totalled \$6.8 billion last year, representing our fifth largest export market and 23 per cent of all Australian exports to the market. It is a rapidly emerging market, with Queensland goods exports more than doubling from \$3.3 billion in 2021. Queensland businesses are in a prime position to benefit from the emergence of these industries in Taiwan. Across three days I met with industry leaders in finance, renewable energy, biotech, recycling and semiconductor manufacturing. These Taiwanese businesses were keen to learn how they could build relationships with Queensland enterprises and how we could leverage our dual strengths. Investment in these industries is forging new and exciting prospects between Queensland and Taiwan, and we are committed to strengthening our relationship even further.

Vaping

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.52 am): I welcome today's announcement by the Premier of the new 'There's Nothing Sweet About Vapes' public health campaign. Often our young people have absolutely no idea about the dangerous and toxic substances hidden inside vapes, which are shamelessly targeted at children with colourful packaging and sweet flavours. It is a broad public health issue, which is why campaigns such as this are so important and why the Health and Environment Committee is conducting an inquiry into reducing vaping rates in Queensland—an inquiry my department has appeared before and provided a submission to.

I am working with my department to ensure it and schools across the state are playing their vital role when it comes to tackling this scourge. Vaping is already banned in all Queensland state schools and within five metres of their boundaries. We also recently passed legislation to strengthen tobacco laws and increase smoke-free places, which will include school car parks, but we do not hide from the fact that vaping is happening in our schools and we are doing all we can to combat it.

At estimates I announced that my department is investing \$5 million to give all Queensland secondary schools, state and non-state, access to the innovative Blurred Minds Academy for the next three years. Developed at Griffith University and available to schools from term 4 this year, the Blurred Minds Academy has created a partnership with the University of Queensland's National Centre for Youth Substance Use Research and features modules on vaping and health, vaping deception and vaping and the environment. Access to Blurred Minds builds on the extensive information already provided to schools about the dangers of vaping and resources to tackle it including: school-based nurses working with Dovetail, a drug and alcohol support service that provides clinical advice and professional support; my department's work with the Cancer Council, Heart Foundation and Lung Foundation; and support from GPs, guidance counsellors and other wellbeing professionals in our schools.

I have discussed vaping with my ministerial student advisory council and, at the national level, education ministers have agreed to work with health ministers on a national campaign educating young people on the harms posed by the marketing and use of e-cigarettes. There is some targeted work happening at a local level, too. For example, at Elanora State High School on the Gold Coast students identified as using vapes are provided with counselling and support through weekly sessions with a guidance officer, nurse and the head of student wellbeing. The school also provides a two-week vaping education program to educate students on the harmful effects of vaping and to provide practical strategies to assist to stop them. Congratulations to Elanora State High School. We all need to work together to tackle the insidious issue of vaping amongst our young people. My department is absolutely committed to playing its important part.

Vaping



Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (9.55 am): As we have heard from the Premier and the education minister, it is no secret that vaping is becoming increasingly prevalent amongst young people. More than one in five Queenslanders aged 18 to 24 have used a vape. The rate is one in six for those aged 15 to 17. With flavours like cotton candy, watermelon and mango, this is no coincidence. Vape manufacturers are clearly targeting their products at young people with the intention of getting them hooked.

Many vapes contain huge amounts of nicotine but, alarmingly, given the work of our parliamentary committee and Queensland Health, we know that they also contain a deadly cocktail. Chemicals like lead, formaldehyde and arsenic are in these products. To put it into perspective, a single vape contains 4,000 puffs. A single vape is the equivalent of 400 cigarettes. Just imagine what one puff, let alone 4,000 puffs, could do to the lungs of a child. Enough is enough. Our government will not stand by and let the next generation—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members!

Ms FENTIMAN: I would have thought the families in their electorates would be really interested to hear about what we are doing to restrict vapes in the community. We will not stand by and let the next generation become addicted to nicotine and vaping and expose our health system to further unnecessary burdens. That is why we have already taken strong action earlier this year by: passing stronger new tobacco laws; carrying out raids, coordinated with—


Mr Lister interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Southern Downs, you are warned.

Ms FENTIMAN:—Australian Border Force, which have seized millions of dollars of illegal tobacco products and over 54,000 vapes; and rolling out a \$5 million anti-vaping program in our schools. These are important steps, but we must also break the habits at the source. That is why today we are launching a new \$1.3 million public health awareness campaign aimed at 12- to 17-year-olds. This campaign has been co-designed with young Queenslanders from across Queensland. 'There's Nothing Sweet About Vapes' will communicate the health risks and the toxic chemicals inside vapes directly to young people. As the Premier has explained, it will target the platforms where young people are—Snapchat, TikTok, YouTube, Spotify and Twitch—as well as use traditional advertising at our bus stops and on outdoor billboards. A new website has also been launched to help young people understand how dangerous this is but also to provide parents and guardians with the resources they need.

The health risks of vaping cannot be underestimated. For too long vape manufacturers have run rampant, peddling their poisonous products to children. I am proud that we are taking strong action to keep Queenslanders safe, to educate them about the danger of vaping and to keep retailers accountable for the products they sell, because there is nothing sweet about vapes.

Metal Theft, Parliamentary Inquiry

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (9.59 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government is acutely aware of community concerns around the impact of copper and other metal theft to businesses, big and small, and community groups. Last week I convened a round table with representatives of various industries, community, local government and government where I heard firsthand the direct and indirect economic, social and environmental costs of this crime.


Moreton Bay Regional Council spoke of copper being regularly stolen from floodlights on sporting fields in their community and local businesses experiencing blackouts for days on end, and the resulting financial loss. I heard alarming examples from utility providers and the transport, resources and construction industries. From copper wiring being taken from vital fire and emergency systems inside medical facilities through to theft impacting rail safety systems and operational gas industry infrastructure, criminals are going to extraordinary lengths to steal, putting their lives and the lives of others at risk.

Let us be clear: stealing is a criminal offence and the risk these criminals are exposing businesses, residents, workers and community organisations to is unacceptable. I heard the most shocking example of copper being stolen from an underground cable pit. In doing so, thieves left live high-voltage wires exposed on a footpath near a school. This type of act jeopardises the safety of every worker who must repair the damage and puts children and the community at risk of electrocution. The Queensland Police Service also told me that while there are hotspots throughout Queensland, no part of the state remains untouched by this crime.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to looking at what more can be done to deter, detect and disrupt criminal scrap metal activity. That is why I will shortly move a motion for a referral to the Transport and Resources Committee to establish an inquiry into copper and other metal theft. The inquiry will look at options for curbing the ability of criminals to dispose of and profit from the sale of stolen metal through the scrap metal industry. This will include examining contemporary legislative, regulatory and enforcement frameworks for deterring, detecting and disrupting scrap metal theft, as well as identifying other non-regulatory measures to tackle this problem. Given the urgency of this matter, I will ask the committee to report on this matter within three months.

I once again thank all of the roundtable attendees for their contribution to the inquiry's terms of reference. I know they are very much looking forward to contributing to this important inquiry to ensure the best possible outcome for Queenslanders.

Regional Queensland, Social Housing

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing) (10.02 am): Queensland is the most decentralised state in the country and our government has a proud track record of delivering for the regions. We have delivered 1,848 new social homes outside of South-East Queensland and we have many more in the pipeline as part of our Big Build.

Today I am pleased to update the House that tenants have moved into eight new tiny homes in Gympie. While they might be tiny, they will have a big impact. These homes will provide accommodation to those in need in the region, where vacancies are tight. The factory-built homes were installed at the Gympie Recovery Accommodation Park—a joint project between the Palaszczuk government and the local council after floods devastated the town in February last year.

Brendale business Alphaline Tiny Homes, which I visited recently, constructed the homes that have joined 26 other buildings on site which comprise one-, two- and three-bedroom homes. As flood affected residents continue to be helped to transition out of the park into longer term housing, the site is now being used to accommodate people feeling the impacts of the national housing pressures in the Gympie region. That includes people like Don. Don said he had been sleeping in his van at a roadside rest area. He said—


I had a high-profile job and businesses, then I had a nervous breakdown after having a heart attack.

I lost the farm, the house, my cars—and everything that goes with it.

Offered one of the tiny homes, he said, 'I thought I'd won the lottery.'

We have delivered housing for people like Don right across the state. We have partnered with builders in Queensland to deliver 100 module houses by the end of the year—places that will soon be home for social housing tenants and frontline government staff. Whether it is tiny homes, modular homes or traditional builds, it is the Palaszczuk government that is pulling every lever and using innovative housing solutions to help Queenslanders in need of a safe place to live.

International Aviation

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (10.04 am): The Palaszczuk government's nation-leading \$200 million aviation war chest has secured a game changer for building back Queensland's international visitor economy. From November China Southern returns to Queensland skies, linking Guangzhou with Brisbane—reconnecting mainland China to Queensland for the first time since the start of the pandemic. China Southern is the 25th strategic overseas service locked in by our \$200 million Attracting Aviation Investment Fund in partnership with Queensland's international airports. Twenty-five is a milestone, but the significance of China Southern is much more.


Pre pandemic, China was Queensland's biggest customer for world-class visitor experiences. In 2019, nearly half a million Chinese visitors shared Queensland's lifestyle, spending some \$1.6 billion in our visitor economy. This China Southern service will be important for all Queensland, initially flying four times a week then growing to daily. Over three years this service will land some 278,000 airline seats, generating \$441 million and supporting 1,800 good Queensland jobs.

Reconnecting direct travel from mainland China will also help turbocharge the state's post-pandemic education exports as well. We know that welcoming back Chinese visitors will be crucial to Tourism and Events Queensland's blueprint for building an \$11 billion a year international visitor economy by the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. As the Premier mentioned earlier, today marks exactly nine years until the Brisbane 2032 Paralympic Games opening ceremony. As we have seen at the World Para Swimming Championships this month with QAS supported athletes bringing home 27 medals, the Palaszczuk government's support for our para athletes is bearing fruit.

Tourism and Events Queensland is also maximising the opportunities for our visitor economy with a new travel campaign about to launch in China. We want travel agents in China booking group travel to know that Queensland is good to go, following the Chinese government's lifting of Australia's pandemic suspension from its Approved Destination Status scheme. The 25 new and reconnected flights to fast-track the international recovery are predicted to deliver a \$1.49 billion return on investment, plus 18½ thousand good Queensland jobs.

There are more direct flights in the pipeline for take-off with the Attracting Aviation Investment Fund. More than any other time in our history, this is Queensland's time to shine on the world stage.

Electricity Prices

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (10.07 am): I have said many times in this chamber that the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan will deliver a future of cleaner, secure and cheaper energy for Queenslanders. That is not something in the distant future; it is delivering cheaper energy right now. The proof of that is clear for all to see. Right now, of all states in Australia, Queensland has the lowest power bills.

A big part of that is the 2023-24 budget delivering the largest cost-of-living relief package in the nation—\$550 for every Queensland household. I can update the House that as of 18 August 2023 the five largest retailers in Queensland have applied the first cost-of-living relief rebate payment to over 1.6 million Queensland customer accounts. That support is almost doubled to \$1,072 for over 620,000 Queensland households that are doing it a little bit tougher.


In more good news, I want to thank not just the members of this government and the members of the press gallery, but the many millions of Queenslanders themselves who answered the call. I can report that our search to find more Queenslanders who need that extra assistance has meant that an extra 7,000 households in regional Queensland alone are now signed up to receive that cost-of-living relief since we announced it.

Our relief on energy bills does not stop there. As the Premier outlined, over 21,000 Queenslanders have already registered their interest in our Climate Smart Energy Savers Program, giving tens of thousands of Queensland households the opportunity to save hundreds when replacing their appliances with energy efficient ones.

Just this week I joined Queensland Council of Social Services CEO, Aimee McVeigh, to announce that the Palaszczuk government is delivering even more relief from cost of living. The \$10 million Enable Grants Program will help our most vulnerable Queenslanders put the power back in their hands and money back in their pockets, delivering practical solutions to those households to save money and save electricity.

Between \$50,000 and \$500,000 of funding will be available for small to medium programs, while larger programs could be awarded funding between \$500,000 and \$1 million. Through these measures, we are driving down prices in the short term while our transition to a renewable energy future will drive down prices in the long term. That is delivering cleaner, more secure and, most importantly, cheaper energy for generations to come.

Bush Summit; Ekka


 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (10.10 am): There is no better friend of the bush than the Palaszczuk government. Let me repeat that: there is no better friend of the bush than the Palaszczuk government. On Friday last week I had the privilege of attending the Queensland Bush Summit with the Premier, the health minister, the members for Keppel and Rockhampton, and representatives of our bush and agriculture communities.

The summit acknowledged the enormous contribution of the bush to the Queensland economy. In recognition of this, we were pleased to announce key new support measures for our bush communities. I was particularly pleased to see the creation of a new \$50 million Backing Business in the Bush Fund. The fund will help businesses expand and relocate to the regions, driving more economic development and jobs in regional Queensland. Also at the Bush Summit we announced the establishment of a new \$30 million Backing Bush Communities Fund. This fund will leverage investment in projects which benefit regional communities, enabling councils and community organisations based outside the south-east to apply for grants of up to \$50,000.

It is fitting that the Bush Summit coincided with the 144th Ekka, which showcased the very best of the Queensland bush. Ekka 2023 drew more than 400,000 showgoers and its 21,000 competition entries once again hit pre-pandemic levels. There were over 150,000 strawberry sundaes sold, and I was personally responsible for some of those purchases for both me and the ABC hosts broadcasting from the showgrounds as I had the privilege of being on their shows. The sundae sales help fund crucial medical research through The Common Good organisation, so it was great to see so many showgoers getting behind this great cause while enjoying some great Queensland produce.

At this year's Ekka, I was also pleased to launch the historic \$130 million Fresh and Secure Trade Alliance with the Commonwealth agriculture minister Murray Watt. This eight-year program will see key Aussie export stakeholders and officials joining forces to help protect and grow Australia's horticultural exports. I want to thank all the volunteers who contributed to the success of Ekka 2023 including the hardworking Department of Agriculture and Fisheries staff who operated the annual stall this year. When city meets country, it brings out the very best Queensland has to offer, and Ekka 2023 was no different.

Road Safety

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (10.12 am): Sadly I have to report to the House that earlier this week we lost a RoadTek traffic controller in a fatal vehicle crash. Every worker deserves to get to work and to get home safely every day. Our thoughts are with their family, their friends and their workmates.

Tragically 297 people lost their lives on Queensland roads last year—the worst outcome in over a decade. These are not just numbers: they are all people whose lives have been cut short and who have left families and friends behind. The Palaszczuk government is committed to bringing down the number of lives lost on our roads. We want to see zero deaths on our roads. That is why we are investing \$1.8 billion in road safety over the next four years.

This week is Road Safety Week, as you can see from the yellow pin, with this year's theme building on last year's theme of 'Road safety starts with me'. We need to make sure we do everything we can to get every Queenslanders home safely every time they drive. I encourage everyone to wear yellow this week to show their support for road safety.

This year we will be celebrating safe on-road behaviours, encouraging road users to consider the positive and practical things they can do to stay safe on our roads with their family, friends and workmates. Today I will be speaking with this year's winners of the Co-Lab Youth Road Safety Challenge. This is a competition we established a number of years ago for young people to design road safety campaigns targeted at young people, knowing that youth culture changes very quickly.

I would like to thank all of the young people involved in the process—and there were many—from right across the state. I especially congratulate the winners: Matthew Lowe, Haley Anning Rivera, Abigale Pineda, Brianna Dunigan and Tenason Stark. They created a fantastic campaign targeting young people. It is a very impressive campaign indeed. The work they have done will have a positive impact on road safety for young drivers. Their campaign will go live later this year.

Earlier this week our seatbelt campaign went live via StreetSmarts. I encourage everybody right throughout the state to ensure that they and their passengers are all buckled up every time the car moves into motion. I think one of the very scary things about the new cameras is that they are displaying just how many passengers are not wearing seatbelts. The message is that drivers need to take responsibility for their passengers. We all have to do more to get that message across. It is the seatbelt that will save your life if something goes wrong. That is not just because of a \$1,161 fine but because of serious injury or loss of life that can result from incorrectly wearing or not wearing a seatbelt.

I thank my Department of Transport and Main Roads and StreetSmarts for their hard work in bringing the campaign together which is quite confronting to watch. I encourage all members to have a look at it. In January this year I convened a road safety round table that brought together more than 40 transport experts, stakeholders and industry leaders to explore options to improve road safety. We have taken on a lot of the great ideas from stakeholders.

We continue to develop and investigate opportunities to improve road safety as a result of that round table including the introduction of an immediate licence suspension for high-range speeding offences; trialling new technology to identify and discourage dangerous driver behaviour such as mobile phone usage while driving and tailgating; implementing the Ride to Zero motorcycle safety program, a community-led approach to improving rider outcomes—and there will be more to come on that; and increased funding for the Targeted Road Safety Program. That funding includes \$143 million to address key safety concerns on our road network as part of the High Risk Roads initiative; \$47 million for the Safer Roads Sooner initiative; more than \$8 million for Targeted Safety initiatives; more than \$8 million to protect vulnerable road users; more than \$7 million for the School Transport Infrastructure Program; and more than \$660,000 for the Mass Actions initiative. These are all part of our approach to improving road safety as we continue to roll out mobile phone distraction and seatbelt cameras. They are absolutely having a good effect. Driving distracted is equivalent to having .07 to .1 blood alcohol in your system. It is like drunk driving and that has been researched thoroughly.

We make no apologies for taking a strong stance on road safety. I encourage and sincerely invite all members of this House in Road Safety Week to commit to making at least one or two posts on their social media to get this message across about road safety. We all have a role to play here whether we are in the city, the country, the bush or North Queensland. We all have some trust in our communities in our different ways. We have to get that road safety message across to people who listen to all of us. If you get those basics right when you drive every time, your risk massively reduces. I encourage all members to play a part and get active in Road Safety Week because we all want to save lives.

COMMITTEES

Membership



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.18 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

1. That the member for Lytton be discharged from the Health and Environment Committee and appointed to the Transport and Resources Committee; and
2. the member for Stretton be discharged from the Transport and Resources Committee and appointed to the Health and Environment Committee.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Referral



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.18 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the Transport and Resources Committee (the committee) inquire into and report to the Legislative Assembly by 24 November 2023 on scrap metal theft in Queensland and in doing so consider:

1. the types of metal at risk of being stolen and resold as scrap, taking into consideration copper, precious and other metals, and vehicle parts;
2. how the scrap metal market operates, including the supply chain and payment methods;
3. the prevalence of scrap metal theft in Queensland;
4. the direct and indirect impacts of scrap metal theft on Queenslanders, such as costs, disruption, and essential service delivery;
5. direct and indirect risks to worker and community safety, as well as other risks such as environmental harm;
6. the effectiveness of the existing Queensland laws and approach in preventing, investigating and prosecuting scrap metal theft in Queensland;
7. a recommended contemporary legislative, regulatory and enforcement framework for deterring, detecting and disrupting scrap metal theft which is informed by national and international approaches and experiences; and
8. other non-regulatory measures, such as information sharing, education and public awareness raising, and technology solutions, which may assist in reducing the prevalence and impact of scrap metal theft in Queensland.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.20 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 12 September 2023.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

Crime and Corruption Commission, Reports



Mr KRAUSE (Scenic Rim—LNP) (10.20 am): As chair of the PCCC, I lay upon the table of the House the following Crime and Corruption Commission reports pursuant to section 138 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 138(2) of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001, *Controlled Operations Committee: report on activities: 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023*; and covering letter and report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee, section 358 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, *Surveillance device warrants: annual report: 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023*. I received the reports on 28 July 2023 and I am tabling these reports within 14 sitting days, as required.

Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption Commission: 2022-23 Annual Report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee: Controlled Operations Committee—Report on activities from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 pursuant to section 138(2) of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 [\[1187\]](#).

Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption Commission: 2022-23 Annual Report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee on aspects of surveillance device warrants pursuant to section 358 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 [\[1188\]](#).

ETHICS COMMITTEE

Report




Ms HOWARD (Ipswich—ALP) (10.21 am): I lay upon the table of the House Ethics Committee report No. 215, 57th Parliament, *Matter of privilege referred by the Registrar on 29 March 2023 relating to the alleged failure to register an interest in the Register of Members' Interests by the member for Southern Downs*. I commend this report to the House.

Tabled paper: Ethics Committee: Report No. 215, 57th Parliament—Matter of privilege referred by the Registrar on 29 March 2023 relating to the alleged failure to register an interest in the Register of Members' Interests by the Member for Southern Downs [\[1189\]](#).

ACTING SPEAKER'S STATEMENT


Floyd, Mr DT

 **Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I would like to pass on my condolences to Julia Floyd and family. Sadly, I am unable to attend the service of Mr David Thomas Floyd AOM, RAA being held today. David was a much loved member of our community and my mentor into the Holland Park Lions Club. He personally raised and lowered the flag at Mott Park every day. David sold more Christmas puddings for more good causes than I have time to go through today. He will be dearly missed. Vale, David Thomas Floyd.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Honourable members, question time will conclude today at 11.22 am.

Palaszczuk Labor Government

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.22 am): My question is to the Premier. Ten years ago the Premier said, 'This is an arrogant government that is out of touch and using its numbers to rush through laws without the due consideration of the committee process.' The government has just dropped 57 pages of amendments to a 48-page bill with no notice. Does the Premier concede her government is arrogant, out of touch and using its numbers to rush through legislation?

Ms PALASZCZUK: The answer is no. As the opposition knows, from time to time there needs to be amendments that formalise processes. The government has decided that there are a number of issues that need to be formalised quickly. One is processes in relation to watch houses and secondly to save the town of Glenden, just to name a few. These are amendments and not bills. Those opposite know very clearly that when they were in government they released bills this thick and passed them through in the dark of night. Let me remind the House that the architect of the VLAD laws was the member for Kawana. This much legislation did not go through the committee process.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Members, we are not even into the first question. The Premier is being directly responsive to the question. You may not like the responses, but the Premier is responding.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Kawana has corrected me. The bill, which was this thick, went through a committee during that week. We did not even have time to read it. Do those opposite not support saving Glenden? That is what we are doing this week. The town is being saved. Does the opposition not support community safety? Is that what they are saying now? They are saying they do not support community safety, because that is what these amendments do. They formalise a process that has been in place over the last 30 years.

Maternity Services, Bypass

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Premier. How many Queensland Health facilities are on maternity bypass today?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will ask the health minister to find out and get back to the House.

Mount Ommaney Electorate, Infrastructure Projects

Ms PUGH: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Olympic and Paralympic Games. Can the Premier please update the House on how the government's Big Build is benefiting my community and is the Premier aware of any other approaches?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Mount Ommaney for the question. She is a very strong advocate for her local community. During her term as the member for Mount Ommaney the member has seen the completion of the Sumners Road overpass which those opposite sought to cut. There is a very strong contrast: on this side of the House we build very key infrastructure. The Sumners Road interchange is used by many local residents. Those opposite did not see fit to have that project in place. I am also very pleased to see that works on the Centenary Bridge—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, Leader of the Opposition! The member for Miller will cease his quarrelling across the chamber.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The Leader of the Opposition is continuously interjecting. I am trying to answer the question.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Premier, I will manage the chamber.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is very rude. This \$298.5 million project is jointly funded with the Commonwealth, supporting 240 jobs. The new bridge is due for completion in late 2025, with the entire project to be completed in 2027. As we know, the Leader of the Opposition is continuously interjecting.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier, I will manage the chamber. Pause the clock. I will say, Leader of the Opposition, that I have called you out several times. I am not going to continue to do that.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Every day over 85,000 commuters use the Centenary Bridge. The whole area will benefit from the upgrade, including people living in Springfield, Ripley and those growing communities all the way out to Ipswich. I want to update the House on what the new project includes: a new three-lane northbound bridge; rehabilitating the existing bridges to three lanes; and pedestrian footpaths and cycleways. I know how important this is because the roadworks are happening right now. There are night works happening and safety precautions are in place. This is vital to the public. It is vital to families because it means they will get home faster and get to work a lot sooner. This is all part of our \$89 billion infrastructure Big Build.

Those opposite have a hit list of the projects they do not want to go ahead—\$10 billion worth of cuts. We are yet to see where those cuts are going to happen. We know that on this side of the House we build; on that side of the House they cut. There is nothing more important than making sure people have jobs. We said that a strong health response would lead to a strong economy and that is exactly what is happening. Queensland has the fastest growth in the nation.

Maternity Services, Bypass

Ms BATES: My question is to the Minister for Health. Opposition right-to-information documents show in the 12 months to May maternity services at the Innisfail Hospital were bypassed on seven separate occasions, at the Mareeba Hospital nine times, twice at Ingham and once each in Ayr and Dalby. Is Queensland's maternity crisis worse than the Palaszczuk government is telling Queenslanders?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for the question. I have been really clear that when I became the health minister maternity services was one of my top priorities. I spent my first full day as health minister travelling to Gladstone to sit down with women who had been impacted. I heard very clearly from those women that when it came to maternity services they wanted choice, they wanted continuity of care and they wanted it closer to home. We have been very clear that global workforce shortages when it comes to maternity have meant that there are services that are on bypass. I have been very clear: we are doing everything we can to get GP obstetricians into Cooktown—I have travelled there and spoken to the staff—Weipa, Biloela and Chinchilla.

One of the ideas that was put to me by the AMAQ and by the College of GPs was to fund 20 GPs to do the advanced RANZCOG training so we could get more GP obstetricians into rural and remote communities, and we have done that. Yesterday, I was so pleased to meet with midwives who travelled from across Queensland to meet with me to announce \$16 million to expand midwifery group services.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Mudgeeraba, the minister is being directly responsive to your question and you are continuing to interject. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms FENTIMAN: The midwives spoke to me not only about expanding midwifery group practice in rural and remote locations, which will provide more sustainable services for women; they said to me that the creation of the Office of the Chief Midwife—an Australian first—will provide leadership and support for our midwives right across Queensland. They said that this was an historic day for midwifery and maternity in Queensland. The women who attended our maternity services round table rang me to say that this was the best maternity announcement they had ever seen in Queensland.

That does not mean that there is not more to do. Of course there is. That is why we are working on a workforce plan. That is why we have our workforce attractive incentives. Midwives and doctors from interstate and overseas are already going through an application process to come and work in

regional Queensland because we have \$70,000 on the table to bring them to Queensland. Not only are we attracting the best and brightest from across the world; we are growing our own. Part of the \$16 million announced yesterday is for scholarships for midwives. Do you know what, Mr Acting Speaker? We have free TAFE for nursing. We are one of the only states growing our own workforce when it comes to nurses and midwives. I am so pleased we are creating wonderful job opportunities for young people in rural Queensland to become health heroes.

Regional Queensland, Investment

Mrs GILBERT: My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure. Could the Deputy Premier advise the House on how the Palaszczuk government is investing in new jobs and industries in Queensland, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Mackay for her question. I know how passionate she is about getting more good jobs and more industries into the Mackay-Whitsunday region—building on the region's existing strengths of mining and agriculture, but also diversifying the local economy to help it through the inevitable ebbs and flows of commodity demand and price movements. It was great to be with the member for Mackay and the mayor of Mackay recently to announce that public consultation had opened on two new state development areas for Mackay. State development areas are really valuable tools to allow us to attract industries, to help them grow and develop and to work together to build supply chain ecosystems. It is also a chance for government to support them with infrastructure and with common user facilities. That is why this year's state budget included \$45 million to deliver enabling infrastructure between the new Mackay state development areas now open for public consultation and the Gladstone state development area. It is a chance for us to unlock industrial land and in that process deliver economic growth and new jobs in the critical supply chains that the world will need as it seeks to achieve the goal of net zero emissions.

In Mackay, there are things like biomanufacturing and renewables. There is enormous interest in sustainable fuels for aviation, maritime, freight and mining. Of course that means we can leverage the existing sugar production and processing capability in Mackay to develop those green fuels. Recently, I attended the Australian jet council meeting where Qantas, Virgin, Airbus and Boeing all outlined their targets for sustainable aviation fuel. I know that all of them see Queensland and Mackay as key to achieving their goals.

Mackay will be able to attract and deliver these industries that will be highly energy intensive because Mackay will have access to the renewable energy we will deliver through the renewable Energy and Jobs Plan and the firm and stored renewable energy that will be delivered by the massive battery, the pumped hydro project, that we will deliver near Mackay. We are going to leverage off the back of that advantage. We know those opposite do not support it. We know those opposite are going to cut it, but we are determined to deliver it because it is the renewable Energy and Jobs Plan that will secure the economic prosperity of places like Mackay into the future, just as Labor governments in the past have delivered the economic prosperity that Mackay now enjoys.

Maternity Services, Bypass

Mr BLEIJIE: My question is to the Minister for Health. Will the minister rule out further maternity bypasses on her watch?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for the question. The one thing I will rule out is overruling our experienced frontline doctors, nurses and midwives when they make a decision that it would be unsafe. Safety is absolutely our No. 1 priority.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, the minister is being directly responsive to your question.

Ms FENTIMAN: What I will rule out is sacking nurses and midwives. There were 1,800 nurses and midwives sacked by those opposite. When I sat down to meet with midwives from across Queensland yesterday, they proactively raised with me how awful and difficult it was under the former LNP government when so many of them lost their jobs.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! I am having great difficulty hearing the minister. I imagine Hansard would find it almost impossible.

Ms FENTIMAN: Until the Leader of the Opposition and those members who were frontbenchers when Campbell Newman sacked 1,800 nurses and midwives apologise to our midwives and our nurses, they have absolutely no credibility. They want to come in here and use maternity services as a political football. I tell you what: we are not interested in that. We are interested in delivering more GP obstetricians, we are interested in delivering more midwives—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Resume your seat, Minister. Member for Kawana, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms FENTIMAN: Those opposite have no credibility when they want to talk about maternity services until they all apologise to our midwives.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Member for Nanango, you are also warned under the standing orders.

Ms FENTIMAN: They have been asking for expanded midwifery group practice and a chief midwife for many years. We are delivering. We take the time to travel across Queensland and listen to our frontline health workers, not come in here and try to use this as a political football. We are absolutely committed to doing more. We know that there are global workforce pressures when it comes to maternity services. As I have already said today, we are throwing everything at it. Not only are we doing everything to attract the best and brightest clinicians from across the world, we are growing our own. That is why the Treasurer and I, at the Mackay Base Hospital earlier this year, announced that we would give those nursing and midwifery students in their final-year placements a cost-of-living allowance to do their placements in rural and regional Queensland. We also know that if health professionals go to the regions and do their training, they fall in love with regional Queensland and they stay there, and they provide a really great service. We are growing our own, we are getting the best clinicians and we will not stop.

Regional Queensland, Support

Mr HEALY: My question is of the Treasurer and the Minister for Trade and Investment. Will the Treasurer update the House on the Palaszczuk government's support for regional Queensland, and is the Treasurer aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr Walker: Oh, good question!

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I remind the member for Mundingburra that questions will be heard in silence.

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Cairns for his question. Our government will always support regional Queensland which is why I was so pleased this week to call out the fake campaign by the Queensland Resources Council against progressive coal royalties. Because of my action, we have now heard the truth from BHP CEO Mike Henry. There is no investment freeze from BHP in regional Queensland. There is no cutback at BHP mines. BHP intends to keep spending a billion dollars each and every year on its Queensland business because Mike Henry has said he sees that business as attractive, in exactly the same way it is why our government is saving the community of Glenden. That is something that our government is proud to do because it is something the LNP would never ever do. That is because the LNP is in the pocket of the mining lobby.

The LNP has never said a bad word against the QRC's fake scare campaign. What did they say last week when they were asked about the QRC's leaflet campaign? All we got was an announcement that there would be a tax plan before the next election. That is what the Leader of the Opposition said. Another secret plan to give away billions of dollars in mining wealth from Queenslanders to mining billionaires—that is the LNP's plan.

The Leader of the Opposition has already admitted it. When he was asked directly whether he would support progressive coal royalties he said he would cut taxes on business. That was his answer. How will he pay for that? We know the answer: it will be cuts across Queensland. We will get all the excuses—'things have changed', 'non-core promises'. They will be pressing the need to support mining

companies. That is what they will say. They will say, 'We need to support mining companies,' when mining companies are happily paying royalties, including progressive coalmining royalties, in this state. Then the cuts will come. We heard from the member for Chatsworth, the pruning of billions of dollars—

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr DICK: You have never apologised, member for Broadwater; you never will. That is your form. What was the one thing the member for Broadwater apologised for? Not changing the depreciation schedule for local government. He did not apologise for sacking 1,800 nurses and midwives. He has never apologised for closing the Barrett Adolescent Centre without replacement, which was a catastrophic failure that caused catastrophic consequences—

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Treasurer—

Mr DICK:—and he has never apologised because he does not have the courage.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Treasurer—

Mr DICK: He will never stand up and he will never apologise.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Treasurer—

Mr Janetzki: Acting Speaker, he is defying you.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Toowoomba South, I am listening and I can hear you interjecting repeatedly. You are warned under the standing orders. Treasurer, you have another eight seconds if you so desire.

Mr DICK: The Leader of the Opposition is not a man of courage, he is not a man of his word and he will never apologise to Queenslanders for the catastrophic consequences of his decision in government.

Maternity Services

Ms CAMM: My question is to the Premier. Labor has closed 37 maternity services which is the same number that remain open across Queensland. Does the Premier admit Labor's legacy is denying Queensland mothers the right to give birth where, when and how they choose?

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I ask the member to verify her statement—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I will take the point of order in silence.

Mrs D'ATH:—because they use the word 'closed' as opposed to 'bypassed'. This matter has been dealt with and responded to numerous times and I believe they are deliberately misleading the House.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I will take some advice. Firstly, Leader of the House, with regard to misleading the House, there are processes in relation to that. Member, I ask you to either authenticate what you are saying or consider rephrasing the question. There is a difference between 'closed' and 'bypassed' and I would ask you to re-put the question or authenticate the question.

Ms CAMM: Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker, I will reword the question. My question is to the Premier. Labor has either closed or put on bypass 37 maternity services which is the same number that remain open across Queensland. Does the Premier admit that Labor's legacy is denying Queensland mothers the right to give birth where, when and how they choose?

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member has admitted that she has deliberately misled the House on that first question. Mr Acting Speaker, the Leader of the House will be writing to you about that matter.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: The House will come to order. Premier, before you continue, can we pause the clock, please. Premier, I ask you to withdraw that unparliamentary language?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I withdraw. I will say that the member has reworded the question under the Acting Speaker's direction. The member was not here many years ago, but the member is probably aware that over 4,000 health staff were actually sacked—

Ms Camm interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, member for Whitsunday. You have asked the question. Allow the Premier to answer.

Ms PALASZCZUK:—including midwives. Midwives were sacked. Nurses were sacked. But, oh, no, those opposite—

Mr Boothman interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Oh, no! They give the questions to the new members to ask because they will not have the memory of what those opposite did. That is right; they did not have the member for Mudgeeraba ask the question. Let me say this: what is missing in this debate, which the health minister has put on the record, is patient safety and the right of the woman to give birth in a safe environment.

Mr Head interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! Resume your seat, please, Premier. Member for Callide, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is not just a case of getting an obstetrician; you have to get all of the support staff as well. You cannot just have one obstetrician who works 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In fact, you probably need three. Then you need the anaesthetists to go with it and the clinical staff supporting. Secondly, let me say that it is more dangerous for a woman to give birth in a more rural or remote area without those safety guidelines around the woman. These are clinical decisions. They are not decisions made by politicians; they are made by clinicians who decide how best to treat the individual. We know those opposite do not care about people. They do not understand.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The Leader of the Opposition is constantly interjecting and is extremely rude.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I will manage the Leader of the Opposition. I will manage all members in this House.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I have been trying to bring numerous members to order, naming you or calling you individually. I am going to place the members for Toowoomba North and Whitsunday on warnings.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As we see more people graduate through our TAFEs and our universities, as we see more training happen because finally we have a federal government that is prepared to actually release more medical placements in regional areas, we will be able to grow the workforce.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Jordan, the Speaker has made his views in relation to the management of question time extremely clear. I am happy to talk to the Manager of Opposition Business, the Leader of the House or any minor parties that may want to discuss this after question time.

Cost of Living

Mrs MULLEN: My question is of the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Can the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is supporting workers and their families with the cost of living, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for Jordan for the question. As Assistant Minister for Treasury, she is well aware that our EBAs for the Public Service are delivering the best wages and conditions in the country and that helps with the cost of living. We have a cost-of-living adjustment amount that is paid to those workers because we are post COVID and in a very unpredictable inflationary period. It is very hard to lock in a three-year deal when we have inflation rates at about 7.4 per cent and record increases in interest rates are happening now. Our EBA addresses that. I thank the Assistant Minister for Treasury for her role in delivering that for our workers.

What we are hearing this morning from those opposite is a lot of questions where the truth is somewhat twisted. They never really get the facts 100 per cent correct. They try to paint a picture that is not exactly right. Imagine our surprise when during my estimates committee hearing the LNP—those opposite—were saying there was little evidence of any cost-of-living relief. In my portfolio we can talk about Free Kindy and Kindy for All that we have currently. The cost-of-living relief is doing the heavy lifting—and the member for Jordan knows this.

Queensland is doing the heavy lifting when it comes to cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders in this great state. There is a saving of \$4,600 a year and yet all we get from those opposite is whingeing and whining, 'It's not enough.' We have \$1.6 billion in cost-of-living relief, including a \$550 electricity rebate to every single household and rebates for seniors of well over \$1,000. They are whingeing and whining, 'It's not enough.' When it is packaged together there is \$8.2 billion this financial year, which is up 21 per cent, of relief for workers, families and employers in this state. What do we hear from those opposite? Whingeing and whining, 'It's not enough.' Yet nothing comes from them about a possible alternative—not one dollar, nothing. We on this side are doing the heavy lifting and there is nothing coming from those opposite.

Then in WorkCover we heard this extraordinary claim by the member for Kawana that Queensland businesses are facing higher WorkCover charges under this government. Let me give him the facts. Employers in this state did not receive an increase in their premiums for seven years after we were elected. In the last two years there have been two increases that were below inflation. Can I say that for nine years we still have had the lowest premiums in the country, and that is still not enough for those opposite who have been whingeing and whining the whole way through. Let me say to the Leader of the Opposition that to win government he needs to stop whingeing and whining.

(Time expired)

Lovell, Mr L

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question is to the Premier. There are multiple media reports regarding a meeting between the Premier and Lee Lovell. Can the Premier explain why Mr Lovell was lured to her office under false pretences, and will she apologise for this egregious breach of trust?

Acting Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I might take some advice before I hear the answer. That question contains an imputation. I am ruling it out of order.

Infrastructure

Mr BROWN: My question is to the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement. Can the minister update the House on the Palaszczuk government's delivery of Queensland's Big Build, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for Capalaba for the question. He is an incredible advocate for his community and all of Queensland when it comes to building the infrastructure that our growing state needs, all part of Queensland's Big Build. It is the biggest investment in infrastructure in this state's history. We are seeing massive nation-leading projects like delivering the Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro Energy Storage project, which is part of our \$19 billion commitment to clean energy, the largest investment in the nation's history. We are delivering CopperString 2032, North Queensland's largest infrastructure project in generations.

We have announced the Redlands suburban super solar soaker battery, and I know the member for Redlands loves this one too. We are delivering 116 prefabricated homes rolling off factory floors as part of 13½ thousand homes being delivered by the Palaszczuk Labor government. The member is a big fan of our satellite hospitals and one of seven opened last weekend. I saw the member for Redlands and the member for Capalaba there, and we know how much the LNP loves the opening of satellite hospitals. That is not to mention the terrific Capalaba State College hall. That is all part of the Palaszczuk government's Big Build. What was the Liberal National Party's big build when they were in office?

Mrs Gilbert: 1 William Street.

Mr de BRENNI: That is right. I take the interjection, just 1 William Street, one big, white elephant. The only thing those opposite built was an office for themselves and they locked the Queensland taxpayers of this state into long-term leases with zero ability for a future government to renegotiate those leases. I can advise the House that Queenslanders are now paying 25 per cent more than market rate for that accommodation. What a deal they struck over there!

They cannot deal, they cannot plan and we know they cannot build, but they love to sell. We know they love to sell and Queenslanders know they still do. I know the member for Capalaba is a fan of our Big Build. The budget papers state that Queensland's Big Build will underpin the long-term sustainable development of our cities and our regions, supporting good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle for Queenslanders.

There is another document here. Some of us will remember Strong Choices. What did they have say in that? There is no big build here, just a big sell-off. It states, 'The government'—that is the LNP government—'proposes the sale of the generation and coal assets of this state.' We will build big. They will sell off every time

Lovell, Mr L

Mr POWELL: My question is to the Premier. There are multiple media reports regarding a meeting between the Premier and Lee Lovell. Will the Premier apologise to Mr Lovell for the way in which that meeting occurred?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Let me say I had a very good, extensive chat over a cup of tea, hearing firsthand how Lee and his family are doing. I conduct these meetings in private. I do not do them in front of the TV because I give people the opportunity to express how they are feeling

Mr Mander interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: It was a very good meeting and I thank him very much for his time.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Currumbin, you are also warned under the standing orders. The Premier is being directly responsive to the question and not provocative. I would ask that the Premier be heard.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will continue to travel around this state and meet with people in private when it comes to these very sensitive, personal issues and stories to help us formulate our policy. As a result of the meetings I have had across Queensland, we are fast-tracking the establishment of the victims commissioner. I have been having extensive conversations with the Attorney-General, and we want to have the interim victims commissioner in place as soon as possible—I hope by the end of next week. We need to give more support to victims: I hear this message loud and clear. I have spoken directly to people. The stories of what they have gone through are heartbreaking. The fact that they feel they are not supported through the court process or the grieving process is something we are absolutely prioritising.

Emergency Services, Recruitment

Mr SMITH: My question is of the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services. Can the minister please update the House on the recruitment activities undertaken at the Ekka by emergency services agencies, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr RYAN: I thank the member for the question. I am sure that the member loves this time of year, when the Ekka is on. There are opportunities for the regions to come to the city and for everyone to experience the great things that make Queensland the fantastic place it is to live, work and raise a family. The portfolio agencies that I have responsibility for love the Ekka as well. It is an opportunity not only to engage with the community but also to challenge the community about how they can get involved with the emergency services agencies which represent our community so well and keep our community safe.

The police had a stall there. It was really good. They had on display the new Kia EV6, one of the first fully electric highway patrol vehicles in the world. They also had great conversations about opportunities for Queenslanders to be police recruits and to have a career of service to the community. I am told that dozens of people expressed interest and received information about how to join the Police Service. There was also the Corrective Services stall. They spoke about the recruitment opportunities underway. Again, there were dozens of people expressing interest. Of course, the fires were there out the front, handing out stickers and engaging with the firefighters of the future. It was very exciting.

All of us had the opportunity to go to the Ekka. I was looking around to see whether or not there was an LNP recruitment stall. I was thinking, 'Geez, the LNP recruitment stall is very difficult to find.' They would have had empty show bags full of no policies—policy-free zones. They needed to put up some signs to say, 'Come and see the fake leader with the real glass jaw', 'Come and do some singing with the fake Elvis', 'Come and do the chicken dance with the member for Mermaid Beach' or 'Come and see the plans for the fake Bradfield scheme from the member for Nanango,' because I could not find the LNP recruitment stall at the Ekka. That is probably because they do not have anything to offer

Queenslanders. They do not have any plans. They do not have any policies. All they offer is falsehoods and policy-free zones. Our government is committed to Queenslanders. The ministers and our agencies were there engaging with Queenslanders and talking about all of the positive things that this government is contributing to Queenslanders—like in my portfolio areas of police, corrective services and fire and emergency services.

When it comes to our government delivering for Queenslanders, it is not just the Ekka which gives us an opportunity to show off that good work. Every single day we are keeping Queenslanders safe, serving Queenslanders and doing what good governments do: invest in the future of our great state.

Police Service, Recruitment

Mr KNUTH: My question without notice is to the Minister for Police. The minister is now sourcing 2½ thousand new police recruits from overseas whilst stating that the pandemic has thrown challenges at the police and their recruitment. Will the minister explain why, in the face of recruitment difficulties, the QPS is continuing to stand down and persecute experienced police officers for choosing not to be COVID vaccinated long after the pandemic has ended?

Acting Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Hill, that question contains an imputation. I am ruling it out of order.

Job Creation

Mr SKELTON: My question is of 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 Palaszczuk government's plans to create good jobs for Queenslanders, and are there any alternative approaches?

Ms FARMER: I thank the member for his question. I know how excited he and the member for Caloundra were that we announced a new regional jobs committee for the Sunshine Coast. It is one of three new ones on top of the nine that we already have. The other ones are for Central Queensland—the member for Rockhampton loves that—and Mount Isa. Of course, they are part of our Good People. Good Jobs: Queensland Workforce Strategy. We are the first and only state to have a workforce strategy. Certainly, workforce is an issue that is facing every sector and every region.

We are doing some really innovative things in that strategy. A year on, we are seeing some great results. In the last year alone we have placed almost 45,000 people into jobs. They are jobs that employers can take up to address real workforce shortages. We have the Workforce Connect Fund, which has seen 4½ thousand employers working with 20,000 new workers. We talked yesterday about Fee-Free TAFE. Sixty-six thousand people who may not otherwise have had jobs have been given assistance into training and other jobs. We have the Diverse Queensland Workforce program. That has an 85 per cent success rate in getting refugees and migrants into jobs. The list goes on. There is so much to talk about.

We are always hoping for good ideas from everybody. I hold great round tables. I get good ideas from leaders in industry and community. I would love to hear some ideas from the LNP. I looked at what they are doing in the area of jobs. Have they even asked me about it? We know that the LNP like to cut jobs. As soon as they came to government last time they cut 14,000 jobs. Some of the other programs we have create jobs. The Skilling Queenslanders for Work program is a cracker—we have helped 50,000 people into jobs. What did the LNP do as soon as they came to government? They cut Skilling Queenslanders for Work—a program that showed we generated \$8 value for every single dollar spent.

With Fee-Free TAFE, 66,000 people have accessed training and further jobs. What did those opposite do when they came to government? They slashed TAFE. They cut campuses and they sacked teachers. They cut nearly \$200 million out of the budget. Have they asked me one single question about the top issue for employers or the top issue for small businesses? Every single one of them would hear it from the businesses in their region. The top issue is jobs. How many questions have they asked me about jobs? Zero.

(Time expired)

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I acknowledge in the gallery the Mayor of Isaac Regional Council, Anne Baker.

Children in Watch Houses

Mr BERKMAN: My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice. Last night the minister released a media statement claiming that changes to suspend her human rights obligations to children in watch houses will ensure business as usual. Does this government consider that a child sleeping on the floor with three other people in a two-person watch house cell, where they have no access to education and no partitioned toilet, is business as usual?

Ms FARMER: I thank the member for his question. The amendments that are currently going through the House do relate to addressing a technicality which was made clear to us in the recent Supreme Court action about, firstly, the orders that are made to—

Mr Berkman interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: The member will cease his interjections. The minister is being directly responsive to the question.

Ms FARMER: The amendments are around a technicality that was made, firstly, about the way orders were made to transfer young people from police custody to detention and, secondly, an interpretation of what has been custom and practice for 30 years in this state which gives the chief executive officer of youth justice the ability to make decisions about the safety and wellbeing of staff and young people in youth detention centres.

Mr Berkman interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, member for Maiwar.

Ms FARMER: For 30 years the chief executive officer has been able to make decisions about whether young people could be accepted into youth detention centres and they relate—

Mr Berkman interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, member for Maiwar!

Ms FARMER: It is very important that the chief executive officer, as that person has been able to do for 30 years, is able to say whether they can safely—

Mr Berkman interjected.

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

Ms FARMER:—accept young people based on gender, based on age, based on the mental health of the young person to make sure that we have the safety and wellbeing of young people and staff at youth detention centres the absolute best it can be. This is business as we have conducted it and the amendments will validate that custom and practice of 30 years.

Mr Berkman interjected.

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

Whereupon the honourable member for Maiwar withdrew from the chamber at 11.11 am.

Ms FARMER: It remains the commitment of this government to keep young people in watch houses for minimal time. When they are in watch houses we ensure—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members!

Dr MacMahon interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Member for South Brisbane, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms FARMER: When they are in watch houses we ensure that those young people are provided with services like education, health, counselling, mental health support. We have oversight bodies whose responsibility it is to monitor the provision of those services, and that will continue to be our priority.

Social Housing

Mr KING: My question is to the Minister for Housing. Will the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is increasing the supply of social housing through purchasing former NRAS properties, and is the minister aware of any other approaches?

Ms SCANLON: I thank the member for the question. As well as delivering our big social housing build, we are stepping in to purchase homes that would have exited the National Rental Affordability Scheme program. I was only recently with the member for Nicklin and the member for Caloundra to announce that through our Housing Investment Fund we are providing Coast2Bay, which is a community housing provider, money to purchase 121 homes in the Gympie, Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay region. This is in addition to the 335 ex-NRAS properties that we have also provided funding to National Affordable Housing, another community housing provider, to purchase homes through that scheme.

I think it is important to remind everyone why we are in this situation, and that is because the former LNP government made the decision to discontinue this scheme. We have stepped in though. We are also purchasing vacant retirement villages and aged-care homes, turning them into social housing homes so that people have a safe place to call home. It is bizarre to hear from those opposite that they do not support these programs—or so we thought until I received a letter from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, who asked me to step in and purchase NRAS properties in his electorate. There seems to be a bit of division—

Ms Palaszczuk: Say that again, Minister. I missed that.

Ms SCANLON: The deputy leader asked me to step in and purchase NRAS properties in his electorate while the member for Everton and the Leader of the Opposition criticise us for purchasing homes. So I am a bit unclear what the LNP's policy actually is.

Mr Dick interjected.

Ms SCANLON: We know at a federal level its position is to block housing, block investment in housing—

Mr Dick interjected.

Ms SCANLON:—stand in the way of housing. When it was last in government its decision was to discontinue NRAS, to discontinue funding—

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

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

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Treasurer, I would ask you to withdraw that unparliamentary language.

Mr DICK: I withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I took personal offence because my constituents are about to go homeless because of this government. That is why I take personal offence and I ask him to withdraw.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Resume your seat. The House will come to order. Member for Kurwongbah, taking points of order is not an opportunity to debate the matter—

Government members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! Treasurer, the member has taken personal offence and I would ask you to withdraw.

Mr DICK: I am very happy to withdraw.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Treasurer, I would ask you to withdraw with some decorum please.

Mr DICK: I am very happy to withdraw, Mr Acting Speaker.

Ms SCANLON: It was the federal LNP government that discontinued NRAS. It was also the federal LNP government that walked away from the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing. It is their mates who did that, and I am not even going to get started on HomeBuilder, which was their signature housing policy apparently.

At a state level we have had crickets—no policy—which leads me to think that the only policy of those opposite is what they did last time, which was to see social housing go backwards by 428 homes, cut funding to Tenants Queensland, cut funding to the social housing construction program, and I could

go on. How do we know that those opposite have not changed? Because they appointed the very same bloke who was responsible for those cuts to the frontbench for that portfolio. While we build, those opposite cut.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Apparently I mixed up the members for Kurwongbah and Kawana. I apologise to both members and I correct the record at the earliest possible time. There is so much to like about both members.

Queensland Building and Construction Commission, Integrity

Mr MANDER: My question is to the Minister for Public Works and Procurement. Has the minister been advised by the chair of the QBCC board that the QBCC commissioner has been referred to the CCC for using an inappropriate process to fill the position of Chief Integrity and Risk Officer and does the commissioner still have his confidence?

Mr de BRENNI: As I pointed out in the debate on committee reports yesterday, the member for Everton has been engaged in an attack on servants of the Queensland public employed at the QBCC for many years now, and I also pointed this out during the estimates hearing. He has been so racked with guilt about his obsessive attack on those public servants that he chose to use almost all of the statement of reservation covering up his tracks on that. Then he did it again yesterday and he has come into this House today to further undermine the public confidence of the construction industry regulator, and I can understand why. I am sure that guilt over that attack on public servants eats up every single member of the LNP every single day whilst their leader continues to refuse to provide an apology.

This matter was addressed at the estimates hearing and the commissioner advised during the estimates hearing that the QBCC has stood up a new integrity and risk division that is undertaking a review process across a range of policies and procedures, including those in relation to integrity and conduct matters. In that same hearing the commissioner also advised that she had contacted the CCC regarding the integrity of the QBCC and that the CCC indicated to the commissioner that it had no concerns about the organisation. I have every confidence in the staff, the workforce, who come to work every single day to serve the people of this state—whether they are working in our hospitals, in our schools, in our building regulator, in our power stations—and I have confidence in the commissioner of the QBCC.

The member for Everton wants to walk around this state, wants to come into this place and into the estimates hearing and continue their campaign of attack against public servants. Those public servants are reminded every time that man opens his mouth what they would do if they ever sat on this side of the House once again. They would recommence their attacks.

Mr POWELL: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b). The question was: had the minister been advised by the chair of the QBCC that the commissioner has been referred to the CCC?

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Minister, I have been listening to your response carefully. You have referred to dealing with the question in estimates, but I would ask you to come back to the substance of the question.

Mr de BRENNI: I am addressing the substance of the issue, which is the member for Everton's obsessive attack on officials of the building regulator. I have answered the question in relation to whether or not those matters have been addressed. They were asked in estimates. I am providing exactly the same answer now. Those matters have all been addressed. I have full confidence in the commissioner. There are no matters that have been brought to my attention in addition to any of the matters that were addressed at estimates. Every single time the member for Everton has an opportunity he continues his public—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr de BRENNI: He will not do it outside of this House. He would never do it outside of the House.

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

Whereupon the honourable member for Everton withdrew from the chamber at 11.21 am.

Mr de BRENNI: Let me make it clear and on the record, the member for Everton will never undertake this attack outside of this House.

Community Safety

Ms McMILLAN: My question is to the Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts. Can the minister advise how the Palaszczuk government is keeping Queenslanders safe on a night out?

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Minister, you have one minute.


Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for Mansfield for the question. I want to acknowledge that she recently had a milestone birthday. Happy birthday, member for Mansfield! I am about five years ahead of the member for Mansfield in age and I do not necessarily have big nights out on a Friday or Saturday night anymore, but many Queenslanders do and, of course, they want to have that in a safe way. That is why we have a number of initiatives that reduce alcohol related violence in entertainment precincts.

There are two types of services that we fund through the safe night precinct support services. One is rest and recovery areas, a safe place for intoxicated people to receive support and supervision and to reduce the risk of harm to themselves and others. The other is mobile patrols to monitor public spaces and identify people who may be vulnerable or in distress and to de-escalate potential violence. It is a great body of work that we fund to make sure that people can have safe nights out across those precincts in Queensland—a great initiative from the Palaszczuk government.


Mr ACTING SPEAKER: The period for question time has concluded.

ACTING SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Questions on Notice


 **Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** I wish to advise members that it has come to our attention that the questions on notice submitted by the member for Hinchinbrook and the member for Hill yesterday were mistakenly directed to the Hansard office by attendant staff instead of the Table Office. Accordingly, the electronic database will be updated to include the questions from yesterday.

Questions Without Notice

 **Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** I also wish to remind the House that a number of questions were ruled out of order based on imputations. I would encourage members to familiarise themselves with the standing orders around imputations. We have a very narrow definition of imputations in this parliament. The Clerk and myself are available to take people through those. We will rule out what are otherwise reasonable questions for the inclusion of one or two words which include imputations.

BODY CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (11.23 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997, the Building Units and Group Titles Act 1980, the Land Sales Act 1984, the Land Title Act 1994 and the South Bank Corporation Act 1989 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Body Corporate and Community Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 [\[1190\]](#).

Tabled paper: Body Corporate and Community Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, explanatory notes [\[1191\]](#).

Tabled paper: Body Corporate and Community Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[1192\]](#).

The Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997, which I will refer to as the BCCM Act, provides for the establishment, administration and termination of community titles schemes in Queensland. Community titles scheme can take a variety of forms, including duplex homes, townhouse complexes, residential apartment buildings, gated communities as well as commercial and mixed-use developments. As of June this year, Queensland had 528,190 individual lots—for example, units—in 52,089 schemes. The BCCM Act must evolve to meet the current and future needs of the growing number of Queenslanders who are choosing apartments and other communal-based arrangements.

The bill delivers on key government election commitments, including a new process for the termination of community titles schemes—which was also identified as a key action from the housing summit last year—as well as new arrangements for the authorisation of alternative insurance for certain schemes. The bill also gives effect to a range of reforms that have their basis in recommendations from the property law review which was undertaken for the government by the Commercial and Property Law Research Centre of the Queensland University of Technology.

Each of the proposed reforms to the community titles framework in the bill were also considered by the Community Titles Legislation Working Group. The working group was established in 2021 pursuant to a Palaszczuk government election commitment with the purpose of providing views and advice about important issues relating to community titles schemes and potential reform options. The working group is comprised of representatives from the Australian College of Strata Lawyers, the Australian Resident Accommodation Managers Association, the Owners Corporation Network, the Queensland Law Society, the Real Estate Institute of Queensland, Strata Community Association and the Unit Owners Association Queensland. Other stakeholders with relevant specialist knowledge were also engaged on particular issues as part of the working group process. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the working group members and other stakeholders for their important contributions. Their views have helped inform government decision-making with respect to the reforms in the bill.

I will now give a brief overview of the amendments to the community titles scheme framework in the bill. The bill provides a new process to facilitate the collective sale and termination of community titles schemes with the support of 75 per cent or more of lot owners where the body corporate has decided there are defined economic reasons for termination. The new process is a significant and innovative new addition to the current requirements for terminating community titles schemes which essentially require unanimous agreement of the lot owners or, alternatively, an order of the District Court. Under the new process contained in the bill, the economic reasons for termination are either that it is no longer economically viable, or within five years will be no longer economically viable, to repair or maintain the scheme or, for a scheme of a purely commercial nature, that it is not economically viable for the scheme to continue.

Key elements of the new termination process for uneconomic community titles schemes include preparation of a pre-termination report which will include detailed information, including professional reports, to help lot owners decide if there are economic reasons for terminating their scheme; development of a termination plan that will set out critical information for lot owners to consider about the proposed process for terminating the scheme, including arrangements for distributing proceeds of the sale of the scheme; and appointment of an independent facilitator to assist the body corporate to implement the termination plan.

The termination of a community titles scheme is a serious matter that has potentially significant impacts on lot owners, lessees and persons with contractual arrangements with the body corporate. Accordingly, the bill contains key safeguards and protections, including minimum compensation requirements for lot owners and lessees, based on the arrangements that would apply if the state acquired the scheme under the Acquisition of Land Act 1967, as well as compensation for caretaking service contractors based on the market value of the management rights and review and dispute resolution pathways that are available to lot owners at key points in the termination process.

This new approach for terminating uneconomic community titles schemes strikes the right balance of ensuring that a significant majority of lot owners who wish to sell the scheme and are locked in to excessive maintenance, repair or rectification costs through their body corporate levees simply because a small number of owners do not wish to sell, while also providing appropriate protections and safeguards for those minority owners.

If there are no economic reasons for the termination of the scheme then the existing process for termination by a resolution without assent or an order of the District Court to terminate the scheme on just and equitable grounds will remain as options for achieving termination.

As mentioned, the bill also introduces a new process for the authorisation of alternative insurance. The bill provides that an adjudicator may make an order authorising alternative insurance. This will move decision-making on alternative insurance to adjudicators rather than the Commissioner for Body Corporate and Community Management who currently approves this type of application.

The bill will provide that an adjudicator may only make an alternative insurance order if satisfied that the body corporate for a community titles scheme cannot comply with the requirement to ensure particular buildings under the regulation module applying to the scheme for full replacement value and

that the insurance cover under the alternative insurance is as similar as practicable to the cover required under the regulation module applying to the scheme. To support the alternative insurance changes, the bill will provide increased guidance around the processes for making and deciding an application.

The bill will also enable a body corporate to make an application for an alternative insurance order where a body corporate cannot comply with its obligations to insure buildings on lots included in the community titles scheme that are created under a standard format plan of subdivision and have a common wall with a building on an adjoining lot. Bodies corporate in these circumstances previously were unable to apply to the commissioner for approval of alternative insurance.

The bill also addresses second-hand smoke drift in community titles schemes. Second-hand smoke and its smell can often penetrate into neighbouring lots or the common property given the typically close proximity. To address these concerns, the amendments in the bill intend to strengthen protections for residents in community titles schemes against second-hand smoke drift from neighbouring lots.

Bodies corporate will be able to make a by-law that prohibits or restricts smoking on common property or outdoor areas of lots such as balconies and patios. It is important to note though that, consistent with the object of self-management, making such a by-law will not be compulsory and it will be up to each body corporate as to whether they make the by-law and if so what areas and smoking products the by-law will apply to.

The existing requirement in the BCCM Act for occupiers not to cause a nuisance or hazard or unreasonably interfere with the use and enjoyment of another lot or the community property will also be clarified with respect to smoking. The amendments will provide that this requirement is contravened if an occupier or their invitee regularly uses a smoking product and the occupier of another lot, their invitee or another relevant person is regularly exposed to the smoke or emission from the smoking product either in the other lot or on the common property.

Reflecting contemporary attitudes, the bill also amends the BCCM Act to provide greater clarity around the regulation of pets in community titles schemes. There is a well-established body of judicial and quasi-judicial interpretation relevant to the keeping of animals in community titles schemes. However, it is apparent that some bodies corporate have invalid by-laws that seek to impose a blanket prohibition on animals and are unreasonably refusing requests from occupiers to keep an animal.

The bill provides explicit and clear guidance about the status of animals in community titles schemes to assist bodies corporate, owners and occupiers to deal with the keeping of animals in accordance with the law. The bill is clear that body corporate by-laws cannot prohibit the keeping or bringing of an animal on a lot or the common property of the community titles scheme or restrict the number, size or type of an animal that an occupier of the lot may keep or bring on the lot or common property for the scheme.

The bill will also prescribe the circumstances when a body corporate may refuse a request to keep an animal, based broadly on the existing judicial and quasi-judicial interpretations of the BCCM Act. The bill will provide a body corporate may only refuse a request to keep an animal if the body corporate is satisfied on reasonable grounds of particular matters. For example, the body corporate could refuse the request if keeping the animal would pose an unacceptable risk to the health and safety of an owner or occupier, such as a risk to a person with a severe allergy that could not be reasonably managed by conditions or where the owner or occupier is unwilling or unable to comply with reasonable conditions.

The bill will also enable bodies corporate to respond more rapidly to inappropriate parking by lot owners and occupiers on common property. A body corporate can use the by-law enforcement process in the BCCM Act to enforce breaches of parking by-laws, but this can lead to delays in dealing with parking issues. Towing a vehicle under legal powers outside the BCCM Act may provide a timelier remedy for bodies corporate and the bill provides general clarification regarding the availability of these legal powers.

However, it may be unlawful for a body corporate to tow a vehicle belonging to an owner or occupier that is parked in contravention of a body corporate by-law on parking without going through the process set out in the BCCM Act to enforce body corporate by-laws. The bill will provide that, if a vehicle owned or operated by the owner or occupier of a lot is parked in contravention of a body corporate by-law and is towed by the body corporate, the body corporate is not required to comply with the BCCM Act by-law enforcement processes.

The bill also provides a process for enforcement of by-laws in layered arrangements of community titles schemes. The bill, in the interests of transparency and accountability, provides enhanced rights for subsidiary scheme bodies corporate and owners of lots in subsidiary schemes to access the records of higher level schemes in a layered arrangement in particular circumstances.

The bill will again improve transparency and accountability in the governance of community titles schemes by amending the code of conduct for body corporate managers and caretaking service contractors. The amendments will ensure both body corporate managers and caretaking service contractors are prohibited from unfairly influencing the outcome of a committee election or a body corporate motion.

The amendments will also facilitate the use of modern technologies by the body corporate to enable interested persons to access body corporate records electronically if both parties agree. The bill will clarify and streamline other body corporate administrative and procedural requirements, including by removing the requirement for a body corporate to have a seal. By modernising the BCCM Act, the Palaszczuk government is ensuring that living in community titles schemes continues to be an attractive option for many Queenslanders.

The bill will also make unrelated amendments to strengthen consumer protections for off-the-plan contracts. The bill will limit when sunset clauses can be used to terminate off-the-plan contracts for the sale of land under the Land Sales Act 1984. Off-the-plan residential property contracts are complex and involve nonstandard terms and risks for both the buyer and the seller, including risks linked with changes in the property market. As a result, I strongly encourage buyers considering an off-the-plan residential property to seek legal advice prior to signing the contract.

To strengthen consumer protections for off-the-plan contracts for the sale of land, the bill includes amendments to ensure sellers can only use a sunset clause to terminate off-the-plan contracts for land under the Land Sales Act with the written consent of the buyer, under an order of the Supreme Court or in another situation prescribed by regulation. The bill also provides procedural arrangements for a seller to seek the written consent of the buyer to terminate an off-the-plan contract for the sale of land using a sunset clause. This includes obligations on buyers in respect of responding to the sellers written sunset clause notice, although it is important to note that failure to respond will not be taken as buyer consent to the seller terminating the contract.

The amendments in the bill will apply to off-the-plan contracts for the sale of land that were entered into before the commencement of the amendments but not settled immediately before commencement. Effectively, this will result in the sunset clause amendments operating retrospectively to apply to some existing, unsettled off-the-plan contracts for the sale of land.

The bill also provides that, in relation to seeking an order of the Supreme Court, the seller is liable to pay the buyer's costs related to any proceedings for an order unless the seller satisfies the Supreme Court that the buyer unreasonably withheld consent to terminating the contract under the sunset clause. A review will commence one to two years after the sunset clause amendments have commenced to consider whether further reforms are required to protect people buying proposed community title and similar lots off the plan. The staged approach recognises the increased pressures currently faced by the property industry in respect of labour and material availability and costs for the construction of buildings.

Separately, the bill includes minor amendments to existing provisions relevant to off-the-plan contracts in the BCCM Act, the Land Sales Act, the Building Units and Group Titles Act 1980 and the South Bank Corporation Act 1989. Each of these acts includes a legislative framework regulating amounts held in trust accounts such as deposits for proposed lots. Essentially, all deposits for an off-the-plan sale must be paid to a law practice or a real estate agent or, in limited circumstances, to the Public Trustee. These entities must hold the amount in their prescribed trust account.

The minor amendments in the bill clarify and confirm the policy intent, which is that a deposit can only be released from a relevant trust account to a party to the contract, such as a seller, at the time of settlement or if another contract finalisation event occurs where that party is entitled to the deposit. These changes will make it clear that sellers such as property developers cannot gain early access to deposits paid by buyers under off-the-plan contracts for the sale of land or lots in community titles style developments.

I thank the community and the property industry for responding to surveys the government released last year on these issues. I would also like to thank relevant industry bodies and legal stakeholders for the feedback provided on the amendments. Their contributions have been taken into consideration and informed government decision-making on these amendments. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (11.40 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 Legal Affairs and Safety Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Walker): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee.

MOTION

Suspension of Standing Orders

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.40 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, with respect to the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, standing orders 87 and 150 be suspended to allow the bill and any amendments circulated by the minister to be moved and considered.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.


Motion agreed to.

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

Second Reading

Resumed from 23 August (see p. 2363), on motion of Mr Ryan—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (11.41 am): I rise to address what we thought was the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. What we have seen in the last 24 hours by the Palaszczuk Labor government is utterly disgraceful. It is an affront to parliamentary democracy. It proves that the arrogance of this government, and the chaos and the crisis it is in, knows no end and has reached new levels. If members do not believe my words, I refer to what the Leader of the Opposition shared during question time. Ten years ago the Premier said—

This is an arrogant government that is out of touch and using its numbers to rush through laws without the due consideration of the committee process.

The Premier did not answer the question earlier this morning. Let's try it again now. What has changed in 10 years? Ten years ago it was endemic of an arrogant government—out of touch, using its numbers to rush through legislation and ignoring the parliamentary committee process. That is exactly what is happening here today. If members need reminding, I point out that the original bill—the bill that we thought we were debating—is 48 pages. The amendments circulated by the minister run to 57 pages. Contrary to what the Premier has said this morning, some of them are not simply technical. Some of them are considerable policy diversions from what this state has known—policy changes that require members of parliament elected by Queenslanders to scrutinise. That is exactly why we have a parliamentary committee system.

Let me be very clear: the LNP opposition supports the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 in its original form and will vote to support it. I will repeat that, because I want to be very clear: the LNP opposition supports the child protection bill in its original form and today we will support it at the second reading. The reason I need to be very clear about this is that the Premier has shown her true colours today. I readily suspect that Labor's underhanded and dirty political plan to cover up the utter destruction of the parliamentary committee process will be used against the opposition down the track, because we will need to stand up for this trashing of the parliament. We will need to take a stand against Labor's ghastly lack of integrity. We know that Labor will try to use that for political means.

We need to be clear that we differentiate between the original bill, the amendments moved by the minister and the integrity involved in trashing the parliamentary committee process. When we do, we know that Labor cannot be trusted. When we do, we know that members opposite will be so desperate that they will try to abuse the position we arrive at later this afternoon for their own political gain. It will become weaponised. It will become a political weapon that they use in the weeks and months ahead. In doing so, they are being utterly disingenuous.

We cannot sit by and allow this egregious breach of parliamentary process to go unchecked. The position we will take is on behalf of Queenslanders who believe in integrity, who believe that bills should be scrutinised and particularly who believe that they should have a right to challenge the policy changes that are being put forward in the amendments foreshadowed by the minister.

There is an opportunity rarely used but which we need to use because of this egregious breach. It cannot go unchecked and it cannot go through with our assent. I move the following amendment—

That the question be amended by omitting the words 'now be read a second time' and the following words inserted:

'and all government circulated amendments be referred back to the Community Support and Services Committee for full and proper examination of the bill and amendments, and report back to the House no earlier than 6 October 2023 so as to ensure compliance and adherence to the spirit of section 26B of the Constitution Act 2001.'

Let me speak to the motion I have moved. I have made passing reference to the amendments the minister has moved. Let me unpack some of what they involve. We have: removing proposed requirements for a reportable offender to provide MAC addresses—fine; clarifying the term 'sexual offence against any person'—technical perhaps; clarifying service options for police banning notices—again, potentially technical; and validation of QPS discipline decisions—we have some concerns about this. There is a retrospectivity applied to this that potentially involves 480 disciplinary matters. It may be technical in nature but it has far-reaching ramifications.

We then have the decriminalisation of offences of public intoxication and begging. Queensland is the only state not to have made this change—fine. The Gold Coast may have the highest number of people charged with public intoxication and the parliamentary inquiry into decriminalising these offences has made a number of recommendations, but we have had no assurance that any of this work has been done. The minister must answer why he has felt it necessary to bring this forward now. I know that my colleague the shadow Attorney-General will be addressing this further and addressing our position on it.

Through the foreshadowed amendments we will be removing the offence of public urination. Again, this will have significant flow-on effects. We will also be repealing sex work-specific police powers. Why are we rushing this amendment through? We know that the government has given certain commitments around this. Where is the legislation? Why can that not go to a committee? Why can a committee not consider that as it should? I go on. We heard during question time about the significant changes around the Youth Justice Act and the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act regarding watch houses and the overriding of the Human Rights Act. Again, the shadow Attorney-General will unpack our position on that.

We have amendments to the Mineral Resources Act that concern the town of Glenden. My wife grew up in Glenden. I know it is important to resolve the matter. We understood the Premier had given a commitment to bring legislation forward. We were open to that legislation being brought forward, but we anticipated that it would have been introduced this week and sent off to a committee for consideration to make sure we had it right. My colleague the shadow minister for mines will be addressing that issue.

There are also amendments to the Mental Health Act and the Supreme Court of Queensland Act. When we look at all of those amendments—30 in total; 57 pages of them—we must ensure that the motion I have just moved is agreed to by the House. This legislation must go back to the Community

Support and Services Committee for their consideration of not only the bill as it previously stood but also, more importantly, these amendments. We need to give them the time to do the proper consultation that our parliamentary committee process has been established to do.


Today we are seeing the Palaszczuk Labor government trashing our parliamentary committee process. More than that, they are trashing Westminster tradition. They are trashing it because they have given up listening to Queenslanders. They have given up making sure that legislation reflects the needs of Queenslanders. They do not meet with Queenslanders. They do ensure that Queenslanders have an opportunity to have input when amendments like these are brought forward. They have decided they do not need parliament anymore and they do not need the parliamentary committee process anymore. As I said when I started my contribution, in the Premier's own words—

... an arrogant government that is out of touch and using its numbers to rush through laws without the due consideration of the committee process.

They are not my words; they are the Premier's words 10 years ago.

This cannot happen without being commented on. This must be addressed. I call on all members of this House of all political persuasions to join with me in voting for the motion I have just moved.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Walker): Before proceeding, I point out that there is a motion before the House. Anybody speaking forthwith must be speaking to the motion.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.51 am): I speak against the motion before the House. In doing so, I have to point out the hypocrisy of the statements made by the Manager of Opposition Business. He has no excuse for that hypocrisy because he was part of the Newman government and is absolutely aware—

Mr Powell: Queenslanders got rid of that government.

Mrs D'ATH: I will take that interjection which was that Queensland got rid of that government.

Mr Powell: They did.

Mrs D'ATH: I am going to take that interjection. The Manager of Opposition Business said, 'Yes, and Queenslanders got rid of that government'—and they did, rightly so. I believe what the member is now inferring is that he agrees that they were a bad government and that they should never have done what they did when it comes to pushing laws through. I am assuming that is what that member is saying. I find that quite extraordinary—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Walker): Pause the clock. Leader of the House, take your seat. I caution members. I have a list of members who are already on a warning. Those members are: Southern Downs, Mudgeeraba, Kawana, Nanango, Toowoomba South, Callide, Toowoomba North, Whitsunday, Everton, Currumbin, Maiwar and South Brisbane. Members, be mindful of those warnings as we move forward.

Mrs D'ATH: We can only infer from the statements that have been made by the Manager of Opposition Business—whether he is speaking for himself or on behalf of the LNP opposition—that he now believes these practices are not appropriate and that is part of the reason they lost government. The reality is that they have never said that. In the eight years since they lost government have they ever acknowledged that ramming through laws the way they did contributed to them losing government? If they did feel that way, why then did they in opposition post 2015 bring in a bill and, with the support of the crossbench, move a motion to declare urgent the bill which changed the membership of the parliament—the number of seats across Queensland—from 89 to 93? They did this without any voice being given to the people of Queensland on whether we should increase the number of seats in this parliament at significant expense. They did not allow the public to have a say because they moved to declare the bill urgent. I am sure those opposite remember that.

It has been a little while since they told me how long we debated the amendment that we moved on compulsory preferential voting. They do like to quote that—

An opposition member: Eighteen minutes.

Mrs D'ATH: Eighteen minutes; there we go. They remember that, but they forget that the reason we were able to do that is that they brought in a private member's bill and moved that the bill be declared urgent so that it bypassed the committee process completely. The Manager of Opposition Business cannot say that they learnt their lesson by losing government and that they would never do that again because the evidence shows they have done it since.


I want to go back and remind them what they did in government. The LNP bypassed the committee process entirely on key bills, including their antibikie laws that had to be redrafted. The Vicious Lawlessness Association Disestablishment Bill 2013—we all remember the VLAD Bill—passed on the same day it was introduced. Their watering down of workers compensation rights—the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013—passed two days after introduction. Their legislation reducing the rights of same-sex couples—the Civil Partnerships and Other Legislation Amendment Bill—passed the day after introduction.

On coming into government the LNP announced that—they did not just do this on the spur of the moment—their election policies should bypass the committee process. Campbell Newman announced that they would regularly bypass the committee process. The LNP bypassed the committee process on the antibikie VLAD laws and then they had to fix drafting errors. The LNP moved the following amendments in consideration in detail—bypassing the committee process: the removal of employment protections for public servants and the independence of the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission to prepare for the mass sacking of 14,000 workers; sacking the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee in the dead of night because they did not like what it was uncovering; and changing the law for LNP donor Karreman Quarries to cover activity that breached the law.

What did Tony Fitzgerald end up saying about the LNP by the end of their term? He said—

During its brief term in power, the present government treated the community with contempt. From behind a populist facade, it engaged in nepotism, sacked, stacked and otherwise reduced the effectiveness of parliamentary committees, subverted and weakened the state's anticorruption commission, made unprecedented attacks on the courts and the judiciary, appointed a totally unsuitable chief justice, reverted to selecting male judges almost exclusively and, from a position of lofty ignorance, dismissed its critics for their effrontery.

For all of those reasons, the motion that is before us today cannot be taken seriously and should be voted down by this House.

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (11.58 am): We heard a litany of excuses from the Attorney-General as to why they are failing to comply with their own legislation—the Human Rights Act. It was said on 26 February about this piece of legislation that the member for Toohey was keen on and that the Attorney-General introduced—although they guillotined the debate on their own Human Rights Act—

The intention of this bill is to put human rights at the centre of public sector decision-making and to establish a mechanism whereby individuals aggrieved by decisions ... may have their issues resolved in a way that is accessible and focused on practical outcomes.

Here they are with one of the biggest overrides of the Human Rights Act that we have seen in this place since their own ill-fated legislation came in.

You can imagine the howls of protest from the left-wing of the Labor Party if this was something that the LNP had done. You can imagine all the left-wing members would have been jumping up and down screaming—the health minister, the Attorney-General, the member for Toohey, the member for Cooper and the rest of them. Where are they all jumping up and down in relation to this move by a chaotic and crisis ridden Palaszczuk Labor government? That is why everyone who has any concern about democracy or about proper process should support the motion moved by the Manager of Opposition Business. If anyone is in any doubt that this Labor government is a government in chaos and crisis, yesterday's actions by the police minister removed the last vestiges of doubt. As I say, there would have been howls of protest if this had been done by anyone else.

We do not let the Greens off the hook because they are there riding shotgun for this Labor government. They are locked in hand in hand every step of the way. The Greens political movement and the Labor semi-Greens political movement are standing there side by side every day of the week. We do not need to be lectured to by the Greens coming in here and complaining about human rights abuses because we know that given every opportunity they will pass their preferences on. We know that a dozen members over there hold their seats by virtue of the Greens political party. They may say one thing but their actions belie their words. They are all over there—the member for McConnel, the member for Cooper. We know who is sitting there on the basis of Greens political party preferences. They are in lock-step every step of the way.

This is a 57-page grab bag of unheralded changes and amendments released without consultation and of very great significance. This amendment package is 10 pages bigger than the actual bill itself. It reminds us of the racing minister and her 200 pages of amendments to the Racing Act. She would have been better withdrawing the whole bill and dropping a new one in—but no. In a face-saving exercise because she had landed this prize plum role from the member for Rockhampton—Bill Byrne at the time—in the minister came and said, 'Here's 200 pages of amendments to a 100-section act.'

That was one of the greatest embarrassments of all time by the racing minister, and when it comes to this minister there are a lot of embarrassments. Who can remember when as employment minister she said, 'Youth unemployment will always be with us'? That was the member for McConnel's great contribution to reducing the unemployment rate.

These are significant changes—changes to the criminal law, changes to the Summary Offences Act, changes to the prostitution act, changes to the Youth Justice Act, changes to the Supreme Court of Queensland Act, changes to police banning notices. These are all changes effected by this package of amendments moved by this incompetent government because they lack the wit and wisdom to be able to plan, prepare and legislate properly for the state of Queensland.

The explanatory notes package for the amendments is larger than the original explanatory notes package for the bill itself. They are amendments of such significance to so many people and to the rule of law that they should not be waved through this place without proper scrutiny and the opportunity for submitters and interested parties to make comments. For example, what would the Human Rights Commissioner, Mr Scott McDougall, say? He might say, as he said on ABC 612 radio this morning, that the Premier, and by extension the youth justice minister, is wrong when they claim keeping kids in watch houses for weeks and weeks at a time is a practice that has been happening for the last 30 years. It is not. That is a blatant misstatement of the reality of the circumstances.

He might point out, as he also did this morning on radio, that this problem of kids in watch houses has only been a problem since 2018 under this chaotic and crisis ridden Palaszczuk Labor government. He would no doubt point out his view that the government are completely wrong in making an exceptional circumstances declaration, as they have for these amendments, overriding their own Human Rights Act from applying to children. This does not apply to adult criminals. This does not even apply to younger offenders in their early 20s. This human rights override applies to children on remand or detained in police watch houses. It covers declarations that watch houses will now become prisons. Watch houses will now become prisons under the Palaszczuk Labor government.

What they have not spoken about is that the declaration also covers parts of a corrective services facility. What does that mean? They are moving 17-year-olds back into prisons because they do not have enough space. They never planned for it and they never prepared for it. The human rights declaration now covers decisions made by the chief executive of youth detention centres or the chief executive of the department not only to keep kids in watch houses for longer—we have had reports of kids being kept for 500 days—but for moving kids back into prisons. That is what this declaration does.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I believe that the member is now debating the substance of the amendments as opposed to the motion now before the House.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I have been seeking advice in relation to that. I caution all members that you need to relate all debate back to the motion. While that may involve some reference to the bill, it does have to be directly linked to the motion in some substantive form.

Mr NICHOLLS: Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker, and of course I take that guidance.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I just wish to clarify that I am not suggesting that you have not done that. We have been taking other advice and have not followed carefully enough, but we will be following carefully from this point forward.

Mr NICHOLLS: The need for review of this legislation, which is why the motion has been moved by the Manager of Opposition Business, is because there are so many people with such a great interest in what is going on including people like the Human Rights Commissioner. One can only imagine what other people like Sisters Inside might say about it. I am not known for agreeing with Debbie Kilroy much, but I am absolutely in agreement with the proposition that this legislation needs proper scrutiny—proper scrutiny that comes from having submitters and others appear before a committee to ask questions of and to point out the failures.


This legislation covers not just youth detention centres, not just moving things through. This covers the decision of the Supreme Court which issued a writ of habeas corpus against this government. How often is a prerogative writ issued against a government for the unlawful detention of three children? It was eight but they were caught out and moved five out before they got down to the final three. The Human Rights Commissioner intervened in that court case about the government's action. These amendments involve important things.

Does this minister say that this is an exceptional circumstance, because the example in the legislation is a war, a state of emergency or an exceptional crisis situation creating a threat to public safety, health, and law and order? Kids in watch house are creating a threat to law and order? Kids in detention centres are creating a threat to law and order? It is the kids outside of them that are the threat.

It is not the ones inside. You already have them. They do not have guns. They do not have knives. They have a smock and are sitting in a locked up room. What a ridiculous override. It does not stand up to scrutiny.

What do other Labor Party members in this place think? Did they even know this was coming? Does the member for Cooper agree with it? Does the member for Toohey agree with it? Do all those members agree with it or are they just going to sit there and for the sake of their comfortable seats and positions just suck it up or are they going to have any of the principles that they spoke about when the Human Rights Act was introduced?


Who thinks changes to the public urination laws should go through without proper debate? It is unhygienic and unsanitary. People urinating and defecating in public in shopfronts on the way home from events—that should be discussed. Changes to the prostitution laws—that should be discussed. There are many. This bill should be properly examined before it is discussed.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (12.09 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the member for Glass House. We have spent the last two days talking about committee business and the estimates process. It is not perfect, but it is due process. After lunchtime today we will go into debate of committee reports, and that is where these amendments should go.

I was not down on the list to speak on this bill, but I did not know there would be natural resources amendments in a child safety bill. It defies belief. One would think it must be something so time critical that it must be brought in, but the Coordinator-General put the terms in in 2014. The amendments circulated are going to take 10 years to fully implement. Yesterday Minister Stewart stood in this House and introduced a bill under his name. Why are the natural resources amendments not in that bill? Why did it have to be tagged into this bill? It defies belief.

We have fought hard for the committee process over the years. It has been discussed many times. It is not perfect, but there are so many questions around this Glencore-QCoal agreement. We do not know who is going to own these houses. We do not know who is going to maintain them. There are a lot of asbestos issues. This is not time critical. This should be set aside. This needs to go through the committee process or it should be pulled out in its entirety and introduced under a separate title.

The member for Clayfield has addressed the legal aspects of the bill. I do not pretend to be an expert on the law. As I said, I had no interest in this bill until I found out about this. It is an absolute disgrace. I would encourage everybody to support the member for Glass House's amendment to the motion. I know how passionately some of these people have fought for the Human Rights Act, which is being trampled today. Nobody can stand up and justify this. I would urge members to support the member for Glass House's amendment. I look forward to some serious debate on this bill.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (12.11 pm): I oppose the amendment to the motion and associate myself with the comments of the Leader of the House. I firstly want to acknowledge in the gallery the magnificent ladies from BPW. It is great to have them here. Well done and welcome to the parliament.

In opposing the amendment I draw members' attention to the fact that a number of these amendments are quite technical in nature and were requested directly and urgently by the relevant agencies. For instance, the amendment around media access control addresses specifically relates to the amendment bill. It addresses an amendment in the amendment bill, and for the reasons outlined yesterday in my second reading speech the Queensland Police Service has asked for that to be removed. I cannot see how there is any controversy at all about acting on that.

With respect to controlled operations, these are critical processes and investigations which the Queensland Police Service undertakes, often via Task Force Argos and other experienced police officers. The Controlled Operations Committee has asked for this urgently to ensure that children and the community are kept safe. How could anyone ever argue that is not something that needs to be dealt with urgently?

How could those opposite ever say that the amendment validating and clarifying the service processes the Queensland Police Service can use with respect to police banning notices to keep people in safe night precincts safe is controversial? It was requested by the Queensland Police Service.

In relation to validating police discipline referrals, this was requested by the Queensland Police Service and relates to a Court of Appeal decision. It is to ensure that disciplinary matters are appropriately dealt with in a way that ensures not only the reputation of the Queensland Police Service but also those people who have been found to have done the wrong thing but as a result of technical error have avoided the consequence of being found to have done that wrong thing.

The issue relating to the Inspector of Detention Services is again a technical matter that addresses essentially a drafting error. How could anyone ever say that is controversial?

In terms of validating the appointment process under the Mental Health Act, which is an urgent matter, how could those opposite ever say that is controversial? With respect to a Supreme Court of Queensland regulation validating a particular matter, how could anyone ever say that is controversial?

With respect to the amendments associated with saving Glenden, that is an urgent matter. How could anyone ever say it is not a matter that should not be considered urgently by this parliament to give certainty to that community?

With respect to public intoxication and begging, those matters have been the subject of a parliamentary inquiry. In fact, the report came back to this House. There were multiple opportunities for members of this House to contribute to the debate on the report about this very matter. How could anyone say this particular matter has not been considered by members of this House before when, quite clearly, it has? It was the subject of an inquiry, a report and a debate in this House. Public urination is a matter that was considered by the committee in its report. Sex work and specific covert powers are matters that were scrutinised by the QLRC over a prolonged period and have been in the public domain for an extended period.

The amendments before the House are not only, in respect of some of the amendments, technical matters but in respect of other amendments they are urgent matters, and in respect of other matters they have already been the subject of consideration by members of this House and members of the community. It is quite clear that there is justification for the government bringing these amendments in the way that it has. I would encourage all members to oppose the amendment to the motion that has been moved by those opposite. I move—

That the question now be put.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I will take some advice. I have given that matter quite significant consideration. I am satisfied that there has been a reasonable explanation in both directions on this, so I will allow that question to be put.

Division: Question put—That the question be now put.

AYES, 48:

ALP, 48—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, S. King, Lauga, Lui, Madden, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

NOES, 38:

LNP, 31—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Pairs: A. King, Millar; Linard, Simpson; Pitt, O'Connor.

Resolved in the affirmative.

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

AYES, 38:

LNP, 31—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

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NOES, 48:

ALP, 48—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, S. King, Lauga, Lui, Madden, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

Pairs: A. King, Millar; Linard, Simpson; Pitt, O'Connor.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Mr Powell) negatived.



Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12.29 pm): What a disgrace we have seen unfold in the Queensland parliament today. We have a Premier who said she was elected on accountability and transparency. I say this to the Premier: most Queenslanders say they 'wake up with Today', but after the Premier's performance on the *Today* show, I do not reckon she will be going on there much longer. Do you know what she said? 'You know me, Karl.' I say to the Premier, 'Yes, we do.' What just happened in this House is what has become of this Premier: arrogant, out of touch, part-time, more interested in the red carpet, running from public scrutiny, afraid of public scrutiny—

Mr Minnikin: Afraid to meet people.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. She is absolutely afraid to meet people. She refused to go out yesterday and speak to the crime victims and she refused to send any Labor Party members out to listen to the victims of crime. We saw four members of crime victim families given an opportunity to meet with various ministers, but not the Premier, and then just after that they selected one individual victim of crime and secretly whisked him out of that meeting and took him into another meeting, leaving his teenage girls outside with the rest of the crime victims. That is how the Premier treated the crime victims yesterday. They took Mr Lovell secretly through the corridor to get a surprise meeting, where he had no idea where he was being taken. His daughters were forced to stay outside while the Premier had her audience. That is what it was about—so that the Premier could tick a box so she could come in here today and say, 'I met with a victim of crime.'

Mr Krause: A victim.

Mr Minnikin: Just one.

Mr BLEIJIE: One victim, a victim, when the other three who had just met with the ministers were denied that opportunity. I am proud, with our leader, David Crisafulli, that half of our team yesterday went out and listened to the victims of crime, listened to these issues. When these four victims of crime met with the police minister, did he have the courage to tell them that in a little over an hour's time he was going to be rushing through amendments to this bill—57 pages of amendments to this bill—without any consultation, weakening laws in this state, weakening criminal laws in this state? No, I bet he did not have the heart to tell them that. Just like he used the Pullen family as political pawns in his political exercise, they were used yesterday for exactly the same purpose.

If you look at the police minister's commentary just before he disgracefully moved the motion be put, he said, 'Oh, it is just technical.' These are the amendments—57 pages. How many pages is the bill we are debating? It is 48 pages. The amendments are bigger than the bill itself. The amendments are 57 pages, and this minister would have people believe that they are just technical in nature. He has become an absolute joke of a minister.

He talked this morning about the Ekka and firefighters. I tell you what the firefighters were telling us as we walked around the Ekka. We did have a stand at the Ekka and, my gosh, the people of Queensland were speaking to us at that stand. Crime was one of the biggest issues raised. The Labor Party did not have a stand. We were there listening. Our members went and listened to the members of the community. They said crime is one of the biggest issues that they are facing. The firefighters that were all around the Ekka selling their calendars, one of which the member for Nanango bought—

Mrs Frecklington: I buy one every year!

Mr BLEIJIE:—all for good charity! They were telling us what they think about their Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, and it was not good. The minister comes in here and says these are just technical in nature. They are not. These are substantive amendments. The reason we are raising these issues is that the Premier has changed. The Premier has made speech after speech in this place about accountability, integrity and the committee process. Hasn't she trashed the committee process? Hasn't she trashed the estimates process? You know what? Just as the opposition, Queenslanders and the media were finding out about these substantial amendments when they were tabled yesterday, so too was the Labor Party backbench. You could see across their faces that they had no idea. They had no

idea that this was coming. The minister says some of these are urgent amendments. These are substantive. These have gone through cabinet. A minister would have prepared an authority to prepare. A minister would have prepared the authority to introduce. The minister before that would have had a policy decision for the government. This was not urgent legislation drafted overnight; this has been on the books for some time.

The Premier was at the Bush Summit and knows the issues with respect to Glenden. I know we have expressed our concerns about the rush of this legislation and typically the Labor Party would have everyone believe, including those in the gallery, that we are not supporting the issues in Glenden. Rubbish! Nothing could be further from the truth. You still need transparency around decision-making. The Premier was at the Bush Summit and said she was going to introduce legislation to deal with that very important topic. This is not legislation. This is an amendment to legislation. The minister responsible for this issue introduced his own bill in parliament this week. He could have introduced it in that bill.


Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: He could have introduced it in his own bill yesterday. I take the interjection. No! Rush it through. The question is: what are the unintended consequences of this urgency? The Treasurer might smirk and grin over there. The Labor Party might say, 'Oh, no, there will be no unintended consequences.' Really? Explain that to the previous housing minister who only a couple of months ago rushed in housing amendments and now is consulting with the community on how to fix their rushed housing legislation.

Nothing goes to the chaos and crisis of this government more than this parliamentary sitting, this bill, these amendments. It absolutely shows the chaos and crisis of the Palaszczuk government. They have stopped listening. They have given up on listening. They have given up on the Premier's rhetoric of transparency and accountability. They introduced the Human Rights Act as this groundbreaking, world-leading legislation. Now they are just happy to trash it. Trash it! Don't worry about the human rights legislation. Don't worry about it! It has gone! Why has it gone? It has gone for political opportunity. Why has it gone? It has gone because of the failures of the minister for corrections and the plethora of youth justice ministers to manage capacity in our youth detention centres. They are full.

Here is the question to the government now: is the Caloundra watch house, which was turned into a youth detention centre then turned back into a watch house, now again a youth detention centre? This is about the member for Caloundra never resiling from the fact that he wants to turn the Caloundra watch house into a youth detention centre. He now has his wish because of this legislation and these amendments. They will now use the watch house in Caloundra as their detention centre which is what he wanted all along. The government spent a million dollars on that Caloundra watch house, turning it into a youth detention centre, with the fences, the barbed wire, all the orders sitting out the back and the air-conditioners sitting out the back. It has sat vacant now for a year. After a million dollars of expenditure, it has sat there for a year now, not being used as a watch house and not even being used as a detention centre. What will it be now? It will be a youth detention centre in the heart of Caloundra. The member for Ninderry, other MPs on the Sunshine Coast and I will raise this issue again and hold the member for Caloundra to account because he has misled his community.

The other thing the Minister for Police says is that it is just a technicality. So much of this legislation that we are debating today is due to errors of the government, rushing things and stuffing things up. That is the reality of this. We are constantly now called back to parliament to fix their errors because they have lost their way. They are so chaotic and crisis driven, they have lost their way. The government have no clear vision for Queensland anymore. The Premier has checked out at 100 miles an hour. She has absolutely checked out. Her backbenchers have checked out as well. There is no faith in the backbench, in all the ministers, in the Premier or in the incompetent Treasurer who is fighting every investment opportunity in Queensland at the moment. Investment will be driven away because of the Labor government. We have more victims of crime because of the Labor government. Nothing the Labor Party will do will stop the LNP raising these issues because the Labor Party have given up on democracy in 2023.

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (12.39 pm): What we have just heard from the other side is allegations that somehow members on this side are against the policies of our party, are against the policies of the government. However, we all know where the members who do not agree with policy decisions sit and it is on that side of the House, and it is on one simple policy idea: treaty. Do honourable members remember when we were in Cairns how reviled they were to have to talk about treaty, how they did not want to support treaty?

Mr HEAD: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance, 118(b).

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Member for Bundaberg, please resume your seat. I will deal with this point of order first. It is quite clear that talk of treaty is not part of the long title of this bill. Member for Bundaberg, I will ask you to return to the substance of the bill.

Mr SMITH: What we just heard was a member from the opposition saying that the government members do not support their own policies. However, we know quite clearly that members on that side have been dragged kicking and screaming to other policies before. That is exactly what they do, because they do not want to represent good policy that cares for vulnerable people. This bill and the amendments directly address the more vulnerable elements of our community. Those opposite do not want to address that because they want to keep up this facade that somehow the government is soft on crime. They take an affront to making sure we are not going to be subjecting people to criminal offences around begging, public urination or intoxication. The statistics show a disproportionate impact on the more vulnerable in our community. That is why those opposite cannot believe that their members are getting up and trying to oppose this, but they know they are trying to drive a political wedge.

Let's not try to pretend they somehow care about human rights considering what we have seen over the past 18 months with the way they have been attacking children and attacking young people. They have been trying to spread this fear campaign that every single young person is somehow an offender in waiting. That is the truth of the matter because people in my electorate have come up to me and said, 'I was never afraid until I heard the LNP tell me I had to be afraid.' That is how people on the streets are feeling. They feel as though they have to be afraid because the LNP tells them so. That is exactly what the LNP stand for. They do not want to put in good policies for Queenslanders. They do not want to support good, progressive bills and amendments going forward to ensure we are treating intoxication as a health matter and supporting more vulnerable people. They want to try to collect it into the swirl of fear that the LNP create. It is in their history; it is what they have done time and time again.

On this side of the House we do protect the more vulnerable in our community, and one of the most vulnerable elements of our community is children. We stand strongly against anyone who aims to harm a child physically, sexually or emotionally. We will always put in place the strongest laws to ensure we are capturing people who are offending. Those people are the lowest of the low. There is absolutely no doubt about that. I may hold a stronger view about those people because I have seen young people who have been affected by those offences. I would absolutely encourage all members to support this element of the bill—and I know they will.

However, they should not try to hide from the other elements of this bill by saying it is somehow an attack on democracy or the parliament when we know their record of previously trying to rush through legislation. We know their record. When it comes to protecting children we know their record is that they stopped monitoring 1,700 sex offenders. That is their record. There are members in this chamber who were in government at that time, but they do not want to address that. When the bill that corrected that error by the Newman government—that deliberate error—went through earlier this year they did not want to speak to it. Those who were in the Newman government did not want to mention that part. We are making sure we are going to capture those people. We are going to make sure that words within the legislation around 'a' will change to 'each' when talking about a device because we will not allow child sex offenders to try to get around the system. We need to ensure that children are protected in every possible way.

I move now to the decriminalisation of intoxication, begging and public urination. This is a good thing because it is about making sure we do everything we can to help people in vulnerable situations. What was some of the commentary the member for Burnett made yesterday—and I am not attacking the member for Burnett, because he is my neighbour. In fact, he took my interjection yesterday because he agreed with what I had to say. The member was asking, 'What are you going to do with someone who is publicly intoxicated if they become violent?' The member had plenty of time to read through the amendments and see that the police will still have the power to detain people who are intoxicated in public and are becoming violent. It is very clear. I do feel a bit sorry for the member for Burnett because the member for Burdekin had 12 whole minutes available to him to continue his speech. He could have used that 12 minutes to read out the amendments. He could have bothered to read the amendments and then he could have explained the amendments to those on his side of the House so they could take a position. However, this ridiculous notion that somehow these amendments being put forward—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SMITH: I can hear them chirping on the other side. They are the members who cut monitoring of 1,700 sex offenders.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SMITH: If they want to interject, I will take their interjections and I will point out each and every one of them. The member for Mermaid Beach was one of them and the member for Burnett was another one. They have gone very quiet now. I wonder why. It is that they are ashamed on their side. They feel ashamed. That is why.

We know that in Bundaberg we already have lots of great wraparound services to ensure we are supporting people who may go out on a Friday or a Saturday night and indulge in too much alcohol and are then susceptible to public drunkenness or intoxication. We have invested money into our ChaplainWatch in Bundaberg. I have been out with our chaplains on a Saturday night. They go around and talk to the young people. They monitor how they are going and they have a conversation with those they think are becoming too intoxicated and may be a risk to themselves or to others. They support them and get them to a safe place via a cab. They might say, 'Do you want us to call your mum?', or 'Do you want us to call your guardian or your dad? How can we help you?'

That is what a good government does; we are funding ChaplainWatch to help on the front line. They are making a difference in people's night between the nightclubs and getting home safely. That is what good governments do. That is why we can pass this amendment, because we are putting things in place. There is also the Bundaberg safe night precinct. We implemented Jack's Law and there are wandering operations in Bundaberg to make sure we are keeping people safe.

I turn now to begging. Are we really going to be putting criminal offences on people who are so vulnerable that they are in a state where they feel they need to ask people for support and for money to help them get through? We know there are a lot of complicating factors around that. There are complications around mental health, drug use and abuse of alcohol. That is why some of these people find themselves in very vulnerable situations. Let's not do what the member for Burnett said we are doing and cut them loose like they are rogue criminals who go around and destroy society. Why don't we actually support those people?

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Mermaid Beach.

Mr SMITH: Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker. I thank you for protection from the member who voted against monitoring 1,700 sex offenders. That is his record, as we know.

We are also supporting our police by giving them the powers to make a judgement they deem is reasonable. If they need to detain, these amendments will allow them to detain. It is very clear. We are not taking away powers from police; we are giving them greater freedom to make professional judgement. I for one support our police on the front line. I think they are capable of making good, reasonable determinations, but obviously those opposite do not. They clearly do not if they do not want to support these amendments.

We heard conversations that these amendments need to go back to committee. However, they were in the committee report. The committee conducted a detailed inquiry into these matters and the committee members on our side support these amendments being passed.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is clearly misleading the House. These amendments have not been before a committee so how could they have been reviewed?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): I warn you that this is not an opportunity to debate a point. Do you have a point of order around the standing orders that you wish to raise?


Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Yes. I raise a point of order in relation to misleading the House. I am more than happy to write to the Speaker in that regard.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, that is not an appropriate use of the point of order format. I note that you are on a warning. You may leave the chamber for one hour under standing order 235A.

Whereupon the honourable member for Nanango withdrew from the chamber at 12.50 pm.

Mr SMITH: Clearly, the member for Nanango did not hear how these amendments came about—ultimately as a result of great inquiry work by a committee. The committee considered in its report the offences of public urination and public intoxication. That is why we are here now. I say with regard to

the technical elements around watch houses: it is never ideal for young people to be in a watch house—it is not ideal for them to be in a detention centre, either—but it is also never ideal for them to be returned home to where their parents are drunk and beating them. We have to make sure that we keep young people safe.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (12.50 pm): This is a sad day for Queensland politics. This is an abuse of parliamentary privilege on a grand scale. The Northern Territory and Queensland are the only Australian parliaments that do not have an upper house to scrutinise legislation. The only opportunity that we have in Queensland to properly scrutinise legislation is via our committee system. All legislation should go through the committee system so that it can be properly scrutinised, to identify unintended consequences. There may be urgent circumstances that require a piece of legislation to be rushed through, but that is not the case here. I was not due to speak on this bill. I thought we had enough former police officers and people with legal backgrounds who could speak to the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. Little did I know that the bill would contain amendments to the Mineral Resources Act 1989.

We knew that there was an issue at Glenden. We have heard that. The member for Burdekin, Dale Last, has been talking to me about this. He has been talking to the people of Glenden and to the resource holders out there about this situation. There are some complex aspects. These provisions should have gone to a committee so they could be properly investigated. When the Minister for Resources, Scott Stewart, stood in this House yesterday and introduced legislation, I thought perhaps—because the Premier had announced that there would be legislation brought into the House to deal with the Glenden situation—Minister Stewart would put those amendments in that bill and it would go to the Transport and Resources Committee to be investigated and then brought back to the House, but no: amendments will be made to the child protection bill. Why on earth did the Minister for Resources stand in the House yesterday and not speak to this piece of legislation?

Members would think there is something outstandingly urgent about this. In 2014, the Coordinator-General began this process around Glenden—not two days ago, not tomorrow and not next week—and outlined conditions. Section 6.2.1, ‘Housing and accommodation’ states—

The proponent has developed a Workforce Accommodation Strategy and all temporary and permanent housing will be provided by QCoal. The construction workforce will initially be accommodated in a village style accommodation providing up to 350 rooms to also be used for operational workforce as required.

It goes onto say—

The residential accommodation for operational workers will be built on acquired surplus Department of Education land—

this is in Glenden—

which has received development approval. It will consist of duplexes for singles or couples and houses for families.

It goes on to state—

I note the proponent’s intention to maximise the number of operational workers and their families living in Glenden by developing a Glenden Urban Design Master Plan ...

Further on it says—

I have imposed Condition 2 in Appendix 1 that requires the proponent to provide an annual report to the Coordinator-General for five years from the commencement of construction. The report must describe actions, outcomes and adaptable management strategies to avoid, manage or mitigate project-related impacts on the housing market in Glenden. The report should also describe actions and management strategies addressing direct impacts arising from operational activities undertaken during the five-year reporting period.

Where is that? There is a long list of failures by this government that has brought us to this moment whereby we are amending the terms of the mining lease while considering a child protection bill. There is nothing in these amendments that is urgent. The amendments state—

(4) The mining lease is subject to the following conditions—

(a) the holder must accommodate at least the following number of workers in Glenden—

- (i) for the period starting on 31 March 2025 and ending on 30 March 2026—10% of the workers at any time;
- (ii) for the period starting on 31 March 2026 and ending on 30 March 2027—25% of the workers at any time;
- (iii) for the period starting on 31 March 2027 and ending on 30 March 2028—50% of the workers at any time;
- (iv) for the period starting on 31 March 2028 and ending on 30 March 2029—75% of the workers ...

Where is the urgency? Why has this had to be rushed through? The minister could have put this in the bill he introduced yesterday. Yesterday the minister said in his brief statement on this amendment that there had been consultation. I can tell you: the phone calls I received last night and today are not telling me that.

There are serious questions about who actually owns the buildings. What consultation has there been with QCoal and Glencore? When this bill passes, who will be responsible for the maintenance of facilities, including the shops and the pool? We know that there are a lot of asbestos issues in those houses. Who will remove the asbestos and who will do the repairs?

This is not an isolated incident, because Glencore itself elected to expand its Hail Creek workers camp by 1,000 workers rather than accommodate its workers in the vacant houses it currently owns in Glenden which require extensive renovation, including asbestos removal, to bring them up to high standards. Glencore's Hail Creek camp is approximately the same distance from Glenden as the Byerwen mine. Glencore's expansion of its Hail Creek camp was facilitated by the same ministerial approval that Glencore was seeking, so why is there one rule for one and not for the other?

So many regional towns are totally dependent on mining, so when this was raised we took it as a serious issue. We knew that there had to be a way to support our towns while supporting the workforce. There was obviously an issue of ownership. This needed full, open investigation. What is being done today through the House reeks of a cover-up. There is something that is not apparent; there is a reason we are doing this. Why has this suddenly had to be rushed in? Why is there no transparency around the process? It makes no sense. This story will not finish today. Of that I am quite confident. The flow-on effects to other mines, workers camps, mining towns and communities are very real. I hope that it does not impact on towns like Blackwater, Moranbah and Dysart.

I asked the minister at estimates about this issue and he said that he was in conversations. He gave no indication whatsoever that something like this was about to happen. The relationship between this government and the resources industry I did not think could get worse. They have had unexpected shock after shock. This government has dealt blow after blow to the resources industry. This is just another one that has come out of the clear, blue sky with no consultation or consideration of the knock-on effects. This is one of the most important industries that we have in this state—this state is totally reliant on it—and it has been treated with disdain.


This also impacts workers. The workers have no say in this. What do the workers think? Are they happy to live in Glenden? Are they happy to be bussed back and forth? There is nothing in these amendments about that and the minister did not talk about it yesterday. There are a lot of questions to be answered on this issue but, unfortunately, we will not hear them in this debate. It will remain a mystery. As I said, I am very fearful of the unintended consequences of this decision.

Debate, on motion of Mr Weir, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Victims of Crime


 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): What has transpired in Queensland in the last 24 hours has been a dark day for anyone who values community safety and anyone who values democracy—a government that lacks vision, that lacks decency, that lacks compassion. Victims of crime came to parliament to be heard. Instead, they got a front row seat to a government that has stopped listening—that is what they got—and to see the way that they were treated is nothing short of an affront to the hardworking people who just wanted to be listened to.

I had the great opportunity of listening to some of those victims of crime and their stories are moving and their cause is just. The biggest take-out that I got from my 90 minutes with them was that they just want to know that they will have a seat at the table to be listened to. That is what they were after. They have a list of things that they believe are important steps in the journey, and many of them are things that we have spoken about in this place many times like removing the provision of detention as a last resort. But all of that runs a distant second to this group just wanting to know that they matter, that they will be listened to, that as taxpayers and residents of this state they might count for something, and that is not too much to ask.

We are going to continue to put our solutions on the table and they are centred around rewriting the Youth Justice Act, unshackling the judiciary and removing detention as a last resort and gold standard early intervention. The best way to deliver that is by listening and reflecting. When the Premier comes into this place and says, 'But you voted for these laws,' that completely and utterly defies the past when eight years ago when the laws were watered down this side of politics voted against them. Every parliamentarian who wants to see the community safe would never stand in the way of any step forward like breach of bail as an offence that the government defended and defended and defended and then caved on. However, the government has refused to listen to the other solutions on the table and Queenslanders are demanding action.

Queenslanders will remember this day as the day that this government trashed the parliamentary process in this state. It was a moment that this government trashed the way this parliament operates and in the process it trashed the last remaining shred of its integrity credibility. For a Premier who said that she would be in touch and that she would not use her numbers to rush through laws without due consideration and committee process, this is a government that has changed. It is a government that has given up on integrity. It is a government that has given up on listening to Queenslanders.

Jordan Electorate, Public Transport

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.03 pm): The residents of Ipswich have been given an important opportunity to help influence future bus routes, train services, highway upgrades and cycling infrastructure. We are asking our communities to have their say on one of the most significant consultations the Department of Transport and Main Roads has ever undertaken in our region. With rapid population growth, now is the time to plan for future walking, cycling, public transport and roads.


The Ipswich City Transport and Mobility Study will investigate the way people travel and identify future mobility needs through the area by car, public transport and active transport, focusing on transport services and infrastructure. In my time as the member for Jordan we have seen significant investment by the Palaszczuk government for transport in our part of Ipswich, but this is only possible with the support of our local community which has allowed me to call for our share of services and infrastructure.

We have reviewed and improved local bus services. We have constructed a new bus interchange at Springfield station to make it easier for commuters to connect with the train and introduced a new 533 Spring Mountain loop that has proven very popular in our fast growing part of the Jordan electorate. Our new \$44.5 million Springfield Central park-and-ride opened last year and resolved the overflowing and dangerous car park at the train station. There are upgrades to the Centenary Motorway, including the \$15 million Centenary-Logan Motorway interchange upgrade which is due to be completed and open to traffic in a mere couple of weeks. The \$6.5 million upgrade of the exit 32 Centenary offramp has begun and, once completed, will see the doubling of lanes there from two to four and which will help ease congestion along this busy stretch of highway.

There is more that I want to see for our region. The Centenary Motorway is certainly high on my priority for more upgrades and improvements, particularly the section between Ellen Grove and Yamanto. With planning already underway on this section, I want to urge our local motorists to provide feedback to the study to make their views known on this important highway for our region. I am urging our schools to provide feedback on school bus routes and improvements they would like to see in these services for their students. I am calling on all of the enthusiastic cyclists in our community to have their say on the Centenary cycleway extension through to Springfield as well as local new and improved cycle paths that they would like to ride.

We have already opened consultation on the study and already I have seen the interactive map filling with lots of terrific suggestions from drivers, from people using public transport and from cyclists, and that is really important. Everyone is encouraged to have their say by 24 September when the study consultation will close. It is true that only a Labor government will deliver for Ipswich. We will not cut or prune services and infrastructure like those opposite. I want to thank Minister Bailey for supporting our Ipswich members of parliament in our continued advocacy for even more transport services and infrastructure for our growing Ipswich region.

Maternity Services

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.06 pm): I want to place on record here today my deep concerns with respect to maternity services across Queensland. I have spoken about this many times before in this place and outside of it. The Premier and the health minister might want to close their eyes

and hope this issue goes away. Well, it is not. The LNP is not going anywhere either because there are proud regional towns across Queensland where women cannot give birth—Cooktown, Weipa, Biloela, Chinchilla. Call it a bypass. Call it closed. Call it what you want. Mothers are being told they cannot birth there. That is a fact. Take the tricky semantics out of it. Mothers are being told they cannot birth in those hospitals. It is as simple as that.

The minister says we are treating maternity issues like a political football. I will tell the health minister something for free: mothers being sent hundreds of kilometres away from where they live because the Palaszczuk government cannot run and resource Queensland hospitals properly feel like they are being kicked out of their towns away from their families and away from their support networks to give birth. That is how they feel. The minister wants to talk about the political problem. Minister, we are not talking about a political problem; we are talking about people. We are talking about the women of Queensland caught up in this mess made by the ineptitude of the Palaszczuk Labor government, and it is the mothers of Far North Queensland I want to focus on now.

We already know Weipa and Cooktown maternity units are sitting empty, while documents obtained by the opposition through RTI show that Innisfail and Mareeba hospitals have been on maternity bypass in the 12 months to May with monotonous regularity. It is more chaos and crisis. When that happens, it leaves nearly an entire region almost solely reliant on the Cairns Hospital and I feel for all of the staff forced to endure what would be an incredibly stressful situation both for those in Cairns and those in surrounding hospitals, and I fear it is only going to get worse.

A decision on the future of the private birthing unit in Cairns was due to be delivered around September. That time is now quickly approaching and the opposition understands that a decision is now imminent. It could be as soon as tomorrow. The opposition has been saying that the health minister has to stop the 'us versus them' mentality and be willing to work with the private sector. That has to happen, not next week, not next month; it must happen now. How will the Cairns Hospital cope if that private unit is closed? How will it cope if it is closed and there are bypasses in Mareeba and Innisfail? We know that maternity bypasses at these hospitals are now commonplace. This is now a very real scenario. Far North mothers deserve better.

(Time expired)

Ipswich, Returned Services League Sub-Branches



Mr MADDEN (Ipswich West—ALP) (2.09 pm): I rise to say a big thank you to all of the Returned Services League sub-branches in Ipswich, but particularly the Ipswich, Ipswich Railway and Rosewood sub-branches. The mission of Queensland RSL sub-branches is to provide care, commemoration and camaraderie to enable veterans and their families to live with dignity and respect. The Ipswich sub-branch occupy the magnificent Soldiers Memorial Hall in Nicholas Street, Ipswich, while Rosewood sub-branch occupy the Rosewood Memorial Hall and the Ipswich Railway sub-branch has its headquarters at Flint Street, North Ipswich, not far from the RSL Queensland Moreton District headquarters located at Pine Street, North Ipswich.

As well as providing a wide range of support services for veterans and their families, the Ipswich, Ipswich Railway and Rosewood sub-branches regularly hold commemorative services that provide an opportunity to bring their communities together. These services not only include Anzac Day and Remembrance Day services but services commemorating other conflicts including the Korean and Vietnam wars. All of these services are well attended, but the annual turnout by the Rosewood community for the Rosewood sub-branch Anzac Day dawn service and Anzac Day march is truly outstanding. Last Friday, 18 August, Ipswich and Ipswich Railway sub-branches held Vietnam Veterans commemorative services while Rosewood is holding its service on Saturday, 26 August. Notable dignitaries who have attended the Ipswich sub-branch services include Dame Quentin Bryce, former Queensland governor and governor-general of Australia. She attended the service held at the Soldiers Memorial Hall held on 19 July for the 107th anniversary commemorative service for the World War 1 Battle of Fromelles, while Prime Minister Anthony Albanese attended the Ipswich sub-branch Vietnam Veterans Day service held on Friday.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the office bearers of the Ipswich, Ipswich Railway and Rosewood RSL sub-branches. For the Ipswich sub-branch they include Paul Rogers, president; Debbie Wadwell, secretary; Owen Smith, treasurer; George Picone, deputy president; and vice presidents Vivienne Stanbury and Peter Newman. For the Ipswich Railways sub-branch, they include John Dredge OAM, president; John King, vice president; Bruce Graham, vice president; Peter Dixon, secretary; David Baker, treasurer; Reg Bond, assistant secretary; and Shan Brown and David Brown,

board members. For the Rosewood sub-branch they include Bernie Mason, president; Brian McLucas, vice president; Carmel Luetchford, secretary; and Ian Luetchford, treasurer. I thank them all for their voluntary and selfless service, not only to their sub-branches but also to the Ipswich Community. It would be remiss of me to not acknowledge the magnificent CSI—Club Services Ipswich. It is jointly owned by the Ipswich sub-branch and the Ipswich Railway sub-branch. It is a great place for dinner if anyone wants to go out in Ipswich.

Queensland Building and Construction Commission, Integrity



Mr MANDER (Everton—LNP) (2.12 pm): I rise to build on an issue that I raised this morning in question time in relation to the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement. I table a document obtained through the right to information process.

Tabled paper: Emails, dated 6 June 2022, between the Chief Executive Officer, Construction Skills Queensland, Mr Brett Schimming, and Board Member, Queensland Building and Construction Commission, Ms Cath Brokenborough, relating to concerns regarding QBCC recruitment and selection [1193].

This document is an email from a former member of the QBC board, Brett Schimming, to the chair of the board plus a number of other members. This is all about the creation of a position in the QBCC. Mr Schimming was a member of the People and Culture Committee, the committee that is responsible for overseeing executive recruitment. He states in this email—

I have struggled with this over the weekend.

What is the issue that he has so much discomfort about? He goes on in the email to say the meeting pack that they have received—

asks of us as Committee members to approve a new position to a candidate from a completely separate process. The new position has:-

- not been advertised,
- has not been approved to create,
- has no budget,
- has no Position description,
- has not been presented to the Board and/or committee until this meeting.

Yet an offer to a candidate from a separate process has been made.

He then goes on, after spending more time saying how uncomfortable he is with this—

... Dot point 10 is concerning to me. The QBCC simply can not create a role to meet a individuals likening.

This is an extremely disturbing piece of information. My understanding of what happened after the commissioner was challenged about this process is that she then decided to go to a recruitment agency and to make sure that she got the candidate that she wanted, who had already been through this bodgie process, the criteria for the position was matched to her qualifications, her experience, nearly word for word so they could create this job in the executive team which pays over \$300,000.

This is an organisation that by this time next year would have increased their staff by nearly double since the Labor Party has come to government. This is one of what I believe are nine allegations that have been referred to the CCC about the commissioner's conduct. This is a very serious issue. This morning when the minister was asked that question he did everything he could to be evasive and not answer the question. The chair has an obligation, and I believe he would have advised the minister of these referrals, and the commissioner still stands there today in that position apparently with the confidence of the minister. We have not heard the end of this. Something stinks in the QBCC.

Mental Health Services



Ms LAUGA (Keppel—ALP) (2.15 pm): I know firsthand how important mental health services are for our region and I know firsthand how difficult it can be to access mental health services. Our CQ health doctors, nurses and healthcare workers do an incredible job with the facilities they have, but we need more, which is why I am so pleased that we are taking a major step towards improving mental health services in Central Queensland.

The Palaszczuk government is building a \$92 million, brand new, state-of-the-art, 32-bed mental health unit at the Rockhampton Hospital providing essential care for those in need. Once completed in 2026 the facility will provide high-quality treatment and care to more residents in our local community. This commitment ensures that locals can receive high-quality treatment closer to home.


Not only are we building this brand new mental health unit, the CQHHS has also been delivering an innovative outpatient mental health service to over 300 patients across Central Queensland so that locals can access treatment without having to be an inpatient at hospital. This, together with the partnership with QAS to do mental health co-responding with mental health nurses on board ambulance vehicles, is also supporting people in the community with mental illness.

I am also pleased that \$28.5 million is being spent to deliver a new cardiac hybrid theatre in Rockhampton. This new theatre will enhance cardiovascular procedures, including coronary angiograms, coronary stents and pacemaker implantation. Once completed, locals will be able to access these procedures without having to travel to Brisbane. My goal since being elected to this place has been to advocate for more healthcare services being available at our QC hospitals so that where possible local patients can get the health care they need closer to home.

Further to this, I am pleased to announce that tenders are now open for the \$10.37 million satellite renal dialysis unit at the Capricorn Coast Hospital. Underlining the Palaszczuk government's investment in delivering health services closer to home, the eight-chair unit will ensure kidney patients from Yeppoon and surrounds will no longer need to travel to Rockhampton Hospital as they do currently multiple times a week, with a carer, for treatment. Following the tender process the project will enter the design and construction phase with a projected completion in late 2024. Thirty-two renal dialysis treatment spaces have already opened in regional, rural and remote communities since 2020 in addition to those delivered as part of a Palaszczuk government commitment made at the 2020 election.

The Palaszczuk Labor government invests in rural, regional and remote health care, unlike the LNP who cut services and sacked healthcare workers. One hundred and ninety-seven full-time healthcare workers were sacked under the LNP from the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service, but since we came to government we have restored those jobs and built on them. We know that better health care means a healthier community. That is why we have listened and are committed to delivering the services this community expects and deserves. This Palaszczuk Labor government does not cut, sack and sell in Queensland or in Central Queensland, we boost our health services and I am really proud that these announcements will provide better health care to Central Queenslanders.

Bushfire Preparedness

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.18 pm): 'The management seems to come from Brisbane and anybody up here seems to have to do what they tell them ... and it's mostly wrong!' Those are the words of Bloomsbury Rural Fire Brigade president Gary Condison back in 2018 when referring to the risk of bushfires in national parks spreading into grazing lands. After what we have heard in the last two weeks, one would be forgiven for thinking that Mr Condison was referring to this current government.


Just yesterday, both the Premier and the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services stood in this House and spoke about the dangers posed by the upcoming bushfire season. Of course the minister talked about investing in Rural Fire Service vehicles and said he wanted people on the front line to have the best and safest vehicles and equipment possible.

Make no mistake: bushfires pose a major threat to communities, to businesses and to grazing land throughout this state and the threat posed increases due to the inaction and the failings of this government. Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner Greg Leach is quoted in the media as saying that it is now too late for residents to start hazard reduction burns and I have no reason to disagree with the commissioner. However, the question that the minister needs to answer is this: why has it all been left so late? Communities across this state, where volunteers were in the late stages of planning hazard reduction burns, have been told 'no' at the last moment. Those volunteers, whom Queenslanders trust, say there was no advanced warnings provided and that now the risks they face while defending their communities have increased significantly. Those risks were already high enough because of the inaction of this minister.

Under this minister, the number of Rural Fire Service volunteers has reduced. Under this minister, we have seen the delivery of Rural Fire Service vehicles and appliances delayed and, as we learnt earlier this week, vehicles that the Rural Fire Service does have are being taken off the road due to safety concerns. However, it does not stop there. In estimates it was confirmed that lifesaving equipment was not fitted to vehicles delivered to volunteers. Almost five years after Mr Condison spoke publicly about this government's failure to reduce the fire hazard in national parks and, therefore, increase the safety of businesses and communities nearby, nothing has changed. The danger posed by bushfires is real and we all have a role to play in reducing the horrific effects of those fires.

Sadly for all of Queensland, the government has failed to fulfil its obligations under this minister and, as a direct result, the threat posed has unquestionably increased. Heaven forbid, over the coming weeks and months as that fire risk increases, fires should get out of control in this state. We cannot afford it. The horse has bolted and now, unfortunately, we may see the consequences.

Cook Electorate, Representation


 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (2.21 pm): It is an honour and a privilege to represent the Cook electorate in this parliament, a position that I take very seriously. It is a privilege bestowed upon me by the good people of Cook. I have made a firm commitment to always stand on the side of my communities and to always advocate in their best interests. I have a very vast and complex electorate that can be very challenging at the best of times. My electorate comprises 14 local councils, all of which I am very proud to work in close partnership with. The relationship I have with all 14 local councils is very important, especially in trying to work through some very complex challenges.

I want to give a shout-out to all of the mayors in the 14 councils from the Torres Strait to Cape York and the Douglas and Mareeba shires for doing an incredible job representing their respective communities. I understand that often times my councils will face challenges requiring some tough decisions. I will always respect their decisions if it means the community fully benefits from them. Again I say that the relationship I have with my councils is a partnership. I do not tell them what to do. I work with them to find the best solutions for the communities we all represent, from both a local and a state perspective. Unfortunately I cannot say the same for the federal representative, the member for Leichhardt, Warren Entsch.

Given the effort I put in to maintaining relationships with all of the mayors in Cook, recently I was very disappointed with the action the federal member for Leichhardt took to discredit one of the councils in my electorate. Recently, the member for Leichhardt came out in the media slamming the mayor and CEO of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council and publicly calling for their resignation over a council decision—a decision that has nothing to do with the member for Leichhardt. Rather than sitting down with all parties involved to try to find ways to work towards a solution, Warren Entsch decided to use this local issue as a cheap political stunt to gain brownie points.

I ask the member for Leichhardt: in the past two decades, what have you done to serve the Torres Strait as a federal member of parliament? The Torres Strait Island Regional Council has been dealing with long-standing marine infrastructure issues. This year the Palaszczuk and Albanese governments announced joint funding for marine infrastructure. The cost of living has been an issue across Queensland. The Palaszczuk government announced over \$60 million to deliver a freight subsidy for the Torres Strait, the cape and the gulf. Housing is an ongoing issue. What is the member for Leichhardt doing? The member for Leichhardt supported cutting the NPARIH program, which will deliver housing in my community. I say to Warren Entsch: this is not good enough and you need to do more.

Fire Ant Eradication Program

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (2.24 pm): Minister Furner has completely mismanaged the fire ant eradication program and his excuse is that he just needs more money. The minister accepts no responsibility, fails to listen or act and runs from accountability. Almost \$1 billion has been spent and the infestation keeps growing. It is a systemic failure of management. Warnings were ignored yet the minister continually claims success. The fire ant footprint has grown from 40,000 hectares to 800,000 hectares. It is incompetent to claim success. How can you claim success without a functioning information system to collect reliable performance data?

Two years ago, the minister received a report that said, 'The loss of momentum between 2015 and 2018 set the Program back some years ...' It recommended a major change of plan. The minister sat on it, did not act on it and only released it in June. That is mismanagement. Last year, the minister said that fire ants remained eradicable providing substantial changes are made. The only change was renaming the eradication program a 'suppression task force'. That is mismanagement. Warnings that fire ants had spread during last year's floods were dismissed, but in estimates the minister admitted that they can raft down flooded rivers. That is another year lost. It is incompetence.

Since 2019, three reports clarified the government's lack of progress, mismanagement of programs, funding shortfalls and KPI failures. The minister has never fully implemented or accepted recommendations and refuses to implement independent assessments of the program. Fire ants are only an issue for the minister because they threaten closing Gold Coast beaches and threaten reaching

New South Wales. In July, New South Wales triggered orders ramping up restrictions on high-risk Queensland businesses and Gold Coast businesses are now closing, yet last month the minister claimed that fire ants were surrounded. It is ludicrous.

The minister's latest plan says they will ramp up compliance activities and have created an advice tool. When the footprint was 40,000 hectares, they employed 20 compliance officers. Between 2018-19, seven compliance officers conducted 912 checks. Thirty per cent of cases were not resolved in a month. How will they conduct 12,000 audits a year across 800,000 hectares? Since 2003, successive estimates hearings were told that eradication was working. Premier Beattie's minister, Henry Palaszczuk, said it was successful, slashed fire ant staff and promised the all clear in 2006.

In 2016 Minister Donaldson said, 'The eradication strategies are working.' In 2019, the director-general said it 'is a very promising on-the-ground report from what we have been doing, and we will continue to do it'. In 2020, Minister Furner said Queensland's management is 'a glowing example of how we have been able to contain it'. This year the director-general said 'we are confident with the strategy'. Minister Furner said 'we are winning'.

Labor has never controlled fire ant eradication. The minister's credibility is in absolute tatters and he has become the 'friend of the fire ant'. Queensland pays a high price for this chaos and crisis and it will cost industry billions.

Hervey Bay Electorate, Projects



Mr TANTARI (Hervey Bay—ALP) (2.27 pm): It is always a privilege to speak in the House about the great projects being delivered in my electorate of Hervey Bay by the Palaszczuk Labor government. Recently, I attended the turning of the first sod for the commencement of the new \$11.3 million multipurpose hall at the Urangan Point State School in Urangan. That project is part of the government's Great Schools, Great Future program. It will deliver an impressive new multipurpose hall that will include a sports court, a multipurpose room and storage, an office and other associated amenities including a new kiosk and a car parking area.

While to some members it may seem a little over-the-top to talk in this chamber in such glowing terms about a hall, for the Urangan Point school community the commencement of the hall is an acknowledgement of the hard work done by all those who made it happen. I congratulate the P&C committee, parents, teachers, school leaders and the great school community and acknowledge their advocacy to get the hall underway. The Urangan Point State School is one of the oldest schools in the city of Hervey Bay. This new addition will enable greater participation in a range of current and additional sport and creative-art activities including music and drama. Most of all, it will provide a covered space that is large enough to enable full campus assemblies.

Anybody who knows Hervey Bay knows that it gets quite hot in the warmer months. Having a fully covered area to hold school assemblies and meetings will be a godsend for the greater school community. The multipurpose hall will also be available for use during non-school times. This will make it a great community asset in this particular area of Urangan and Hervey Bay. Whilst I was at the sod turning it was great to speak with the P&C president, Renee Rich, and the principal, Matt Winter, who were ecstatic that the multipurpose hall was underway. I look forward to seeing this all come to fruition and being completed around the second term of next year.

I am also able to inform the House that during the winter recess I was excited, along with the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, to make another great announcement for my local community. Together we announced that a new multistorey car park will be built at the Hervey Bay Hospital in addition to the expansions already taking place at the hospital. When built, this \$60 million multistorey car park will bring increased capacity, nearly doubling the current capacity available at the hospital. My community is totally rapt about it. Before I was elected I was often approached by many people in Hervey Bay who asked me if I could do something regarding the limited capacity of car parking at the Hervey Bay Hospital. I am pleased to say to the people of Hervey Bay that they have been heard by the Palaszczuk government and that more parking is being delivered. I want to thank the Palaszczuk government for listening to my community and for delivering this much needed hospital infrastructure along with the \$40 million hospital expansion and the nearly completed \$38 million mental health unit. There are no better examples of how the Palaszczuk Labor government is putting and has always put patients' needs first.

Commercial Fishing Industry



Mr ANDREW (Mirani—PHON) (2.30 pm): Queensland's commercial fishing industry is made up of hundreds of small businesses, most of which are family owned and multigenerational. I have fished my whole life and have never known anyone who understands the environment better or wants to preserve the environment more than fishos and farmers. They are some of the greatest conservationists in the world, I believe. For these people, fishing is much more than just a job; it is a way of life, an identity and an entire culture that the Queensland government is dismantling regulation by regulation. Then there is the post-harvest sector, which has received zero attention within the fisheries reform process. These include the retailers, wholesalers, processors, marketeers and restaurant owners, who are all reliant on the commercial fishing industry here in Queensland for their livelihoods.

It has been three decades of top-down reforms, bans and costly restrictions. Licence holders have been forced to watch the value of their fishing licences crash with each governmental announcement. Who wants to buy into an industry with no future? They are losing their infrastructure—jetties, moorings, unloading facilities and wholesalers—and that is the least of what this industry is being put through by its own government. The stories I have heard firsthand would make your hair stand on end. Heart-rending accounts of mental anguish and despair, suicides, broken marriages, bankruptcy, drug and alcohol abuse, loss of homes and jobs are now almost commonplace in the industry.

Trillions of dollars have been poured into counting the cost of climate change, but who is counting the human cost of all of the government's so-called mitigation strategies? No-one. In 1990 there were 2,799 active professional fishing licences in Queensland. Between 2012 and 2017, the government forked out \$16 million to buy back 120 commercial fishing licences. The aim was to reduce the number of licences in circulation in order to reduce the catch. By 2017, only 1,387 commercial licences remained active, 436 of which were net licences. Industry experts I have spoken with recently estimate that the number of active licences today could be as low as 914. If correct, that is a staggering drop of 67 per cent.

According to QFish data, the fish take across all fisheries in Queensland has gone from 21,828 tonnes in 1990 to 13,618 tonnes in 2019. By 2027, fresh fish will be an unaffordable luxury for most Queenslanders. What seafood we do consume will be imported from countries where industry standards and worker protections are virtually non-existent. We are pushing modern-day slavery in some countries by importing. We are also bringing in biosecurity risks such as white spot in our prawns. These people need a compensation package and need to be respected for what they have done. They even fed the war people back in the early days.

Pink



Mr HARPER (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.34 pm): Let's get the party started in Townsville! It is going to be awesome. Pink is coming to Townsville, and let me tell you how we got there. It was not an easy journey, but everyone on this side of the House knows that our government backed the construction of Queensland Country Bank Stadium. We had a motto in Townsville: 'Built by North Queenslanders for North Queenslanders'.

In February this year I wrote to the Minister for Tourism after I saw that Pink was touring Australia and said, 'Could we get Pink to Townsville?' Negotiations had been done. It was going to be difficult. Townsville was not on the list. It was like a pink rag to a bull. I just went at it and started an MP petition. Everyone knows that I am like a dog with a bone: I will not give up. In the first 24 hours I had over a thousand people smash that MP petition. I then engaged with the fan Facebook page 'Bring PINK to Townsville'. They should be commended as well. They have been around for a decade. Now that we have the stadium, we can do it. Hats off to them, because this was a combined effort among them, Townsville Enterprise, the mayor, Tourism and Events Queensland and our Premier. It was great news when we heard about concert No. 1. I learned from talking with the promoters, Live Nation, that we broke their page. In 16 minutes the stadium sold out. I table a document.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 10 February 2023, from the member for Thuringowa, Mr Aaron Harper MP, to the Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement, Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe, relating to Pink touring in Townsville [1194].

As we heard the Premier say this morning, 35,000 people will be coming to North Queensland, 1,200 from Victoria. We will welcome them with open arms. Stay and play. Come to Magnetic Island. We know what this will do for our economy. When it sold out, my office was smashed by people saying

that they could not get tickets. We could not get tickets! My wife was in the queue and could not get tickets. I went back to the promoters and said, 'Let's start it again.' Yesterday morning I was on the radio with Pricey and he was asking, 'Why are you doing this again?' I said, 'It worked the first time, right?' Guess what: we now have a second show, on Friday, 22 March. It is going to be awesome. It is going to pump millions and millions of dollars into our economy.

For anyone who knows the song *Trustfall*, it is not the 'last call'. We will have 'kids in love' and we're 'never gonna not dance again', because this will help bring more people and more concerts to Townsville. I have already written back to the promoters saying, 'Let's get country there.' Imagine country music pumping out of Queensland Country Bank Stadium. We have done so much in that stadium. We can do a hell of a lot more. I want to thank everyone who got behind the call to bring Pink to Townsville. We love you, Pink. It will be awesome to hear her music pumping out of that stadium. I want to thank the member for Maryborough for helping out a brother who needed a jacket today. Let's 'get the party started'.

Walk 4 a Cure for Brain Cancer; Bienvenue Drive, Intersection Upgrade



Mrs GERBER (Currumbin—LNP) (2.37 pm): This month I held my annual Walk 4 a Cure for Brain Cancer event. The community and I walked from Kirra to Rainbow Bay Surf Life Saving Club to raise much needed awareness and funds for research into causes and treatments and, ultimately, to find a cure for brain cancer. Over 60 locals joined us this year. I am delighted to report that we raised over \$12,000, going directly to the Brain Cancer Foundation to support critical research into treatments and a cure. Our walk was also a chance for those who are fighting brain cancer or dealing with the tragic loss of a loved one to share their story in the hope that, by bravely talking about their personal journeys, governments will prioritise more funding for research so that we can save more lives from this awful disease.

Rachael is just 31. She shared that at 28 years of age, just after her child was born, she was diagnosed with brain cancer. Rachael bravely talked about her journey. She desperately just wants to see her son grow up but, tragically, the statistics are against her. Eighty per cent of patients diagnosed with brain cancer will die within five years. Terry and Beau tragically lost their son, Ryley, this year to brain cancer. Ryley was just seven years old. Brain cancer took Ryley in the most horrific way. He lost the ability to walk, talk, eat and finally breathe. We know that brain cancer kills more children in Australia than any other disease.

Lou was walking for the love of his life, Tania, whom he lost three years ago. Neill was walking for his childhood sweetheart, Roxanne. After 48 years of marriage, Neill still struggles every day without her. The pain of losing someone with brain cancer never goes away. I know this personally. Last year I lost my beloved Uncle Peter to brain cancer. Uncle Pete was a mentor to me. Along with my parents and my Auntie Sue, they have been there my whole life, and my family will never get over his loss.

I say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us on this walk and to everyone who made it possible—from the generous community members who donated to the volunteers who manned my barbecue and helped organise the day, particularly the Rainbow Bay Surf Life Saving Club that allowed us the use of their barbecue. With your support, together we can help and fight for a cure for brain cancer.

I want to turn to a different subject matter now. At the 2020 election Labor promised to upgrade the intersection of Bienvenue Drive and Currumbin Creek Road. Labor stood at that intersection and waved a bunch of signs saying they would fix this intersection. They promised it would begin in 2022 and it was due to be completed by now. These are photos of the signs at the intersection. I table those.

Tabled paper: Bundle of extracts from a social media account regarding funding for an upgrade of an intersection in Currumbin [\[1195\]](#).

Guess what? That upgrade has not happened. Why? Because Labor failed to promise to start it. The federal government is now threatening to pull the funding for that upgrade and we may never get it. This Labor government has been dishonest with our community in their commitment and our community is not going to see this upgrade happen as a result of this Labor's government broken promise.

(Time expired)

Matildas; Women in Sport



Mr WALKER (Mundingburra—ALP) (2.40 pm): I rise to speak about women in sport and the outstanding success of our Matildas and what they have done for women and women's sport as role models, for Australian football and Australia, and the list goes on. The Matildas have played at Queensland Country Bank Stadium so thank you to the Queensland government for that.

I thank the players, the coach, the support staff and the volunteers who made the event the success it was and presented Australia to the world. Football Australia can proudly celebrate hosting the most successful and transformative edition of the tournament to date. A record-breaking crowd of over 75,000 spectators attended the final. After an extraordinary, record-breaking month of football in two countries, 10 stadiums and nine welcoming host cities, Women's professional sport has again demonstrated it is equal to men's professional sport.

FIFA President, Gianni Infantino, hailed the FIFA Women's World Cup held in Australia and New Zealand as transformational after \$877 million was generated in revenue, allowing the tournament to break even for the first time. The resounding success of the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup here in Australia will resonate the Australian culture and brand for years to come. Again, I would like to publicly thank all those who helped to organise and host this world-class event to such an extremely high standard.

This is on top of all the other successful Australian women's sporting teams like the Opals, Australia's top women's netball team; the Hockeyroos, the women's national hockey team; the Australian Women's Cricket Team; and the Firebirds, Queensland's netball team. We also have emerging women's National Rugby League teams like the Cowboys, the Titans and the Broncos, just to name a few. I must not forget Townsville's highly successful national women's basketball team, the Fire, which, I might add, has brought home to Townsville four national titles. It is Townsville's most successful national team.

Townsville has hosted many successful netball tournaments in recent times thanks to the Townsville City Netball Association and it is a sport on the move and growing fast. With only nine years to go to the 2032 Olympic Games, I implore the IOC, the International Olympic Committee, to include the sport of netball in those games, if not sooner. Women's professional sport has demonstrated time again it is an equal to men's professional sport and can generate the income to pay professional women athletes the same as men.

Housing, Rent Increases



Dr MacMAHON (South Brisbane—Grn) (2.43 pm): Two years ago this government failed to pass legislation to cap rent increases to inflation. Just a few months ago a bill for a rent freeze was tossed out of parliament. Last week this government joined their Labor colleagues from across Australia at National Cabinet and locked in place yearly unlimited rent increases. Labor has had every chance to stop the massive rent increases that renters across the state are suffering and yet they have chosen to do nothing.

From here on in, every unfair rent increase that a Queenslander faces is at the hands of this government because they have chosen to do nothing. Every person who is evicted because of a rent increase they cannot afford and every person who is applying for rental after rental is at the hands of this Labor government.

They are people like Stacey. Stacey is skipping meals to keep a roof over her and her sons' heads after her rent in Brisbane was hiked by \$250 in June—Labor's fault. Cat was issued a notice to leave her rental while undergoing chemotherapy for terminal stage 3 breast cancer—Labor's fault. Martine is a student who failed several courses because her landlord jacked up the rent by \$80 a week and then evicted her in the middle of exams—Labor's fault. There were more than 1,800 Queenslanders who were pushed into homelessness last year. There are Queensland kids living in tents or cars or being moved from motel to motel. This is Labor's fault.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Pause the clock! I will wait for silence.

Dr MacMAHON: This crisis is now in this government's hands because they have failed to do anything to address unlimited rent increases. I will never understand how members from Labor and the LNP can sit here and hear these harrowing stories from renters and do nothing. We know how quickly they can move on legislation. We have seen this week how quickly they can move when they care about something, but they have never cared about renters.

Every Queenslander who cannot afford groceries or is too afraid to ask for basic upgrades to their rentals knows it is this government's fault. This government would rather see people suffer than tell investors, 'You are going to make a little less profit this year.' In fact, Labor at the federal and state government levels are willing to let renters suffer while giving property investors \$39 billion in tax concessions this year.


The government does this at their own peril because the majority of Queenslanders want action on rents. People in Moggill, people in McConnel, people in Cooper, people in Clayfield, people in Greenslopes and people in Miller are calling out for action on rent and seeing nothing from this government. Have some guts and freeze rents.

Mrs GERBER: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. I believe some unparliamentary language was used by the member for South Brisbane.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): I was talking to the Clerk about just that. Member for South Brisbane, I would ask you to withdraw that unparliamentary language.

Dr MacMAHON: I withdraw.

Mackay State Development Area

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.46 pm): There is great news for Mackay. Community consultation has opened for the proposed new sites for the Mackay State Development Area for industrial development. We are amid a hive of industrial activity and we are in urgent need of land to develop our new industries. The Mackay region has land, water and feedstock from sugar cane so it is an attractive area for multinational companies to put a stake in the ground and build new infrastructure for bio future food products. Mackay's industrial area will potentially become a world-leading future foods hub that would provide anchor infrastructure for future growth of commercial scale bioproduct industries.


Some \$45 million was earmarked in this year's budget for the development of the SDA for both Mackay and Gladstone. The Coordinator-General has identified two potential sites for industrial hubs—one at Racecourse near the sugar mill and the other at Rosella where there is some salt encroachment on existing agricultural land. Together these sites will deliver about 1,019 hectares.

These two sites will be a much needed boost to industrial land and will deliver huge economic benefits, creating good local jobs and new export and investment opportunities to grow new industries making sustainable food, fibre, feed and fuel products. Products produced at the future foods hub are being researched at the QUT research centre based at Racecourse Mill. I believe one of our parliamentary committees went to visit that research centre. This research centre is there with the support of the Palaszczuk government.

Members may have heard me speak about green aviation fuel and green biodiesel development using sugarcane waste being undertaken by Mercurius. Queensland could be fuelling its jets through cane waste in the near future and also fuelling our large equipment on mine sites. Cauldron is developing bio high-value foods from sugar. The carbon in sugar can be fermented at high heat and turned into proteins, making milk powder and egg whites.

Imagine the possibility of turning sugar into sustainable food, increasing our food security for our part of the world. We have the potential to export powdered milk and powdered egg whites to our northern neighbours. The most exciting part of this venture is that it can add to all of the sugar-producing communities in Queensland. If you are not already a parliamentary friend of the sugar industry, now is the right time to sign up and to get on board.

Road Safety Week

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (2.49 pm): I rise to make a contribution on Road Safety Week. It is appropriate in Road Safety Week to talk about the positive work being done by student leaders at Pimpama State Secondary College. I met with student leaders at the school on 9 June at a road safety meeting called by the students themselves. The meeting was chaired by Caleb. Other attendees included the principal Megan Roderick and teacher Caitlin McMahon. Others at the meeting were Heparuna, Oceania, Zachary, Charlotte, Katherine and April.


We saw the You Choose ads and discussed how last year's school captains were inspired to create some road safety ads after attending a community You Choose Road Safety presentation. I was pleased to have facilitated a partnership with the Glass Media Group and Gold Coast TAFE to make this project come to life as a shared community project, premiering at Event Cinemas.

I was also briefed by various students about issues in and around Pimpama State Secondary College but more broadly around the Coomera electorate. Indeed, I was told of some dangers that existed at exit 49 on the M1 at Pimpama, which were a definite threat to student safety and of course the safety of others. Caleb shared his experience of being hit by a car. It was interesting that the driver of the car was in rather a hurry. It was all recorded on video. This driver decided they did not want to wait in the line of traffic, so they decided to cut down one side and scoot around at the same time that Caleb was looking to cross the road and had been given the right of way by the vehicle ready to cross the roundabout to do so. He was unfortunately hit. Fortunately he had a backpack on. He was on his way to a sports event. His backpack was full of clothes. He landed on his back and he sustained very little injury as a result.

Zac also shared his experience of another very close call. Mrs McMahon talked about the fact that she almost hit a student in a similar scenario. Indeed, she was about to commence chastising the student for being so foolish as to cross the road in that particular area only to discover that that was the recommended area for the student to cross.

(Time expired)

Lytton Electorate

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (2.53 pm): I am always delighted to stand up here and talk about my fantastic community on the bayside. I am really proud to be the member for Lytton. I have spoken in the past about the many injustices that were done to Wynnum Manly under the Newman era. However, I am delighted that last month we transferred the title of the land at the old Wynnum hospital site over to our wonderful Winnam Aboriginal And Torres Strait Islander Corporation. They are regenerating that site into a magnificent residential aged-care facility that is culturally appropriate for their entire community. The lovely thing is that the scribbly gum forest at the back is being kept and maintained and will become an important part of the journey.


I am also thrilled about the Wynnum Fringe. I know I talk about that event very often in this place. I want to remind everyone to put aside some time in the middle of November to come down during the three weeks when the Wynnum Fringe is on again. Everyone can relax. It is coming back. I encourage everyone to come along. The wonderful thing about this is that the Palaszczuk government has got right behind Wynnum Fringe and is providing significant funding to support the arts community and the development of new up-and-coming artists by providing mentorship opportunities.

That is not all. What has been wonderful about the Wynnum Fringe is that it has really invigorated our arts community. This weekend we have the steampunk event which is a cosplay event, and it is fantastic. There is so much happening. It begins tomorrow night with the opening of an arts festival, and then on Saturday there will be a cosplay and steampunk event. If you are into that, come on down. It is at the Wynnum Community Centre, which is in Florence Street, Wynnum.

One of the other great organisations in my electorate is Crime Stoppers. I know it was their day yesterday to be recognised. Crime Stoppers in my community do a fantastic job. We have recently hosted together a Scamwatch event. It was very well attended. What is so wonderful about that is that we had over 120 people come along to hear from Crime Stoppers and me about how to protect yourself from scams. For those of you who do not know, I actually had my identity stolen a couple of years ago. It had a huge impact and I know how frustrating it is. If anyone needs some advice or assistance, Crime Stoppers have some great packages.

One devastating thing that I would like to talk about in my electorate is that another bank has walked away from my community. It is a disgrace. They did not even bother to ring and tell me. I found out about it because one of my electorate staff got a letter from them. They are all being told, 'Sorry, no-one uses the banks anymore. They all want to use online banking.' That is not appropriate for everyone. I call on the big banks to stop walking away from their clients.

Lehmann, Mr G; BaconFest

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.56 pm): On Saturday evening I joined the member for Lockyer, Jim McDonald, at the local Somerset mayor's ball. This is a charity ball that raises money for our local communities. More importantly than that, this latest ball was to recognise the almost three decades of our incredible local mayor, Graeme Lehmann. Graeme announced his retirement on the evening. I would like to congratulate Graeme and his wife, Judy, and their family for dedicating their last three decades to the Somerset and Lockyer communities. It was lovely to see so many other mayors attend the event as well.

Graeme has had a steady hand on the ship for the Somerset region since 1994. He spent a decade as a councillor and by the next election he will have spent two decades as mayor of the Somerset. He has always given so freely of his time. He is very highly respected by his colleagues and the staff at the council.

Graeme has steered the Somerset region through many natural disasters—bushfires and multiple destructive flood events that affected large parts of the Somerset region. He has been instrumental in the success of the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail, which runs the length of the Somerset regional area. I was pleased to officially open the BVRT with Graeme in 2018. In fact, this month we celebrate the BVRT's five years of operation. It is a fantastic achievement for that area. There is no doubt that it has created an economic boost for the Somerset towns along the trail, and we have seen the growth of new tourism businesses and opportunities. I am proud to have worked alongside Mayor Graeme Lehmann for this unique asset for our region.

Mayor Graeme Lehmann has also overseen many important replacements of the majority of the old wooden bridges in the Somerset region with highly resilient new bridges. I give a massive shout-out to the former LNP federal government because that was a massive undertaking. Graeme understood the importance of the agricultural sector and that local producers need good road and bridge infrastructure to get their product to market, as well as the creation of sustainable transport routes in times of disaster. Graeme Lehmann will leave behind a remarkable legacy for the growth and development of the Somerset region. I want to thank Graeme for all he has done and wish him and his lovely wife, Judy, all the very best in their much deserved retirement.

In the last 15 seconds I want to give a massive shout-out to the 300-odd volunteers and chief baconeer, Anitta Stallwood, for the wonderful and highly successful BaconFest that was on at the weekend. A big thanks to SunPork and everyone in Kingaroy who enjoyed this incredible festival.

(Time expired)

Maryborough Electorate, Train Manufacturing



Mr SAUNDERS (Maryborough—ALP) (2.59 pm): I want to give a big shout-out to the people of Maryborough—the best electorate and one of the oldest electorates in Queensland. I am here today in this place talking about my favourite subject—

Mr Harper: Trains!

Mr SAUNDERS:—trains! I will take that interjection from the member for Thuringowa: trains, trains and more trains. I realised the other day that I have a bit of a problem, and that is because I like trains. While I am on my feet I would also like to thank the minister and member for Miller because Maryborough is on track—do you get it? We have heard so much from those opposite about the contract recently, but let me explain. What is now happening thanks to the Palaszczuk Labor government—Labor government—is that we now have contracts set in place for 35 years. You can imagine how good that is for my community. We have extended it from 15 to 35 years.

Mr Harper: What's the LNP doing?

Mr SAUNDERS: They are taking the machete out to cut, cut, cut. I can feel it now—there are 800 cuts coming into the electorate. Not only that; we are getting a 10-kilometre test track, which is absolutely fantastic. It is one of the longest and best test tracks in the Southern Hemisphere. We have hundreds of jobs. One of my local business just got the contract to supply all of the PPE for the builder of the train factory. More local jobs! We are not outsourcing our jobs overseas: we are staying local. Our jobs are at Torbanlea. Torbanlea is 25 kilometres north of Maryborough and they are looking forward to it. This has been fantastic news for my community and it is being delivered by the Palaszczuk Labor government, which is reinvesting in regional Queensland and keeping the skill set there. Not only that, but they are working with all of the high schools in Hervey Bay and Maryborough so that our young people can have a career. They can stay in the area, raise their children, buy a house and have a career locally. That is what a good Labor government does. We reinvest in regional Queensland.


We know what those opposite did with the NGR trains, but we brought them back to Maryborough. We are repairing them in Maryborough and getting them on track. We hear them talk, especially the member for Chatsworth, who is going to give us a bit of tough love again if he ever gets back into power. I do not want his tough love. I do not want his love at all and neither does the Maryborough electorate. We do not want his love. He can keep his love on his own side. The rectification works to the NGRs are on time and on budget. We are powering ahead because of the great skill set we have in the great city of Maryborough.

STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

Resumed from 25 May (see p. 1720), on motion of Mr Whiting—

That the House take note of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee Report No. 32, 57th Parliament, *Examination of Auditor-General reports on the local government sector*, tabled on 28 November 2022.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (3.02 pm): I rise to speak to the Auditor-General's report on the local government sector. In the 11 years I have been here I have spent about 5½ years on various iterations of the state development committee, and over that time I have seen quite a few Auditor-General reports. I have to say that the reports around local government do not seem to change very much. I am still seeing exactly the same issues reported by the Auditor-General this year as I saw in my first year in 2012. This particular report talks about a number of issues, including enhancing internal environments. The report states—

For several years the Auditor-General has identified significant deficiencies in councils' internal control environments. Commonly, these have been in the areas of information systems, risk management and procurement practices.

They have identified financial sustainability in the government sector as an issue. One of the recommendations the committee made is that all councils have an audit committee. Those members who have been involved in any sort of reasonable business would know that most big businesses have an audit committee to keep an eye on exactly these sorts of things: procurement practices, financial stability et cetera. For the Auditor-General to keep pointing out that councils do not have these audit committees regularly in place or at least have some sort of auditing function inside the council is definitely a real concern. These reports have been prepared just about every year since the Auditor-General started. This report states—

In 2021, out of 77 local governments: 15 did not have an audit committee. Of those which did have an audit committee, 2 did not meet during the year and 3 met only once. 6 councils did not have an internal audit function.

They did not even have a function inside council, let alone a committee. The report continues—

A further 6 councils with an internal audit function did not conduct any activity during the year.

Another concern is that the internal audit functions some councils did have did not even have a meeting, so how can they watch what is going on?

The committee only made one recommendation, and that was that all councils have an independent audit and risk management committee. We obviously would like to see some sort of independent person on that audit committee. The financial stability of our councils is one of the things that is continually identified. A lot of them tend to spend more money than they are earning, which is not a good business outcome for anybody to have, let alone a council. The Auditor-General's report states—

Councils have started to recover from the financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We all know that would have had a severe impact on everybody, let alone councils. The report continues—

25 councils generated an operating surplus, up from 21 in the previous year.


We are getting slightly better in that. The report continues—

45 councils (out of 77) are still either at a moderate or a high risk of not being financially sustainable.

Of course, if they are not financially sustainable then they are going to be relying on the government for grants. We all know that is not a situation that can go on and on. The report further states—

In 2021, the Auditor-General reported that 11 councils had inadequate cash services (less than three months).

Again, that is a massive problem for all of these councils. We need to see audit committees or at least audit functions in our councils. We understand that for some of our remote Indigenous councils it is going to be difficult to get people in those places, so we may need to offer them some sort of special assistance. It is a very significant problem, something that the Auditor-General keeps coming up with year after year. It is probably about time the government takes note that this is a real problem and does something about it.

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (3.07 pm): Here I am on my feet again this week. I think I need to talk to the boss about a pay rise, but we will see how I go. This is my fifth speech, so I apologise if it sounds like you are hearing me over and over again.

I rise to speak to the report of the Auditor-General around councils, their financial risks, audit committees and the general practices and performance of some of our councils. We have heard contributions throughout this debate about where councils are meeting expectations but also where they do need extra support to make sure they are hitting the standards that are not only legislative requirements but also the standards set on them by the people who elect them. One of the big factors concerns audit committees. All large councils are required to have an audit committee. As the Auditor-General rightly pointed out, some councils are lacking audit committees. For those councils that do have audit committees, sometimes their meetings are not substantial or they are not being used in the proper way. The report states—

Effective audit committees provide oversight of a council's internal control environment, financial reporting processes, risk management, and internal and external audit functions.

There were some examples that the Auditor-General gave where councils have just lost track of assets altogether or assets were never even put into a register. As the member for Bancroft pointed out during our public hearing, a lot of those are assets that are underground or planning documents that were written by hand and have been lost over time and never put onto a digital record. There is a fair bit that needs to be done through that space.

It has been mentioned that in 2021, out of the 77 local governments, 15 did not have an audit committee, and of those which did have an audit committee two did not meet during the year and three met only once. I am sure their electors would expect a bit more to ensure that local government is functioning the best it can. We talk about risk factors in local government. I ran into the mayor of the Fraser Coast, George Seymour, who is in the House today.

Mr Saunders: A good bloke.

Mr SMITH: He is a very good bloke. He is a big supporter of trains, too, I should add. He is on the rails with that one; he is definitely on track. There is something happening in the Fraser Coast local government that I think is quite a big risk to their viability—and I know the members for Maryborough and Hervey Bay support me on this—and it is their Taj Mahal. At a cost of more than \$100 million, it is their version of 1 William Street in Hervey Bay and it is using money from the Hinkler Regional Deal which, to be quite honest, could be spent far better by actually investing back into local government principles. We always hear about roads, rates and rubbish. Well, this is a prime example of where that money could be better spent. It is a bit funny because we hear the councillors criticising the member for Maryborough's label of it being the Taj Mahal; in fact, they say, 'The Taj Mahal is an icon and we should be so lucky in the Fraser Coast community to be able to visit it,' which is very interesting.

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr SMITH: I will say something about Bundaberg. I am very happy for that money to come back up to Bundaberg, but I will have a conversation with the members for Hervey Bay and Maryborough about that later.

One of the councillors said, 'People think we're building this new council administration building for the staff and the councillors. That's not true. We're building it for everyone in the community.' If it is an office building for the staff of the council and the councillors themselves, it is not really for the whole community, is it? Things could be much better spent in terms of roads, rates and rubbish all across the Fraser Coast community. We could also reinvest that money from the Hinkler Regional Deal into something in the Hinkler electorate, which would be Bundaberg. I am sure the member for Maryborough agrees with me on that one. He does! He nodded his head! For the record, he nodded his head. Excellent, well done. I am a bit taken aback by that. I apologise. He has thrown me off. I do not know what to say.

Mr Russo: You're lost for words.

Mr SMITH: I am a bit lost for words, member for Toohey. What I can say is that the committee has made a recommendation around supporting local governments where we can with support for audit committees. It is a good thing. We need to ensure that councils are being held responsible, are performing their functions, are keeping track of their assets, are going through risk management and have emergency plans. The Auditor-General noticed that some councils lacked emergency plans as well. This is at the core of what councils do and we need to make sure we do more to support them.



Ms LEAHY (Warrego—LNP) (3.12 pm): I wish to thank the State Development and Regional Industries Committee for their report titled *Examination of Auditor-General reports on the local government sector*. At the outset I would like to thank the Auditor-General and the Queensland Audit Office for their work in compiling the reports which have enabled the committee to look at audit matters

on a longitudinal basis. This report also gives the opportunity to track if the state Labor government is providing sufficient support to local governments to enable them to do their job of making local decisions for local communities.

I note the committee's recommendation that all local governments are to be required to establish an independent audit and risk management committee. On the surface, that seems like a very reasonable request and it is one that is expected of those in charge of the expenditure of ratepayers' funds and doing the job that councils are tasked to do for their local communities. There is a concern though that in those smaller communities there may be difficulty in sourcing suitably qualified people or people willing to sit on those audit and risk committees.

Unfortunately, we have seen the state Labor government haul some mayors and councillors before the Office of the Independent Assessor for blocking someone on Facebook or seeking to raise matters of vaccine rollouts in their community. It raises the question of which local in a small community would want to sit on an audit and risk committee for their local council when they see the treatment this Labor government has dished out to some of our mayors and councillors. The very people who would have the necessary skills and abilities to undertake the audit and risk role are often the people who shy away from such controversy—and even more so if they feel they will be caught in political machinations created by the state Labor government.

I note the committee has suggested that the chairs of audit committees should be independent of council and council management. I can fully appreciate why the committee has made that recommendation. However, in many small communities it is difficult for individuals to be fully independent. There is nearly always a connection from either family or business relationships in these communities to council. The question should be asked that, if the chairs of audit committees come from outside the community, will these audit committees be able to keep a sufficient watching brief over the outcomes in that community? It is often much easier if the person is at the coalface and living in the community. Perhaps working with the ROCs or different clusters of local government might actually give some better outcomes for ratepayers and also for councils. I have no problem with ensuring the proper and transparent use of ratepayers' funds; however, this recommendation may not be that easy to implement on a local basis.

I note the comments about weakness in information system controls. That is a very important area for governments. History tells us that it cost nearly a billion dollars to fix up a previous health payroll system. Cybersecurity awareness is an important area for councils. Councils run many essential services in local communities. It is only a matter of time before the cyberthreats or the extortion threats find their way to disrupt local government. I note the Auditor-General highlights that cybersecurity awareness training should be mandatory for all staff. However, this again is not always easy to access. One would think this could be done virtually. However, the telecommunications infrastructure shortcomings across the state will not allow this to be a seamless process.

It is difficult for some councils to have virtual meetings. I was on a ROC meeting just recently from Cunnamulla and we struggled with the IT connection. It is quite disruptive to those meetings and that training when you have those IT issues. Sometimes it takes a bit of time to resolve those IT issues and then they continue to drop in and out and it is really not an efficient use of people's time. It will be challenging to deliver that cyber training virtually to all councils due to the connectivity issues in regional Queensland. It is not the fault of the councils; the fault lies with the telcos and the federal government.

I thank the committee for their report. However, there is much more work to be done to support councils and help them meet their obligations.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note



Mr KING (Kurwongbah—ALP) (3.17 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Transport and Resources Committee Report No. 26, 57th Parliament, *Examination of Auditor-General Report 5: 2021-22: Managing Queensland's transition to renewable energy*, tabled on 5 December 2022.

I rise today to speak to the committee's report titled *Examination of Auditor-General report 5: 2021-22: Managing Queensland's transition to renewable energy*. I want to start by thanking the committee members and secretariat staff for our excellent and their excellent work on this report. It has been a very busy time and the commitment put into all of our inquiries and reports is really appreciated.

Secondly, I want to say how proud I am to be part of the Palaszczuk Labor government acting on climate change in Queensland. Our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan released in September last year takes our commitment to clean energy even further, with a new Renewable Energy Target of 70 per cent by 2032 and 80 per cent by 2035.

Let's quickly recap how we got there. In 2016, we appointed the Renewable Energy Expert Panel to help set our goals and our plan to hit them. In 2017, we committed to the renewable energy target of 50 per cent by 2030. We are halfway there time-wise now and almost halfway to our initial target of 22.7 per cent of electricity used in Queensland produced from renewable energy sources. That was as at November last year.

In 2018, we established CleanCo, a government-opened corporation generating, developing and selling energy in Queensland. We have achieved the highest rate of household solar panels in the country with more than 700,000 homes and small businesses on board. We have put solar panels in schools to offset electricity costs and feed back to the grid. We have a Queensland Hydrogen Industry Strategy and millions of dollars invested in hydrogen projects and training facilities. We are building an electric vehicle superhighway and we are switching over to electric vehicles across government, including electric buses. We are developing an energy SuperGrid and renewable energy zones to capitalise on the varying climates across the state and to address the challenges of delivering services in our most remote communities. Altogether we have 50 large-scale renewable energy projects operating underway or with budgets allocated for a combined investment of over \$10 billion generating 8,000 construction jobs.

I have brought up the benefits of Wivenhoe Pumped Hydro storage a few times in here and I know the members opposite must love it. It is about the only thing that I can honestly thank Joh for. It is a great bit of gear. When the Callide Power Station failed in 2021, Wivenhoe ramped up to carry the load, as it was designed to do.

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr KING: Credit where credit is due, member for Burleigh. Now we are building the biggest pumped hydro project in the world at Borumba which will have the capacity to power two million homes when it is finished. We have guaranteed revenue on four large-scale solar projects to incentivise investors.

Our work in the renewable energy space has advanced since the Auditor-General made the recommendations we examined in this report, and the impacts of the war in Ukraine and COVID-19 have changed the national conversation. However, in fact, it is easier to report on our progress today thanks to some improvements our government made in following the recommendations. There were five recommendations, and I will outline them now for the benefit of the house.

Recommendations 1 and 2 were about achieving our renewable energy target, and the Energy and Jobs Plan certainly took care of that. Recommendations 3, 4 and 5 related to improving public reporting and were that the Department of Energy and Public Works publishes a detailed public statement of how Queensland's renewable energy target is defined and measured; and updates its calculations of progress against the target to fully account for all relevant renewable energy, such as small-scale renewable and non-renewable energy like diesel generation. The fifth recommendation was reporting of more information on actual renewable generation including, for example, the amount of energy generated from wind, solar and other sources, and the assumptions which support its renewable energy forecast. The Auditor-General noted that our renewable energy target calculation methodology included some energy that was being exported out of Queensland, thus should not be included in consumption rates, and missed some energy that was being generated by non-renewable sources. The difference at the time was around a one per cent deficit, and the methodology and definitions were refined as a result.

With regard to recommendation 5, while tracking every megawatt of energy production in real time is not an easy task, there is an abundance of information available on the department of energy's website. I encourage anyone with an interest in renewable energy to check out our interactive generation map. It is really worth a look. Our commitment to renewable energy is stronger than ever. This report has helped us along the way. It is a good read, and I commend it to the House.



Mr MILLAR (Gregory—LNP) (3.23 pm): It has been a long time since we did this, and I thank the chair and the committee for the examination into managing Queensland's transition into renewable energy. However, this was tabled in December 2022, so I had to go and re-read the committee report. There are some recommendations there that we need to absolutely follow. One thing that has changed over the last six to eight months is the concern from agriculture. I am glad the minister for agriculture is in the House to hear this, and I am sure he is aware of this. The renewable energy programs and the renewable energy infrastructure that are going out have a lot of farmers and a lot of agricultural industries worried about the taking up of A-grade agricultural land. I will give you an example, and this is something we should have looked at and we have to look at into the future.

I come from the town of Emerald. Having been a part of the Emerald irrigation area all my life, I can say it is a fantastic thing built back in the 1970s and has basically made the Central Highlands, both in agriculture and in mining. However, you only need to go to the west of Emerald where you will see a massive solar farm placed on top of an Emerald irrigation block. This is A-grade land that is producing food and fibre for our country which now has a solar farm over the top of it. That has caused huge concerns. How did that get there? It did not even go through the council process or through the council chambers. It went through the DA process and was automatically given the opportunity to be put on this fantastic land. That is the sort of thing we need to be looking at.

We saw only on Tuesday a rally out the front of Parliament House of concerned people from the agricultural industry from all over Queensland when it comes to the renewable energy targets that have been put in place in Queensland. They are not against renewable energy, but what they are concerned about is taking away prime agricultural land from food and fibre production. We need to make sure when managing the Queensland transition to renewable energy, we are also managing it in a way that does not take away valuable agricultural land which provides important food and fibre not only for Queensland but also for those countries with which we have trade relations. It is a concern. I think we need to certainly look at that.

One of the issues we have with renewable energy that has been much talked about is that once the renewable energy projects are built—and there are great jobs there; you only need look at Camden Park in Longreach where we have a major solar farm—you only have one person working there doing the whipper-snipping and wiping down the solar panels. Therefore, we have to look at what jobs there will be going forward when it comes to our transition to renewable energy.

The other matter—I know the member for Whitsunday would know and sees it all the time—is pumped hydro for the Pioneer-Burdekin. No plan, no business plan and nothing is happening. You have a lot of concerned people in Finch Hatton, in that beautiful Pioneer Valley area, who have property there and are very worried about their property values. These are people's livelihoods. There is an announcement that is made that we are managing Queensland's transition to renewable energy, as this report says, but what is actually happening? What is happening to those people?

We have to do a lot more on this. I recommend that we revisit this Auditor-General's report very soon to make sure we include the impact of renewable energy on agriculture and what it is doing to people who are trying to get ahead and get on with their lives of producing the valuable food and fibre that Queensland does. Thank you.



Mr WALKER (Mundingburra—ALP) (3.27 pm): I rise to speak to Report No. 26 of the 57th Parliament, Transport and Resources Committee, December 2022—*Examination of Auditor-General report 5: 2021-22: Managing Queensland's transition to renewable energy*. As you may know, in June 2017 the Queensland government formally committed to a 50 per cent renewable energy target in Queensland by 2030. The Department of Energy and Public Works was responsible for managing this transition to renewable energy as part of its wider responsibilities for Queensland's energy policy.

The Queensland Audit Office examined the management of the progress towards this target in its report 5 of 2021-22, *Managing Queensland's transition to renewable energy* which made five recommendations. The Auditor-General's report was referred to the Transport and Resources Committee to consider and report on to the Assembly as part of its considerations. The committee received briefings from the QAO and the Department of Energy and Public Works. During the course of this inquiry, the Department of Energy and Public Works advised the committee on its progress in implementing the five recommendations. This included informing the committee in July 2022 that three of the recommendations were completed and then in November 2022 that the remaining two recommendations were also completed following the release of the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan in October 2022.


The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan is nation-building. It makes Queensland a national leader when it comes to renewable energy. One of the most impressive projects in Queensland's Energy and Jobs Plan is CopperString 2032 which is in my region of Townsville, North Queensland, and runs all the way to Mount Isa which, by the way, turns 100 this year.

What is CopperString 2032 and why is it important for Queensland's renewable energy future? Recent announcements about the CopperString 2032 project, formerly known as the CopperString 2.0 project, will be a game changer for the future of Queensland and Australia. We need it and it is important for our state. The CopperString 2032 project is a 1,100-kilometre high-voltage electricity transmission line from Townsville to Mount Isa that will connect Queensland's North West Minerals Province to the national electricity grid.

The \$5 billion expanded project will include a 500 kVA line from Townsville to Hughenden to connect the North West Minerals Province to the North Queensland renewable energy zone, the largest renewable energy zone in the nation. This connection will form an important part of the new Queensland SuperGrid, the backbone to be delivered as part of the \$62 billion investment in the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. CopperString 2032 is visionary and is the largest ever economic development project in North Queensland and, I might add, Northern Australia and the largest expansion to the power grid in Australia.

The North West Minerals Province is 375,000 square kilometres—it is hard to even picture that—of North-West Queensland encompassing towns such as Mount Isa, Cloncurry and Julia Creek. It contains one of the world's richest deposits of critical minerals worth an estimated \$500 billion. Critical minerals are the essential components for production of emerging technologies such as electric vehicles, renewable energy products and storage, and low-emission power sources. The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan is changing the way renewable energy will be delivered in this state.

What is more important out of this whole process is Queenslanders still own this asset. They own their energy and their infrastructure and we are leading the nation. All Queenslanders should be very proud of the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. It is nation building and I look forward to this project being completed in 2032.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (3.31 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution on the *Examination of Auditor-General report 5: 2021-22: Managing Queensland's transition to renewable energy*, which is the committee's report No. 26. It should be noted that the audit report was written on 25 November 2021 and our report was from December 2022. We are now in August 2023, so some of this is a little backward looking. I will briefly go through the recommendations that were put forward at the time, and others have also done that. Under 'Achieving the renewable energy target', recommendation 1 states—

publicly communicates its overall vision and objectives for the transition to renewable energy and sets out more information on its desired end state in its ten-year energy plan

We have heard about the plan that has been released. The one major weakness I see in that plan is addressing, particularly in areas just west of me, the impact on agricultural land of some of the processes of transition. I think the effects of solar panels and wind towers on the productivity of some of our prime agricultural land need to be strongly addressed as we go through this transition. Whilst recommendation 1 has a plan associated with it, that plan has not strongly addressed that area. Recommendation 2 was—

Conducts an interim review by 2025 to formally assess its progress towards the target—

Let's wait and see what happens there. It goes on—

These could include additional investment on network infrastructure—

Obviously it would be very interesting to see by 2025 exactly where the planned pumped hydro has reached and if we are going to be able to achieve any of the targets that have been set. Recommendation 3 states—

publishes a detailed public statement of how Queensland's renewable energy target is defined and measured

There is an important issue here because the auditor discovered that there were parts that were not being included. In calculating the figure, non-renewable energy that was being generated outside of the national market was not included. There is still around 1,000 gigawatts of diesel generation in Queensland. I think it is important to ensure we include that diesel generation in the energy target. Obviously diesel generation is not renewable. Therefore, it should be included in the generation of

overall electricity. The total energy consumed also does not include energy generated by small-scale facilities. It assumes that all bioenergy generators achieve the same performance as the largest bioenergy generator. There are a few issues with calculating the target.

Importantly, the government needs to do a better job of being open and transparent. We know that is not their strong suit, but we can only hope that the people of Queensland will see some openness and transparency around the generation of the target, the measuring of the target and the calculation of the target. Probably most importantly for the people in my region, I would encourage the Auditor-General to go back and have a serious look at the transition plan and its effect on prime agricultural land and biodiversity in some of the regional areas of Queensland.

I think the report itself from the Auditor-General was a solid report. It highlighted some issues and made some good recommendations. I think it is timely that we go back to this because the effects on prime agricultural land are evident right now. That is what the protest was about this week. I think it is really important that the Auditor-General and the department look seriously at how we manage this transition and the impacts on the agricultural land. We look at the government Coat of Arms sitting above your head, Madam Deputy Speaker, and agriculture is a very important part of Queensland. It should not be put in jeopardy by renewable energy.

(Time expired)



Mr MARTIN (Stretton—ALP) (3.36 pm): I rise to speak to the Transport and Resources Committee report No. 26, *Examination of Auditor-General report 5: 2021-22: Managing Queensland's transition to renewable energy*. It is certainly a very interesting report and an exciting time in Queensland as we move towards 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030. I am proud to be part of a government that is taking its obligations to tackle climate change seriously.


Back in 2015 the government first committed to investigating a renewable energy target of 50 per cent by 2030 and in 2017 we formally committed to this target. Our goals remain the same: to reduce emissions but also, while we are doing that, to create new jobs and, importantly, to diversify the Queensland economy so we are ready for the future. That is exactly what we are doing. It was great to hear from representatives from departments about the progress and plans to achieve this. It is all contained within our very exciting Energy and Jobs Plan. This means a few things. It means cleaner energy in solar, wind, batteries, hydrogen, biofuels—the future of which is exciting—and electric vehicles. It also means cheaper power bills. Importantly, as has been mentioned, all of this will remain in public ownership. It is so important that we own our energy-generating assets. It will also create jobs, estimated to be 100,000 good quality, well-paid jobs.

Something that is very exciting is that right here in Queensland we will be building the world's biggest pumped hydro, a fantastic project. It will mean baseload power for two million homes. Included in that will be all the major upgrades that are required for the grid that will be needed to transmit that energy around the state. This plan represents real action on climate change. It sets out how Queensland can meet and beat its 50 per cent renewable target. When compared to the other states, it represents the biggest commitment to renewable energy in Australian history. Only by making the transition to a clean energy economy will we cut our electricity system emissions to meet the targets that we need to meet.

Since 2015 we have seen about 50 large-scale renewable energy projects that are operating, under construction or in the stages of being financially committed to. That is more than \$10 billion worth of investment for around 8,000 jobs, over 5,700 megawatts of clean energy and more than 13.8 million tonnes of avoided emissions annually. It will continue to position Queensland as a renewable energy superpower. It is all about clean, reliable and affordable energy for generations for Queenslanders. It is not just for those of us living today but also for the generations that will come after these pumped hydros are built. It is about turbocharging new investment and about new minerals, batteries and manufacturing. Some of the key highlights include the two pumped hydros at Pioneer-Burdekin and Borumba and a new Queensland SuperGrid to connect solar, wind, battery and hydrogen generators across the state. Certainly it will be a big job, but it is so important for future generations.

It will unlock 22 gigawatts of new large-scale renewable capacity, compared to about four gigawatts today. Members can see the massive jump we are heading towards. It will provide 100,000 new jobs by 2040 including 64,000 to build the SuperGrid and 36,000 more in key sectors all around the economy. Importantly, part of this is about solar, which has also been mentioned before: 11.5 gigawatts of rooftop solar and six gigawatts of embedded batteries and Queensland's first hydrogen-ready gas turbine—something also very exciting that I know industry is looking forward to.

In relation to rooftop solar, there are a number of ways we are currently working to build on our solid track record of renewable energy growth. The nation's biggest power station, as members would know, is Queensland's rooftops. Queensland is a world leader in rooftop solar. One in three households are using rooftop solar systems. They supply up to 40 per cent of generation. We expect to see continued growth in rooftop solar and customer energy systems such as household batteries and electric vehicles.

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (3.41 pm): It was great to be part of the committee process looking at Auditor-General's report No. 5 of 2021-22, *Managing Queensland's transition to renewable energy*. I do not know if I would say that we are 'managing Queensland's transition to renewable energy'. There is certainly a lot of talk about it, but the management has been poor at best, to say the least. This report was tabled in December last year and we are now near the end of August. Many months have passed since the tabling of the committee report and the Auditor-General's report was tabled in November 2021, so we are talking about a bit of history today. If the Premier had set more than 12 sitting weeks for the year, we could have gotten to this report a lot sooner and we would be talking about a lot more recent events.

The member for Kurwongbah mentioned the Callide Power Station explosion. That is further proof of the lack of management of Queensland's energy transition. If we had appropriately managed our electricity-generating assets across Queensland then we would not have seen the explosion at Callide Power Station and we would not have had Kogan Creek Power Station out for anywhere near as long. The result would have been cheaper electricity prices for Queenslanders.

This week we saw many farmers and concerned people from all across Queensland come to Brisbane to join a rally against reckless renewables. The key word there is 'reckless', because it is certainly not about opposing renewables; it is about opposing renewables that are destroying prime agricultural land and that are contributing to increased electricity costs here in Queensland.

A word that gets thrown around a bit when it comes to renewables is 'nimbies'. A nimby in the renewable space means 'not in my backyard'. We see many people pushing for renewable energy projects, but they do not want to have them in their own backyard. It is the primary producers of Callide, who put food and fibre on the table, who see these projects come through and who face compulsory acquisition to enable the powerlines that connect all of these renewables. That is not to say that we oppose compulsory acquisition, because it is an important power that we need in Queensland, but it needs to be used effectively. It should only be used for key projects; it should not be open slather. Unfortunately, this government is failing to manage the transition. They are failing to manage anything they touch. Everything they touch in Queensland is turning into a complete basket case.


The great 'hydro hoax' that was mentioned earlier is also part of their so-called Energy and Jobs Plan. We in the opposition will not believe the Pioneer dam until we see it, because at this stage they do not have a dollar on the table. They cannot even decide if they are going to give the environmental approvals for it. On the one hand the minister is saying, 'It is going to be going ahead lock, stock and barrel,' and on the other hand they are saying, 'It will only go ahead if the environmental approvals are done.' They are already assuming that the environmental approvals will sail through without any concerns. This is an example of a government that is in chaos and crisis and that cannot manage Queensland's electricity market or the renewable energy transition. We have a checked-out Premier and as a result—

Government members interjected.

Mrs Frecklington: Do not take their interjections.

Mr HEAD: I thank the member for Nanango, who is a great member. The member for Nanango has seen firsthand some of the impacts of the reckless renewable push from the Labor government, who do not consider the prime agricultural land that is being impacted by their own policies.

The Audit Office recommended that the Department of Energy and Public Works publicly communicate its overall vision and objectives for the transition to renewable energy—the key word there is 'objectives'—and that the government publish a detailed public statement on how Queensland's renewable energy target is defined and measured.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (3.47 pm): What a pleasure it is to follow the member for Callide from the LNP—the party that wanted to privatise and sell the Callide Power Station. I wonder if the member for Callide was there protesting against the LNP government's policy to sell off all of our transmission assets, all of our distribution assets and all of our state owned generators. I do not think

so. The transcript of the committee briefings on this report made for interesting reading. The member for Callide asked a question about the jobs guarantee that is a part of our groundbreaking Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan—like he cares about the workers in Callide when he is part of a party that is—

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

Mr McCALLUM: I withdraw. He asked a question about the jobs guarantee that is provided by the Palaszczuk Labor government as part of a world-leading energy and jobs plan that is going to provide a legislated jobs guarantee. The last time the Liberal National Party were in government they wanted to sell off the Callide Power Station. It is clear that the LNP has a pathological opposition to renewables.

This is the party whose Queensland federal shadow ministers want to take us to nuclear energy. They want to introduce nuclear energy in Queensland and right across Australia. They want to plonk small-scale nuclear reactors up and down the coast. Who knows whose electorate it is going to be? Probably on the Sunshine Coast. Maybe down the Gold Coast.

Mr HART: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I just wonder if the member can point to where in the report it says anything about nuclear energy.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): I will get some advice. Member for Bundamba, can I ask you to explain the relevance to the report please?

Mr McCALLUM: Absolutely. We are talking about a transition of the energy system in Queensland. On one hand we have the Palaszczuk Labor government that has a very comprehensive, evidence-based plan to transition to over \$62 billion worth of investment in Queensland's energy system that is going to create over 100,000 jobs. When it comes to both of those figures, the majority of it is going to be in renewable energy. The alternative plan from the opposition here in Queensland is to champion nuclear energy. The contrast is that the LNP has a transition to nuclear which is a transition to higher prices. It has a transition to asset sales. It has a transition to sacking our energy workers. That is how it is relevant to the report that is currently being debated.


I note that the committee's report found that all five recommendations in the Auditor-General's report have been implemented. The important thing is that after the Auditor-General report was concluded we released our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan which includes the Queensland SuperGrid which is going to pump that 22 gigawatts of extra renewables right around Queensland into our homes and businesses, putting lower pressure on our energy prices. We also have the pumped hydro projects as well as network batteries and neighbourhood batteries. Some of the speakers from the LNP have mentioned these pumped hydro projects. It was interesting to note that in the hearing transcript the member for Toowoomba North was quoted as saying, 'I'm all for pumped storage,' yet there are public comments from LNP members who are opposing the powerlines to the pumped storage.

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr McCALLUM: With the mob on the other side, I think we are going to get energy generation without any powerlines to connect it to the grid. I will finish with a final point that was raised by some of the speakers from the LNP about making sure that we share the benefits with regional communities and some of the impacts on prime agricultural land. I would refer those members to the Queensland Farmers' Federation's Queensland Renewable Energy Landholders Toolkit that was proudly developed in partnership with the Palaszczuk Labor government.

(Time expired)

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (3.52 pm): It gives me pleasure to follow the former assistant minister for hydrogen development and the 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030. That has gone—gonski! Now the member for Bundamba has no hydrogen and no renewable targets in his title. What happened? What has happened to the Palaszczuk government? The member has obviously just stood up and spoken about a topic about which it is clear he has no on-the-ground comprehension of what is going on. No wonder the member has lost those titles! Why has the Palaszczuk government got rid of hydrogen? Why has it got rid of the 'renewable' title—

Ms RICHARDS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance to the committee report before the House.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): I will take some advice. You have the call, member for Nanango.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: In relation to this report, first of all I acknowledge and appreciate the work that the Auditor-General and the Queensland Audit Office do. Unfortunately, there are some issues that are completely missing from this quite old report now from 25 November 2021 and which we are only just debating in August 2023. I want to talk about one of the issues that this report has missed, and that is referred to as social licence. After listening to the contribution by the member for Bundamba—the guy who has lost those titles—he said that everything is okay when it comes to prime agricultural land and farmers because we have a document that the government worked on with the Queensland Farmers' Federation. Yes, we do have a document and we appreciate the Queensland Farmers' Federation and the work that it tries to do all of the time to get through to the Palaszczuk government about the impacts.


I take members back to 2010 and 2011 when the then Anna Bligh government was dealing with the CSG issue around the state. What is happening now in the electorate of Nanango and many electorates that are smack bang in the middle of the Palaszczuk government's renewable energy zone—and the electorate of Nanango is right in the middle of that—is that people feel like it is those days back in 2010 and 2011 when the former Bligh government was dealing with CSG and the transmission in social licence then. When we look at the renewable energy target that is placed upon the landholders who are going to be hosting these solar farms or wind farms, it feels very much like the impost on landholders that was happening around CSG. What the former LNP government did straightaway in 2012 as soon as we got in was we formed the GasFields Commission and then that process went very well.

An honourable member interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I would challenge that member who said that to talk about the GasFields Commission. I will disclose that, yes, my father was on that GasFields Commission, appointed by the Labor minister to be on that GasFields Commission because the former Labor minister understood landholder access, understood to communicate with people on the ground and understood their issues. I give a massive shout-out to the former chairman John Cotter and to people like Shane Charles and my father, Don Stiller, who led the way in that GasFields Commission because, again, they were appointed by the Labor government to deal with those issues. Since those days of that minister, what do we see? We see a government that is riding roughshod over our local communities. It is once again bulldozing in and its members are thinking while sitting in their electorates in inner-city Brisbane that everything is okay because it is not in their backyard.

Mr Head interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take the comments from the member for Callide: the 'not in my backyard' comments. Everyone wants to talk about renewable energy. Yes, member for Bundamba: we do support renewable energy. It was the former conservative government that put in the first pumped hydro. When the member for Toowoomba North talks about stored pumped hydro, yes: it is called Wivenhoe and it is in my electorate. I have toured it many times. It was thanks to a conservative government back in the eighties that brought that in. Three decades later with a Labor government and what do we see? We see a hoax. All we see is an announcement—all talk and no money in the budget. It is simply unbelievable that this government thinks that it knows the best way forward but yet it does not even put any money in the budget. That is what a hoax is. When it comes to this report, we obviously need the Audit Office to look again at the transition so that the landholders who will be and are being impacted are brought along for the journey.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (3.58 pm): I rise to speak to the Transport and Resources Committee report on Auditor-General report No. 5 of 2021-22 on renewable energy which was tabled on 5 December 2022. If this government rolls out renewable energy at the pace it rolls legislation through this House, it has no hope of reaching these targets. The report makes a number of recommendations that go to transparency and accountability, particularly around the reporting of the renewable energy that is being generated in this state.


One of the main recommendations was for the government to publish a detailed public statement of how Queensland's renewable energy target is defined and measured. Over the last couple of years we have asked a couple of questions on this. When this report was handed down in 2021 it showed a 19 per cent generation of renewable energy. The Audit Office stated that it was very unclear as to where

that energy was coming from. The report goes on to recommend that the government updates its calculation of progress against the target to fully account for all relevant renewable energy and report more information on actual renewable energy generation split by how it was generated, for example, whether it was wind, whether it was solar or other sources. The minister stated in estimates that it is around 25 per cent now, but we would be very interested in seeing how he arrives at that 25 per cent. What period of time is he saying that is 25 per cent generation of renewable energy?

Debate, on motion of Mr Weir, adjourned.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates and Referral of Auditor-General's Reports


 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.00 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 136, that the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee report on the Body Corporate and Community Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 6 October 2023 and the Transport and Resources Committee report on the Land Valuation Amendment Bill by 24 November 2023.

The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 194B, that Auditor-General's Report 15 of 2022-23 titled *Local government 2022* be referred to the State Development and Regional Industries Committee; Auditor-General's Report 16 of 2022-23 titled *Education 2022* be referred to the Education, Employment and Training Committee; Auditor-General's Report 17 of 2022-23 titled *Implementing machinery of government changes* be referred to the Economics and Governance Committee; Auditor-General's Report 18 of 2022-23 *Queensland regional accommodation centre (Wellcamp)* be referred to the Transport and Resources Committee; Auditor-General's Report 1 of 2023-24 *Managing invasive species*; and Auditor-General's Report 2 of 2023-24 *Improving asset management in local government* be referred to the State Development and Regional Industries Committee.

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

Resumed from p. 2412, on motion of Mr Ryan—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (4.02 pm): The Queensland Police Service tells us that the greatest risk to children throughout our state is child trafficking, child exploitation and grooming offences. These are the very matters that this bill addresses. This bill extends the prescribed offences around device inspection, allowing our Police Service to be proactive in detecting changes in offenders' risk profiles which really considers the perverse and recidivist nature of this kind of abhorrent offending. We know that through the very nature of the necessary distancing that we did through the COVID-19 pandemic that those who engage in these heinous acts have also engaged in technological advancements to prevent detection. The advancements provide new ways for child sexual offenders to engage, groom and offend against children while offenders remain in their own homes.


The parliamentary committee detailed this is occurring through masking applications which provide for exploitative material to be held in a black hole or vault within a digital device to evade detection. The eSafety Commissioner informed the committee that between the beginning of the COVID pandemic and August 2021 the Australian Federal Police's Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation identified more than 800,000 new registered accounts using anonymous platforms such as the dark web and encrypted applications solely to facilitate child abuse material. Police need to be provided with the power to monitor online activities and inspect digital devices to detect and prevent this predatory criminal behaviour. There can be no mistake just how predatory this behaviour is and can be. I have had members of my own community bravely share their victim accounts with me. In a number of cases these offences go as far as their convicted perpetrator of child sexual assault, relentlessly and continually targeting and haunting them through the internet under pseudonyms or imposter accounts.

We know offenders are behaving in these predatory ways and as their efforts evolve and increase in complexity so too must our understanding and legislative response. This legislation will make a real difference so our Police Service can prevent, respond and address current day methods of offending and, just as importantly, re-offending. That is why I absolutely support the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill to the House.

I turn now to the amendment to the Mineral Resources Act in relation to Glenden that is going through with this bill. I commend the minister on the work he has done to get this amendment so promptly before the House. Last week I was sitting in Blackall on the porch of a Queenslander—after a flight was delayed and a lovely couple invited me along to their home—when I received a phone call from Mayor Anne Baker who let me know just what a difference this amendment would make for her community. The reason that this amendment is going through with such haste is because we back rural and regional Queensland and we back the jobs that this mine has. In doing so we want to ensure that Glenden does not become a ghost town, which is why we are imposing the strict restrictions that, frankly, were outlined already in the environmental impact statement that came in to dispute. The certainty of this mine will continue to support more than 750 good jobs in Central Queensland. They are good resource jobs. It is fantastic that we are in a position to be able to move these forward today.

I place on record my thanks to Mayor Baker and the Isaac Regional Council for their strong advocacy in progressing this. In that phone call that I had with Mayor Baker she said to me that the only thing that concerned her now was just how quickly we could legislate these amendments. I think turning them around within a week absolutely answers the call that this community has asked of us and that is certainty for Glenden well into the future, which will occur through these amendments.

This mine is a billion dollar enterprise. We know that it has the capacity to employ up to 900 people at full production. The last thing we want to see in Queensland is a ghost town. I get to travel through a lot of Queensland and visit many resource communities. There is a real difference in those communities when we have those workers embedded in those communities, when we have families that are sending their children to school and when we have sporting groups that have children involved. It is a very different community when big multimillion dollar corporations take the commitment to invest in regional Queensland and have agreements such as this one that is being legislated here today. I again place on record my sincere congratulations to the Isaac Regional Council and the really swift and decisive action that the Palaszczuk Labor government has taken in this respect because I know that this will be a great outcome for Queensland. I absolutely commend this bill and all of its amendments to the House.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (4.08 pm): I want to be crystal clear that I support the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 as originally presented with no amendments. What I do not support is the chaos that is created by this government every time it tries to crush the democratic processes here in Queensland. The character of this minister cannot be trusted. If there is any doubt at all about whether this minister can be trusted or whether he has the character to be a decent representative of the people of Queensland, we just need to ask the Pullen family what they think of this minister.

It was all about the optics. It was all about the press release. It was all about making sure that the news coverage was positive. It was not about the victims. It was not about the people who had suffered. That shows the character of the minister who has brought these amendments into this place. There are multiple pages beyond the original bill and most of them are on topics not connected to the bill. He has form on this. We are told that the reason this has happened is that it is urgent. If it was urgent, how come the minister denied me access to the watch houses in 2018 when we all knew that kids were being inappropriately locked up in those watch houses? How come the minister blocks ride-alongs with the police? How come he will not even tell us the police rostering from six months ago so that we can see what is genuinely driving this crime crisis?

Going all the way back to 4½ years ago, a human rights bill was passed by this parliament that was supposed to protect people who could not otherwise protect themselves. This minister and others put out all of these beautiful press releases and there was wonderful coverage to say, 'Look how compassionate we are; look how wonderful we are.' What do we find today? We find this government rushing through and crushing that process so they can take 10-year-olds and lock them up in cells that are not designed to hold a child. Where are the educational facilities in the watch houses? Where are the outdoor recreational areas in those facilities?

Those facilities are designed to hold violent adult offenders and people who are waiting to go to court. They will be there for maybe 24, 48 or sometimes 72 hours and maybe as long as five or six days, but not hundreds of days. Those facilities are not designed to hold a child, with adults just around the corner, overseen by people who do not have specific training to look after a child's needs in that environment. What kitchen facilities do watch houses have to ensure the nutritional needs of children are met if they are staying long term? They are not appropriate places. Not for a moment am I suggesting that some of those children have not done the wrong thing, but that is not a reason for this government to trample their human rights and do the wrong thing by them after telling the people of Queensland how much they care. What a load of rubbish that has proved to be.

All we have seen and heard are press releases and a lot of talk, but when it comes to action what do we see? We see no action to support their own process. Where did all this begin? Where did the watch house chaos involving children begin? It began with a knee-jerk reaction. As soon as the government came into power they weakened the laws so we have more criminals. Then they moved criminals who were held in a separate block within Arthur Gorrie—17-year-old violent offenders—and put them in child detention with 10- and 12-year-olds, without building or adding a single facility. That happened years ago. Therefore, to suggest that this is now urgent because they cannot manage the population of child offenders is ridiculous.

If, when they made the policy to move those people out of that prison, they had started constructing a facility then there might at least be some excuse and there might have been a period of delay, but they did not start. What did they do? Nothing at all! Therefore, we see crime going up, we see more and more victims, we see victims' rights trampled and we see juveniles being inappropriately housed and inappropriately looked after. I know that there are some on the other side who, in their heart of hearts, would not support this. Nobody in their right mind could support putting children into such an environment. Where are the educational facilities? What is it going to do to them psychologically? How will we ensure those facilities are appropriate for them?

What of the transparency of this whole process? This House is here to defend the rights of people who do not have a voice. A 10-year-old who has committed a crime in this state does not have the voice to say, 'Can you help me out?' They are just going to be banged up in a facility that is designed to hold adults for a very short period yet they could be sitting there for months—although hopefully not years. The people on that side should be ashamed.

We should look at what this government said, when in opposition, about what is an appropriate way for this House to conduct itself. The current Premier stated—

As I look around the House I see a government that is arrogantly pleased with itself. I see a government that has just as arrogantly used its huge majority in this place to abuse the trust placed in it by Queenslanders at the last election.

Mrs McMAHON: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am trying to find the relevance of the member's contribution to the long title of the bill or the amendments.

Mr WATTS: The relevance is very clear: this legislation has been rushed into this place and will be rammed through by the majority sitting on that side. They do not like to hear that they are acting just as arrogantly as any previous government ever has. At that time the Premier did not like the majority being used.

I ask the people on the other side: if this place had an upper house, what would happen now? This legislation would go off to be reviewed, people would talk about it, experts would be brought in and we would analyse it. We would not be back here with retrospective legislation trying to patch up mistake after mistake, as we have seen from the hopeless ministers on that side. They try to put together legislation but they constantly get it wrong. They have to come back into this place to introduce retrospective legislation to fill the gaps that probably would not have existed if the processes of this place had been followed appropriately in the first place. We have tried to tell them that this is a bad way to govern Queensland but they will not listen. We have victims whose houses are being broken into and now these guys are going to create more victims by locking up children. Their behaviour has not been appropriate, but now we are going to victimise them and persecute them outside of the parliament's own human rights—

Government members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Order! Member, you have the call.

Mr WATTS: This government is going to persecute children outside of its own human rights legislation, which has to be stood aside so that they can incarcerate children in inappropriate watch house facilities.


A government member: So you don't want them locked up?

Mr WATTS: I hear members opposite gibbering away, saying that I do not want them locked up. That is not true, but they need to be appropriately accommodated. This government has failed to plan, it has failed to organise, it is chaotic, it is hopeless, it is driven by media outcome and, therefore, it has not built appropriate facilities. They have overseen a massive increase in youth crime. They have moved youth offenders out of the adult prison system and put them into facilities that were already overcrowded. They have not invested. They have not planned. They are chaotic. They are in crisis and the people of Queensland are finding out that it is all about the media release and has nothing to do with what is actually going on.

What is actually going on in this state is that crime is going up and more victims are being created. The government does not care about victims. Look at the Premier's disgraceful behaviour yesterday with victims of crime. It was almost as bad as the minister's behaviour around the Pullens—maybe not quite, but it was pretty close. It was pretty despicable behaviour. The people of Queensland should understand the character of the people who are in this executive. They do not care about children's human rights. The people on the backbench who support the trashing of children's human rights should hang their heads in shame.

What are we doing about providing educational facilities? What are we doing about making sure children are supported to rehabilitate? What are we doing to make sure we have long-term facilities that are suitable for children? That will be years away. They created this mess years ago but have done nothing to plan because a chaotic, hopeless executive is running this state. Their backbench know that they are an embarrassment and their backbench should not support this. The people of Queensland have found them out: it is all about the media releases. It should not be about abusing children, as they are.

(Time expired)

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (4.19 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Much like the member for Maiwar yesterday, I also have chosen to rethink my speech in the past 24 hours. That is a shame, because I was looking forward to debating the original bill before the House. I think it is one worth celebrating. It is a bill that targets offenders who use technology to harm children online and a bill that in many ways is an Australian first. It is something of which our government and Queensland should be proud. The substantive bill, however, has been overshadowed by the amendments proposed for consideration in detail. That is where I will focus my contribution.

Children do not belong in watch houses. The second-last place I ever want to see a child is in a watch house. In response to the member for Maiwar's question yesterday: yes, I have visited young people in watch houses. It is awful. It is particularly confronting if you have not seen many places of detention before, because they feel undignified. There are issues with privacy. The smell can be overwhelming. The noise can be overwhelming. It is incredibly confronting.

I say to the House that there is a worse place you can visit a child: in a morgue. I would like to return serve and ask the member for Maiwar if he has ever had to do that. I have and I would not wish it upon anyone. I have gone with families to identify their loved one's body in the morgue. I have gone with victims to identify the weapons used against them that are still coated in blood and to pick up their bloodied clothing from hospitals. I have helped families organise the forensic clean for their home so that they do not have to wipe up the body parts of their loved ones themselves. I have gone with families to select caskets—something they never thought they would have to do in this lifetime. I have spoken to parents picking out suits in which to bury their children who have died at the hands of other young people. I have watched parents have to work carefully to bury their child in clothing that will conceal knife wounds or bruises.

I say to the member for Maiwar: if it comes down to a choice between visiting a child in one of these two places, I know which one I would pick every day of the week. The reality is that the children in detention are part of a much bigger story. If we are going to tell the story, let us tell it fully. For every child sitting in the Brisbane watch house right now—as confronting and as uncomfortable as that is—there is a victim of crime, most likely a victim of violent and personal crime, connected to that story. We should not forget them or their stories and the important need they have to be safe.

Regrettably, I have plenty of stories of victims who have had their lives impacted by acts of violence. Let me give two off the top of my head, with the warning that they do include graphic content. The first is of a mother I will call Janette, whose children were both murdered. Their bodies were discovered at the bottom of a quarry. They had been lured away by a young man who raped the girl


and, in an attempt to hide that crime, threw them off a cliff to the quarry pit below. When the impact of that fall did not kill them, the offender stood at the top of the cliff and threw rocks down onto their bodies until they stopped moving. Her son was aged 11 and her daughter was just eight.

The second story is of another mother who I will call Amber. Amber's son was 16 when he fell in with what we would call the 'wrong crowd'. One night her son and his friends took a car and went into the bush, where they drank. Things escalated, and at some point during the night the boys conspired to harm Amber's son. They tortured him, stabbed him multiple times and eventually decapitated him. The things they did to Amber's son and his body are unspeakable.

Now, put yourselves in the shoes of Janette and Amber and convince me that our first priority should not be to support the victims and to protect the community from those who commit violent acts—even if they are children, as difficult as that is to accept. No one wants young people in watch houses—not me, not my community, not the legal sector and not the police. For the member for Maiwar to come in here and ask me to forget about what these young people did to end up where they are today is something I cannot do, because I cannot get the stories of victims like Janette and Amber out of my head.

I strongly encourage the member for Maiwar to meet with victims, which I know is something he does not do because they all end up coming to me. I am happy to organise a meeting for him with victims from his electorate to hear from them firsthand about the impacts of crime on their lives—to speak to their children who cannot sleep at night and cannot go to school anymore, who have lost the joy in their life. I think it might help the member to have that perspective.

Nothing about this amendment suggests that it is a net-widening exercise or that it would ameliorate a young person's rights any more than the status quo. This amendment legitimises the current practice of holding children in watch houses—temporarily—when detention centres are overcrowded and it is unsafe for them to be there and is unsafe for them to be transferred there. The substantive issue is that we as a government and we as a society should not be accepting this as the solution anymore. We must find a better way than this. I intend to continue to give the minister, law enforcement, our social services sector, our community legal sector and my local community every support that I can to help make that change happen.

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (4.25 pm): I am pleased to contribute to the original bill that was put before the House, the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I will deal separately with the original bill and the foreshadowed amendments. Without a doubt, law enforcement agencies—at both a state and a federal level—and advocates, from Bravehearts through to the Daniel Morcombe Foundation, contributed greatly to the committee process. We acknowledge their hard work and efforts. I also acknowledge the committee members, who I am sure found some of the detail of what was contained in the hearings quite disturbing.

Like many in this House, I am confronted by the very disturbing details of child sex offenders and child sex traffickers across the state, particularly as the shadow minister for child protection. I know that every member of the House has been contacted by victims of crime or has dealt with their local Police Service with regard to what has been I think a growing and abhorrent subculture within our society, particularly in the online, digital and dark web world.

While the opposition supports the original bill before us—there is no greater priority than protecting our children—we have found some issues with the amendments. One in particular relates to the police portfolio—it was outlined by the shadow minister for police—and the removal of the proposed requirements for reportable offenders to provide a MAC address. This demonstrates that when the government puts forward legislation it is not engaging and consulting at the pace at which technology changes. The legislation would have been unworkable in terms of requiring an offender to advise the MAC address every time their device was connected to the internet. The government does not understand that—since 2014—MAC addresses, particularly on Apple devices, change readily every time someone punches in a web address or an IT address. When it comes to consultation and engagement, the government is not keeping up with society.

That points me to where I have major concerns with the amendments as well. In particular, this bill is being considered without any reference to the Crime and Corruption Commission's report titled *Protecting the lives of children and their sexual safety*. A total of 23 recommendations were made by the CCC. Recommendations that directly reference the registry screen in particular are very important to this bill. The government has introduced a bill and rushed through a heap of amendments but has not considered the critical recommendations made by the CCC with regard to this bill, particularly around data and around improving and identifying requirements for additional tools and capabilities.

This is a recommendation in which the Queensland Police Service and those who work in child safety in particular see value. The police minister speaks about the risk of technological advances but has not given police the technology or the resources or even taken into consideration a very critical report that needs to update policing across this state to ensure police can keep up with insidious crimes.

I want to address the issues that have been raised. Yesterday I went outside and met the victims of crime who came and shared their stories. We have seen over the course of the last several weeks and with the proposed amendments and the contributions of many government members of the House who speak so boldly about child safety and the protection of the physical, emotional and sexual safety of our children the battle between the left and right of the Labor Party. We have seen the minister who oversaw the failed bail houses in the youth justice system and the closure of those bail houses stripped of that ministry. We have seen our fourth child safety minister and our third or fourth youth justice minister.

The youth justice minister comes into this House and says that formalising the arrangements around our young who are detained is formalising what has been business as usual for 30 years. It is important to remind Queenslanders that this government has overseen child safety and the youth justice and criminal justice systems for 25 of the last almost 30 years. We have heard that we need to do better and we had reports back in 2019 of vulnerable children being left for weeks and weeks in adult watch houses. I have been contacted by parents who have children in the child safety system—parents who have had their 12-year-old daughter sit for days and days in watch houses without education, without medical attention and without female supervision.

We note the hypocrisy of the government to come in here and say, 'This is business as usual and we are just going to formalise this until 2026 while we build two new detention centres.' How is that acceptable? How is it acceptable that we even have to build two new detention centres in this modern state of Queensland? How is it acceptable that we have over 1,100 children in residential care? How is it acceptable that we have over 500 children under the age of 12 in residential care?

We have a significant number of children in the child protection system. I know this government and Minister Ryan are on record—along with other ministers—that they do not see or believe that there is a correlation between the child safety system and the youth justice system. If that is what they truly believe then they have their heads buried in the sand and that is why we are building two new detention centres. That is why parents are at a complete loss when they are not given the rights that they need or the support that they need to get early intervention for their children to ensure that they protect their children from themselves.

We see the hypocrisy of the left and right of this government in the debate about whether or not we override the Human Rights Act because they are just children. We have seen a revolving door of children and young people who over the past decade have become adult criminals who do the horrendous things the member for Cooper just outlined. We see 15- and 16-year-old boys placed in the same location as little girls. Sexual assaults are occurring right now in this state under the watch and guise of the department and the minister.

After convening a meeting of 60 residential care providers, carers and support workers across this state and hearing what is condoned and what is known and supported by the department and the fourth child safety of this government, this is why we have the problem. This is why we have fast-tracked amendments to be moved that have not gone to a committee and have not been commented on by children and peak youth care groups. When I reached out to peak care groups today—after yesterday receiving all the amendments—they said they had no idea about them.

There is a reason the government did not want to send the amendments to committee and did not want consultation to be undertaken on them with children and youth advocates. That is they would not pass the pub test. They would not stand up to the scrutiny of the media. Instead, they sneak all of these amendments in as part of very critical legislation to ensure it delivers the outcome from the infighting that they want to see.

I finish my contribution by once again acknowledging the advocacy of Mayor Baker and the Isaac Regional Council. They do an incredible job. I have had the privilege to work for and in partnership with Mayor Anne Barker in a previous role. I too understand the challenges of resource communities. The legislation that they have fought for is critical to the sustainability of their community in the long term. This is policy on the run. This is legislation that is being put through without significant consultation with a region that receives the lowest capital investment from royalties of any region in this state. The private sector has to pick up the bill because this Treasurer cannot manage the resource revenue of this state.



Mrs McMAHON (Macalister—ALP) (4.35 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the bill and amendments that are currently before the House. Like a few other speakers, I will talk to the substantive bill briefly. I acknowledge that the origin of the bill is at the request of police who work in this particularly delicate area and are requesting the tools and powers they need to keep children safe. It is noted that the mode of offending is always changing. Technology is always advancing and offending is always at the forefront of that technology and, as always, we seem to be playing catch-up.

I also note in the substantive bill there is reference to supporting our federal agencies and sharing information with them, particularly in relation to the development of registers. I have had some experience working with other states and federal agencies in putting registers together, particularly in relation to offenders, so I understand that this is an important step, but I caution people that it will take time to bring all states together to make sure that we have a register that is fit for purpose across all states. I commend the work that the QPS and other agencies will be doing to deliver that.

What I want to do now is focus on the amendments that are before the House. There are a few so I will drill down to the areas that I feel that I can speak to and perhaps help a few members of the House who are perhaps not as well informed about some of the procedures, particularly around policing and custody.

First is the work around the decriminalisation of section 10 of the Summary Offences Act—that is, decriminalising public intoxication. This is an issue that has already been considered by the parliament. There was an inquiry into it, a report into it and we debated that report in this House. Stakeholders have been engaged and they have made submissions.

What this amendment does is provide an alternative framework for dealing with intoxicated people in public. For those who are not aware, this was largely already in place. Under section 378 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act police were able to take action other than arrest for someone who is intoxicated in a public place. I will highlight this for people. The one thing that a police officer generally does not want to do is have somebody in custody. If there is a way they can deal with a public order job that does not involve paperwork, police are all for it.

I worked for many years in high public disorder areas such as Surfers Paradise. I did this before section 378 was enacted and after section 378 was enacted. I can tell members that in every single instance when we came across a person who was intoxicated in public, the first thing we tried to do was find their mates and say, 'I suggest that your friend has had a little bit too much to drink. It might be time for him or her to go home. How about we make that happen.' That is the best possible alternative. The person who is drunk and could potentially be a danger to themselves or others is in the care of their friends and off they go. That is great. Everyone continues on and we all have a good night.

Section 378 also provided us with the opportunity to take someone to a place of safety. This place of safety regime has been in since 2000. In those instances, if we came across an intoxicated person and they did not have any friends looking after them, we were able to say, 'Is there somewhere I can take you? Are you able to go home? Do you have a friend's place?' You would transport them there. You would find a person at the place of safety who was prepared to look after them. They even signed a bit of paperwork to say that they would look after them. That is it—job done. No-one is in custody. No-one is arrested. If that did not work, you could take them to another organisation, an NGO, who provided a dry out space such as Murri Watch in Woolloongabba. I did that many times. We did not go to the watch house. No-one was arrested.

Finally, if there was no other option, we could arrest and we would hold them in the watch house until such time as they sobered up. Then they would be cash bailed for an amazing sum like \$2 and out they would go. They would forfeit the \$2. They would never have to appear in court. That was a cash bail system. They were arrested, but there was no criminal court process that happened after that.

In the inquiry there was a submission from the QPS. I heard members opposite saying that the QPS does not want this. Actually, the submission by the QPS said that they would still need to have some level of detention framework. They could not operate in the public order space without the ability to detain as a last resort. That is exactly what this amendment provides. It provides for a last resort, for police to detain, for police to search and for police to transport a person to a watch house for only as long as it takes for them to sober up and then they are released. It is much like the system already in place, where someone is not fronting the courthouse system. They are just there for their own safety and everyone else's safety. It is business as usual for police but without the idea of them being arrested and criminalisation after that.


I understand that there was some concern by people that, when we take away the ability of police to charge someone with public drunkenness, police are going to go for the public disorder offence. I can tell members that that means more paperwork. Let's go back to rule No. 1: we do not want to do paperwork if we can get away with it. Police will charge someone with a public disorder offence—public nuisance—if the person is creating a public nuisance, and there are behaviours someone must display in order to do that. It is not just being drunk in a public place. That was always the difference. For police, this is, as I said, business as usual.

The last thing I want to touch on is the issue of custody and changes within the youth justice system. I spent quite a bit of time as a watch house keeper. I can tell members it is not a jolly. We do not want you walking through a watch house. It is not there for fun. It is not a great place to be. I can tell you that the grumpy watch house keeper is because someone has brought someone in for custody. Even the watch house keeper does not want anyone in the watch house.

When a juvenile comes into a watch house, believe me, that is the last place that we want them, but it happens. The process is that the juvenile goes to court and, if the magistrate places a juvenile on remand or on a custodial sentence, they have to go somewhere—and guess what? Police watch houses are co-located with courts, so the police officers in the dock will escort the juvenile to the watch house, process them, put them in a separate cell to everyone else and then call Corrective Services and organise for the prison van to come and take them to the jail. Sometimes that can happen that same day. Sometimes it can happen the next day, depending on the time of the court and what the round of the prison van is doing. Sometimes if they are waiting for a bed it can take a few more days. Believe me, no-one wants that juvenile in there for any longer than they have to be.

This amendment is legalising the current process. We are not going to have more juveniles in custody. It is the same process we already have. It is just that when magistrates order sentences or remand where someone needs to go into the custody of the chief executive of Corrective Services, for that short time that juvenile is in the watch house they will be considered to be in the custody or under the care of the chief executive of Corrective Services. We are not increasing the number of juveniles in the watch house; we are just providing the legal basis for the process that is already happening.

The fact that this government is investing in two new therapeutic juvenile justice detention centres shows that we do have a plan, and that is why there is a sunset clause on this. I am sorry that these detention centres do not pop up overnight. It takes a lot more effort to build a juvenile detention centre than an adult one because we need all these other things. It takes longer. We will put these things in place to make sure that any juvenile who goes into a watch house is out of there as soon as possible. I commend the amendments to the House.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (4.45 pm): I rise to address the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 and perhaps more significantly to address the chaos and crisis typical of this Palaszczuk Labor government in the form of the amendments that have been brought in at the last minute.

At the outset let me state that I support the measures contained in the original bill. Any measures that we can take to stop sex offenders from committing their heinous acts should be implemented and they should be supported. I do support the measures that were in the original bill. What I cannot support is the disgraceful abuse of process displayed by the Minister for Police in introducing 57 pages of amendments yesterday—57 pages of amendments when the original bill was only 48 pages.

Those 48 pages appropriately went to a committee and were considered by stakeholders, with submissions from people like Bruce Morcombe, Bravehearts, the Queensland Police Service, the community and the opposition. We had an opportunity to view the bill, to consider the bill in its entirety and to consider what the effect and the effectiveness of that bill would be. That is not the case with the 57 pages of amendments that have been brought in. You would have thought that with 57 pages of amendments they would also be considered appropriately. I do not accept the rationale that these amendments are so urgent that they need to be rushed through in this ham-fisted, chaotic manner as displayed yesterday.

The shadow minister for resources, the member for Condamine, enunciated the issues around the town of Glenden, the time frames for the commencement of the amendments and the fact that those amendments could have been very easily incorporated into another bill or even into the bill that the Minister for Resources introduced yesterday. They could have been considered appropriately by a committee. They could have been considered by the community. The second order effects of that bill could be considered. Instead, the government have come in here and tried to rush things through as quickly as possible without the scrutiny that they might otherwise have had.

Given that, it is difficult to arrive at any other conclusion than the Palaszczuk Labor government are trying to hide something. Unfortunately, they are true to form. We have seen it time and time again where the ministers of the Palaszczuk Labor government come in here and, despite the rhetoric of openness and transparency, try to rush legislation through. They try to bury it.

Ms Grace: When?

Mr MICKELBERG: The Minister for Education is asking, 'When?' Yesterday! There were the electoral law changes. How many times have we seen this? I will give credit where credit is due. Some ministers know how to do their job—some—but there are many on that side who do not. I am not going to highlight them. Some of this is pretty rudimentary. There are drafting errors consistently time and time again. Second order effects of provisions that are contradictory to existing legislation are not considered.

That reactionary, chaotic approach that we see from the Palaszczuk Labor government means that those errors are not identified. The loopholes that exist in legislation are not called out. Inevitably we will be back here in coming months and years—just as we did for the Minister for Education portfolio's previously—to fix errors that should have been identified in the original bill. They should have been identified through the consultation process and through the consideration process of the committee. Then they could have been rectified before the bill came back to the House for debate. That is not what we are doing here today.

Turning to the original bill, I want to place on the record my support for Bruce Morcombe's submission calling for the establishment of a national publicly accessible sex offender register, and I emphasise 'publicly accessible'. The committee report acknowledges Bruce Morcombe's advocacy for a national sex offender register; however, the committee's acknowledgment and the Queensland Police Service's response to that issue ignores the fact that it should be a publicly accessible register. It ignores the fact that parents, children and the community more broadly have a right to that information and that their rights should come before those of convicted sex offenders.

This bill does not establish a publicly accessible register, and I believe that is an initiative we should be pursuing here in Queensland. Families have a right to know if a sex offender lives next door to them. As a father, I have a right to know that a sex offender lives in a house where my young children might go for a sleepover with a friend. A publicly accessible sex offender register already exists in other jurisdictions. It exists in Western Australia and it works fine. There are appropriate safeguards in place to ensure it is not abused. It is a measure we should be bringing here into the Queensland parliament, in my opinion.

On that note, I would like to acknowledge the work of Bruce and Denise Morcombe. I am sure that all members of the House have interacted with Bruce and Denise. Daniel went to school in the electorate of Buderim at Siena Catholic College before he was tragically murdered a number of years ago. Daniel's legacy and Bruce and Denise's work through the Walk for Daniel and Day for Daniel is that our young children are safer. Every year I take my older children to the Walk for Daniel, and I am always astounded at the knowledge they have gained through the education the Daniel Morcombe Foundation delivers in our state schools—my children go to a state school—and I am always astounded at—

An honourable member interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: They are quite young. They are in the early stages of primary school. The knowledge they have gained through the education delivered by the Daniel Morcombe Foundation is genuinely impressive and it genuinely keeps them safer, so I would like to place on record my thanks to Bruce and Denise for their work and advocacy in that space.

My own community recently had a sex offender who was subject to a child sex offender reporting order. This man was convicted of multiple instances of storing and distributing child exploitation material of children as young as three. Although they were non-contact offences, he was not subject to a prohibition order, but he was—and is—subject to an offender reporting order. That man is able to regularly access a state school. He is regularly able to access a day care because he is a parent. For me that is unacceptable. I am confident that the majority of our community would agree it is unacceptable—regardless of whether an individual is a parent—that they are able to access places where young children are present and vulnerable. I just do not accept it is reasonable that a convicted sex offender who has reporting obligations can attend a state school because he is a father.


I have raised this previously. As I understand it, there is no government legislation and or policy that prevents him from doing so. It is my view there should be. I am not in a position to determine what the appropriate mechanism is because of the very reasons I highlighted at the start with respect to amending legislation in a narrow manner. I think it is important that these matters are considered fully. I would ask the government to look at this issue. Whether it is a policy change from the Department of Education or whether it is a legislative change, a sex offender, regardless of whether it is a contact offence or not, should not be able to access a state school regardless of whether they are a parent or not. I think that is a significant shortfall in our existing framework.

I also want to touch on the youth detention issue before I finish up. On 21 August 2019 the then minister stated—

The bill removes legislative barriers that may contribute to kids being held on remand or refused bail and kept in watch houses beyond normal processing.

That kind of runs counter to what we are debating here today. One must ask the question why that bill was introduced. The bill was introduced because there was a public perception—an optics problem—at that point. We had some train wrecks on *Four Corners*. We had a problem the government needed to resolve, so once again in their ham-fisted, chaotic manner the government brought in legislative changes—legislative changes they had spoken against many, many times in this place.

I have only been here since 2017 but I have seen those opposite change their position three or four times on youth detention and breach of bail. Many of those opposite must be regretting their decision to speak on some of those bills in the past where they condemned breach of bail and then turned around and supported it a couple of years later. With respect, those opposite are not sincere. I want to draw a distinction here, because I heard the member for Cooper's contribution earlier. It was a sincere contribution; it was a meaningful contribution. I appreciate her genuineness and the value of contributions like that to the debate. We should have more of them. I have to say that I have not seen any sincerity from the ministers opposite with respect to their responses on youth justice issues or youth detention. The position changes based on the political winds of the day. I am happy if those opposite do not think young people should be in detention when they do the wrong thing. I have a different view. If that is the position of the government, then stick to it. Acknowledge it. Own it. That is not what we see. We see it shifting whenever the political winds change. It is an insincere position. Queenslanders deserve better. Queenslanders deserve a government that introduces considered, logical and structured legislation to address these issues, not ham-fisted and chaotic short-notice responses.

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (4.55 pm): I rise to speak in support of the bill introduced by the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services. On the back of the contribution from the member for Buderim I acknowledge Bruce and Denise Morcombe as well. I think the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill is entirely appropriate to protect young people in Queensland. I do want to move to the amendments which I support in full, particularly the youth justice amendment.

As a result of our laws, serious young offenders are in custody for longer periods of time and this is impacting youth detention capacity. In response, the government will complement existing capacity with new detention centre infrastructure to be established at Woodford and Cairns which will come online in 2026. It would be entirely irresponsible not to have any interim contingencies in place for the three years between now and when the new infrastructure becomes available. As a local member, I continue to make representations to the ministers about alternative approaches of detaining young people and ensuring they have responsive rehabilitation programs to get them back on track into education, skills or training.

These amendments will clarify the administrative arrangements—that is all—for holding young people in police watch houses until capacity becomes available in youth detention centres. In her contribution the member for Macalister articulated very appropriately the process of what happens within a watch house. I want to commend the member for Cooper for her contribution. I agree with her contribution and the way she articulated the very violent crimes—that is what I am concerned about in my community—that are being committed in Queensland affecting people in our communities. It needs to be addressed. There is only one place that serious violent repeat offenders belong, and that is in custody.

I heard the contribution from the member for Maiwar. It might not be ideal, but I say to the Greens party and the member for Maiwar, 'Take off your rose-coloured glasses,' because there are serious crimes happening in our communities. I know what their overarching policy is: they would not want a youth justice detention centre; they would let them all free. That is not in step with the reality of what is

happening in my electorate. The people of Thuringowa have had a gutful of violent serious offenders. They want them to be held responsible and put in custody. They really could not give one iota about where they are as long as they are off the streets and our community is safe. But is it the best place? I have been in many watch houses and I have treated many young people in watch houses. I have taken young people to mortuaries. With morgue attendants I have had to clean up young murdered people and put them in a state where their families can come and view them. It might not be ideal to have people in a watch house but, as the member for Cooper articulated very well in her contribution, I would rather that than be in a morgue. I draw many comparisons to the member for Cooper.

The LNP members were smiling and gesticulating with the Greens member yesterday thinking it was all fun, but they do not actually have a position. They say they want to stand up with victims, but they will not back the laws to actually hold criminals to account. All we see is spin and lines from the LNP. All words, no substance. All front, like an empty—

Mr STEVENS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member used unparliamentary language. He knows that. I ask him to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): I will take some advice. Member for Thuringowa, I did not hear the language which the member for Mermaid Beach is referring to. However, it would assist the House if you were happy to withdraw.

Mr HARPER: Sure, I withdraw.

Ms GRACE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I do not think there was any direct personal reflections given. They were general—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, the question was not one of offence; it was of unparliamentary language. I have made my ruling.

Ms GRACE: I guess I am seeking clarification about whether it was a personal reflection or just general unparliamentary language.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have made my ruling.

Mr HARPER: The LNP do not have a clear policy when it comes to this. It is just words. I do not know what 'gold standard' programs mean. There is no definition of it. There is nothing that actually says what that means in terms of their spin. Where is the detail in what the opposition are saying when it comes to this? I echo what the Premier said yesterday: if we are going to take this seriously we all need to be on board and work together to make our community safer. Like I said, my constituents want a safe community. If those opposite are serious, they should join us in making sure our community is safe.

I go back to these amendments which will allow youth detention centres to be established at a police watch house or part of a corrective services facility. I appreciate the concerns regarding the Human Rights Act being overridden to allow these provisions, but I say: what about victims' rights? There has to be a balance here. I will stand up every day and represent my constituents in Thuringowa and the victims of crime I have met, who just want a safe community. I say to the opposition: be genuine, not disingenuous, when it comes to policy and work together with the government, because we know that when we all work together we achieve more in this state.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to the welfare of young people in custody and detention centre staff, and these amendments are necessary while we continue to improve Queensland's youth detention system. I note the opposition have complained about the swiftness in which these amendments have been introduced, but I also note that the member for Burdekin, the shadow minister for police—and I am glad he is in the House—declared yesterday that we are all in the middle of a youth crime crisis and three hours later complained that the government was urgently responding to this very issue. That is a bit of an interesting oxymoron. The opposition have had ample opportunity to provide—

Mr Last interjected.

Mr HARPER: I will take the interjection. The LNP have had plenty of time and opportunity to provide alternative policies to those progressed by this government, but they are light on alternative policies. They still have not provided those policies and it has been over 900 days. We are still waiting. They are all spin, no substance, all talk and no detail. They have absolutely no plan and no leadership when it comes to addressing crime in this state. They just want to politicise it. The LNP only want to politicise the problem. They do not have a real serious policy. What are the 'gold standard' programs? What does that mean? What is the other one—I cannot remember?

Ms Pease: Pruning.

Mr HARPER: Pruning programs.

Mrs Gilbert: Unshackle.

Mr HARPER: Yes, unshackling the judiciary.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Lytton will not interject from a seat other than her own.

Mr HARPER: My one wish before Christmas is for the Leader of the Opposition, the shadow Attorney-General or any of them with any legal background to stand up and define what 'unshackling the judiciary' actually means. It is just another line with no substance. It does not actually achieve anything. It does not actually mean anything.

What we are asking the judiciary to do is to sentence appropriately. My final call would be to the judiciary. We passed laws in this place, which the LNP supported, around declaration of a serious repeat offender. I say to the courts: make sure you apply those laws and that sentencing meets community expectations. That is what my electorate wants; that is what I want. We all want a safe community. I am completely sick and tired of the political lightweights who sit on that side who just come up with spin. It is lightweight, it is hopeless, it is ineffective and it does not help the situation that we are confronted with today.

We come up with real policies. We are investing in youth detention centres. We are investing in more police. We are investing in programs to break the cycle of crime, like the Street University in Townsville and Project Booyah, which that lot actually cut under the Newman government. Let us be real about who is actually wanting to make change in this place. There is a genuine side in this, and it is the Labor government with the police minister, and I applaud the police minister for everything he has put into this to address the serious issue because he has been behind this the whole way. What do we see from those opposite? Heads down, no policy, 900 days of promises with nothing delivered, just spin and no substance. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr MOLHOEK (Southport—LNP) (5.06 pm): That was a lovely speech from the member for Thuringowa, but can I say that using the concept of urgency in dealing with matters is a pretty poor excuse for poor legislative processes. In this last term of government, we have seen our debate times guillotined, we have seen family friendly hours introduced and we have been subjected to secrecy or privacy provisions of committee meetings where we are not allowed to talk about things outside the committee.

When I was first elected, a lot of people said to me, 'Rob, how do you put up with being in parliament for all those hours listening to all of those long speeches? Surely that must become boring after a while.' I will be honest that sometimes it is a tad boring, but I always reply with this: 'I respect the process.' The fact that we all have an opportunity to get up and speak about the things that are in our heart and on our mind and that represent our constituency goes to the core of what a democracy is. That goes to the core of every person in this House having an opportunity to speak their mind and enjoy the fundamental principle of freedom of speech.

What we have seen with the introduction of all these amendments is an absolute disgrace. They have been rushed in. They have absolutely nothing to do with the overall intent or spirit of the legislation. As many of my colleagues on this side of the House have said, we absolutely support the need for tougher provisions around offender reporting and offender prohibition orders in respect of child protection, but to just dump all of these other amendments in on top of child safety legislation in my view is absolutely appalling. It is disrespectful. It treats an entire sector of hardworking people who have advocated for child safety reform for decades—and it has been decades—with incredible disrespect.

I am conscious of the fact that I only have about 90 seconds and then I am going to get guillotined, so I will not even have an opportunity to say my full piece. I want to add my thanks to people like Bruce and Denise Morcombe who have been incredible advocates for child safety issues. I want to acknowledge Carol Ronken from Bravehearts who made a submission that was principally in support of this legislation. I note that Carol now celebrates 20 years of working with Bravehearts as an advocacy officer and a primary researcher. She should be very proud of her contribution because over that 20 years she has been the driving force and the source of all information which has seen significant child safety reform in every single state of Australia and the Commonwealth, including here in Queensland.

I support the child protection offender legislation, but I am so disappointed that these other amendments have been shoved in with no opportunity for us to respond and no real opportunity for public scrutiny. While I appreciate there may be some urgency, urgency often comes about because people fail to plan in the first place.

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



Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (5.10 pm), in reply: I would like to thank all members who made a contribution to the debate on the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. All children deserve to grow up in safety and to be protected from sexual predators. As technological advances continue to rapidly enhance the ways these sexual predators gain access to vulnerable children, the fight to keep our kids safe gets harder. However, the Palaszczuk government is committed to this fight and has a clear history of implementing the toughest laws in the nation targeting child sex offenders, and this bill is no exception.

This bill strengthens the ability of the Queensland Police Service, including the specialist child sexual abuse team, Task Force Argos, to combat the new ways these predators are engaging with and grooming vulnerable children. Task Force Argos continues to do incredible work in keeping our children safe and tackling dark web forums that share and distribute child exploitation material. Their work has led to the arrest of some of the worst offenders imaginable, including perpetrators based overseas who use online forums to target Queensland's most vulnerable children. This government is committed to ensuring the Queensland Police Service and Task Force Argos have all the tools they require to target child sex offenders who utilise technological advancements and sophisticated software for such nefarious and criminal purposes. This bill clearly demonstrates how technology is used by child sexual offenders across the world to procure children for sexual gratification and is then used to hide this offending.

Technology removes the global barriers associated with in-person contact offending against children, allowing offenders to undertake their perverse activities from the comfort and privacy of their homes. By directly targeting technology as a tool for offending, this bill not only provides greater oversight of those reportable offenders who live in the community, but also enhances the safety for children regardless of where they live.

As referenced in my second reading speech for the bill, I will move a series of amendments during consideration in detail of this bill. I reiterate that these amendments address a number of technical matters that have been recently identified and require urgent legislative amendment or address matters that have been the subject of extensive examination and consideration by the Community Support and Services Committee, the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce or the Queensland Law Reform Commission.

Opposition members, along with the member for Maiwar, have raised issues with the amendments I intend to move shortly. Amendments moved during consideration in detail are not uncommon and are justified where there are emergent legislative matters identified by the government of the day. In fact, during the Newman government, the LNP passed: 68 pages of amendments during consideration in detail to the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Bill 2014; 56 pages of amendments to the Safe Night Out Legislation Amendment Bill 2014; 58 pages of amendments to the Sustainable Planning (Infrastructure Changes) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014; 52 pages of amendments to the Water Reform and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014; and 78 pages of amendments moved by the member for Kawana to the Industrial Relations (Transparency and Accountability of Industrial Organisations) and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2013, which had already been declared an urgent bill. In fact, from a quick review of *Hansard*, the member for Kawana himself sought to declare seven bills urgent in 2013 alone.

The amendments I intend to move shortly include amendments to the Police Service Administration Act 2000 to retrospectively validate police disciplinary referrals affected by a technical error. This amendment is necessary to uphold public and officer confidence in the disciplinary framework of the Queensland Police Service. The amendments also support the excellent work of Task Force Argos by providing essential legal clarity regarding authorisation of controlled operations targeting child sex offenders. This amendment ensures police officers can continue their undercover operations to identify and locate child sex offenders. It ensures our legislation keeps pace with the

rapidly developing advancements in technology. Such crucial amendments cannot be delayed. The amendments also enhance the wellbeing of vulnerable and marginalised Queenslanders and have been the subject of extensive examination and consideration.

I am proud to be able to introduce an amendment to decriminalise the offence of begging. As was made clear in the Community Support and Services Committee's report No. 23, there is strong public support for this amendment. Submissions made to the committee in the development of this report noted: there is clear and consistent evidence of a nexus between begging and severe hardship, including those who experience mental illness, homelessness and substance dependency issues; and begging is the product of poverty that does not warrant criminalisation, nor is criminalisation effective or appropriate.

I am also proud to introduce an amendment to decriminalise the offence of public intoxication. Queensland is the only jurisdiction in the nation that has yet to legislate to decriminalise this offence, after such action was formally recommended by the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody over 30 years ago. In making the recommendation to decriminalise this offence, the Community Support and Services Committee noted this offence has a disproportionate impact on disadvantaged and vulnerable people within our community and contributes to the over-representation of First Nations peoples in the criminal justice system.

This government is working hard towards meeting our commitment to Closing the Gap and supports this amendment, which will also give effect to a key recommendation of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. This issue has also been extensively considered by the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce which recommended the offences of public intoxication and begging be repealed as soon as possible, due to the disproportionate impact the offences have on women and girls. However, as I have previously stated, police will retain the ability to appropriately respond to intoxicated people in a public place as the amendments introduce new police powers that enable the transportation and detention of these people, when necessary, without criminalising the behaviour, including, for example, to secure the safety and wellbeing of the intoxicated person or others.

These individuals need our support and compassion. These amendments have already been recommended by a parliamentary committee and the committee's report and recommendations have already been debated by this parliament. In fact, the members for Mansfield, Burnett, Cook, South Brisbane, Nicklin, Oodgeroo, Bundamba, Macalister and Toohey contributed previously to that debate in this House.

I will now address the issues raised by members during the debate. In relation to the Mineral Resources Act amendments, concerns have been raised during this debate that amendments to the Mineral Resources Act to legislatively grant a mining lease for a temporary workers camp for the Byerwen mine may not see the town of Glenden survive. I can assure you, that these balanced amendments will not only support the town of Glenden and its people but also will ensure the Byerwen mine, which has seen a billion dollars invested in its operation, continue to operate and support hundreds of jobs.

In relation to the member for Condamine's contribution concerning the Byerwen Coal amendments, I note that the member tried to compare apples and oranges of different mines having worker camps. What Byerwen does not have, nor ever had, is the support of Isaac Regional Council to put a camp there, no development approval for a permanent camp and no broader support. It appears from the member's contribution that, as the shadow minister, he does not support saving the town of Glenden.

In relation to police banning notices, the member for Burdekin asked whether the amendments to be moved during consideration in detail will cease police issuing police banning notices. The bill does not repeal the existing police banning notice framework. A police banning notice has effect for a period of up to one month and can be extended for a further three months. The bill does not amend this framework. The amendments relating to police banning notices are minor and consequential in that they: clarify the methods of service available for police banning notices; and they remove reference to the offence of being intoxicated in a public place from the list of legislative examples of what constitutes 'disorderly, offensive, threatening or violent behaviour' when considering issuing a police banning notice to a respondent. Removing reference to the offence of public intoxication is a necessary and consequential amendment following the decriminalisation of this offence. However, it does not change the test that must be applied in issuing a police banning notice, given the reference to public intoxication is only contained within the list of legislative examples regarding the types of behaviour which may warrant police issuing a banning notice. A police officer will still, therefore, be able to issue a police banning notice if the criteria is otherwise satisfied.

Throughout the debate a number of members have raised the issue of community safety. The reason for the amendments to the Youth Justice Act and the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act is to ensure community safety as well as the safety of children in custody, detention centre staff and watch house staff. The Youth Justice Act requires a child to be refused bail if the court or police officer is satisfied there is an unacceptable risk that the child will commit an offence that endangers the safety of the community or the safety or welfare of a person. Those words are very clear. When a child is in custody, we need to keep them safe.

The member for Maiwar stated that the Supreme Court recently found that children were being unlawfully detained. To be clear, the directions to deliver the children were made only because there were deficiencies in the remand orders made by the magistrates in respect of three children who were the subject of the writ. The remand orders did not contain the mandatory order that the Police Commissioner must deliver the child to the chief executive of the department. The matter highlighted that error in the orders and raised the need for government to validate and clarify 30 years of custom and practice that Queensland has used to hold young people in watch houses. The amendments will make this process automatic and remove the need to make the additional mandatory order. The government's responsibilities are unchanged and the safety of young people, the community and staff remain paramount.

The government is proposing these amendments to address the legal technicality that came to light through the Supreme Court proceedings to ensure the safety of young people, staff and visitors to detention centres and watch houses as well as the community. Other members have said watch houses are not places for children, and we agree. However, in circumstances where young people are waiting for a court appearance or waiting for a place in a youth detention centre it is necessary to keep some in a watch house for their safety and the safety of the community. The government will continue to ensure that children spend the least amount of time possible in watch houses.

We are building two new therapeutic youth detention centres at Woodford and in Far North Queensland to further increase capacity. The human rights override that will allow the establishment of a detention centre at a police watch house or part of a corrective services facility will only be used in extraordinary circumstances. It is timed to expire upon the completion of the two new youth detention centres.

A lot has been said in this debate and I would like to acknowledge the contributions of all members to the debate. I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of the parliamentary committees, those that previously considered the Summary Offences Act proposals and also the committee that considered the bill before the House.

I want to also take the opportunity to thank the police and corrective services officers, youth detention centre workers and youth justice workers who go to work every day with a determination to help make Queensland a safer place. I would like to particularly also thank those who work in our watch houses: the assistant watch house keepers, police officers and other staff as well as those visiting practitioners, personnel and community organisations.

I acknowledge the outstanding efforts of the Premier and my ministerial colleagues including the Attorney-General, the Minister for Youth Justice and the Minister for Resources for the collaborative way we tackle these very difficult, complex and challenging issues. I acknowledge and thank the Queensland Police Service Legislation and Strategic Policy Branch for their work on this bill and the amendments, in particular, Senior Sergeant Andrea Reeves, Michael Shears, Jess Mudryk, Karen Messori and Jamie Impson. Thanks also to the officers from the Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training; the Department of Justice and Attorney-General; the Department of Resources; and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

I also wish to acknowledge Commissioner Katarina Carroll; the Director-General of the Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training Bob Gee; Acting Deputy Commissioner Mark Wheeler; Youth Crime Taskforce Commander George Marchesini; Acting Assistant Commissioner Chris Stream; Detective Superintendent Denzil Clark; Detective Inspector Glen Donaldson; Detective Inspector Julie Duncan; and Senior Sergeant Sarah Aitken.

I cannot predict how changing technology will impact child sexual offending in the future, but I can assure the people of Queensland that I will continue to advocate in this House for the protection of all children by holding those who seek to harm them accountable for their behaviour. Taken as a whole, this comprehensive legislative package supports the community. Elements within this legislation support a safer community. Elements within this legislation support a fairer community. Elements within this legislation support a more compassionate community. Elements within this legislation support

stronger communities. Elements within this legislation support communities, full stop—communities like Glenden. All of these elements contained within this comprehensive legislative package are commonsense responses to the issues they address. This is what governing is about: putting in place sensible, evidence-based legislation to support the community.

I commend the bill to the House. I encourage all members to support the bill and the associated amendments.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clause 1, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—



Mr RYAN (5.27 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Mr RYAN: I move the following amendment—

1 After clause 1

Page 6, after line 6—

insert—

1A Commencement

- (1) Part 9, other than sections 70 to 72 and 75 to 82, is taken to have commenced on 23 August 2023.
- (2) The following provisions commence on a day to be fixed by proclamation—
 - (a) sections 50B, 50D to 50H, 50J to 50L, 50N, 55, 63 and 65;
 - (b) section 52, to the extent it inserts chapter 24, part 24, division 3;
 - (c) part 5.

I table the explanatory notes to my amendments and the statement of compatibility with human rights.

Tabled paper: Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes to Hon. Mark Ryan's amendments [\[1196\]](#).

Tabled paper: Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Mark Ryan's amendments [\[1197\]](#).

Mr BERKMAN: Given that we have a grand total of 25 minutes to speak to the voluminous amendments, I will jump in now and say a quick word about the commencement, part 1A. If I am reading this correctly, some of the most egregious parts of the amendments in relation to the stripping of human rights from children in watch houses and the ability for the minister to declare watch houses and adult prisons places of detention will be taken to have commenced on 23 August, which was yesterday. It is rubbing just a little bit more salt into the wound of all the people who will be affected by these amendments—all of those young people who are now going to find themselves detained in watch houses and in adult prisons and who will experience even greater trauma than they have already in their life.

From yesterday, all of those kids in watch houses and anyone they feel like putting in adult prisoners will now be considered to be in a place of youth detention, despite the fact that these watch houses and prisons have been built and are run with no consideration of the needs of children and the consequences of those children being detained in these places. They are commencing these sections as of yesterday in a move that is another slap in the face to all of those organisations and stakeholders—Youth Advocacy Centre, YETI, Queensland Law Society, the Bar Association—that have come out and said that they oppose these amendments and would have opposed these amendments had they been given the opportunity to address them through the committee process that is supposed to be constitutionally enshrined here in Queensland.

We do not have to move past the first amendment moved by the police minister to see just how little regard they have for these organisations. It is truly disgraceful. I have been extraordinarily disappointed in this conduct and the disregard for democracy and for vulnerable people in Queensland

in the five-and-a-bit years that I have been in this place, but I think the government has stooped to a new low this week, in my experience—to sneak in a business program motion that looks innocuous and then drop some of the worst, most gratuitous amendments that we now have no time to debate.

(Time expired)

Mr RYAN: I would like to put on the record that, obviously, some of the matters raised by the member for Maiwar are incorrect. I will review the transcript, but it is unsurprising from the member for Maiwar. I note that—it is on the record in *Hansard*—in this term of parliament the only political party, on multiple occasions, that has had amendments to bills ruled out of order is the Greens. In fact, from memory, the member for South Brisbane has been ruled out of order on a number of occasions. It is interesting to hear the remarks from the Maiwar—

Mr Berkman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Order! Member for Maiwar, you used unparliamentary language. Would you please withdraw.

Mr BERKMAN: I withdraw.

Mr RYAN: I find it interesting that the member for Maiwar is objecting to this amendment in its entirety, because one of the key things about this amendment is that it sets the commencement on proclamation for some really key progressive reforms around the Summary Offences Act in terms of decriminalising public intoxication and begging. We will see how the Greens party votes on a clause which would enable the commencement of the decriminalisation of public intoxication and begging. We will see how they vote on this particular clause. It will also obviously set other frameworks around the other amendments in this bill around child protection enhancement, so we will see how they vote on this clause. The members for Maiwar and South Brisbane come in here and make absolutist statements, often not factual, without due thought of the consequences, so we will see how they vote on this.

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 2 to 39, as read, agreed to.

Clause 40—



Mr RYAN (5.34 pm): I move the following amendments—

2 Clause 40 (Amendment of sch 2 (Personal details for reportable offenders))

Page 34, lines 20 to 24—

omit, insert—

number of the following vehicles—

3 Clause 40 (Amendment of sch 2 (Personal details for reportable offenders))

Page 35, line 34 to page 36, line 29—

omit, insert—

offender has access to, including details of each software application stored on the device, or that can be accessed using the device, that is designed or used to hide—

- (a) the identity or location of a person who administers, accesses or uses a network, computer, the device or another digital device; or
- (b) information stored on a network, computer, the device or another digital device, including, for example, photographs, username and password combinations, and other software applications; or
- (c) communication, including the exchange of information, between 2 or more persons using a network, computer, the device or another digital device; or
- (d) the location of a network, computer, the device or another digital device.

Examples of software applications—

a password manager, a hidden digital vault, a virtual environment, software that encrypts, or encrypts and hides, information

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 40, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 41, as read, agreed to.

Clause 42—



Mr RYAN (5.34 pm): I move the following amendment—

4 Clause 42 (Amendment of sch 5 (Dictionary))

Page 38, lines 13 to 25—

omit.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 42, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 43 to 47, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clauses—



Mr RYAN (5.35 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Mr RYAN: I move the following amendment—

5 After clause 47

Page 43, after line 12—

insert—

Part 3A Amendment of Mental Health Act 2016

47A Act amended

This part amends the *Mental Health Act 2016*.

47B Amendment of ch 21, hdg

Chapter 21, heading, after 'transitional'—

insert—

and validation

47C Insertion of new ch 21, pt 3

Chapter 21—

insert—

Part 3 Appointments and validation

873 Appointments to Mental Health Court and validation

- (1) This section applies in relation to the appointments of a person, in effect on the commencement of this section, to be a member and the president of the Mental Health Court (the **current appointments**).
- (2) The period of each of the person's current appointments is taken to include, and to have always included, the period from 14 February 2023 to 29 June 2023 (the **relevant period**).
- (3) Subsection (2) applies despite anything stated in an instrument under which a current appointment was made or under which the person was continued in office.
- (4) Anything done under this Act or another law during the relevant period has the same effect, and is taken to have always had the same effect, as it would have had if the person had been appointed to be a member and the president of the Mental Health Court, for the relevant period, before the start of the relevant period.
- (5) Without limiting subsections (2) and (4), an exercise of jurisdiction by the person during the relevant period is as valid as it would be, and is taken to have always been as valid as it would have been, if the person had been appointed to be a member and the president of the Mental Health Court, for the relevant period, before the start of the relevant period.
- (6) In this section—

exercise of jurisdiction means an exercise of the jurisdiction conferred on the Mental Health Court, or of the powers and functions conferred on a member of the court or the president of the court, under this Act or another law.

Amendment agreed to.

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

Leave granted.

Mr RYAN: I move the following amendment—

6 After clause 47

Page 43, after line 12—

insert—

Part 3B Amendment of Mineral Resources Act 1989

47D Act amended

This part amends the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*.

47E Insertion of new ch 12, pt 4C

Chapter 12—

insert—

Part 4C Provisions about Byerwen mine

334ZJL Definitions for part

In this part—

accommodates, in relation to a worker, see section 334ZJM.

Byerwen mine means the mine that is the subject of the Byerwen mine project.

Byerwen mine project means each of the following mining leases—

- (a) ML700066;
- (b) the mining leases mentioned in section 334ZJO(1);
- (c) any mining lease granted for a mining lease application mentioned in section 334ZJP(1);
- (d) any other mining lease, if the authorised activities for the lease are or will be carried out as a single integrated operation with the authorised activities for the leases mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (c).

Glenden means the area within the following boundary—

- starting at 21.33975° south, 148.10430° east
- to 21.33583° south, 148.12047° east
- to 21.34802° south, 148.12885° east
- to 21.36431° south, 148.13596° east
- to 21.36439° south, 148.10035° east
- to the starting point.

Note—

The area includes the population centre of Glenden entered in the Gazetteer under the *Place Names Act 1994*.

ML700066 means the mining lease granted under section 334ZJN(2) while the lease is in effect.

rostered worker means a worker subject to a roster period within the meaning of section 334ZJM.

worker means a coal mine worker within the meaning of the *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999* who carries out work at the Byerwen mine.

334ZJM Meaning of accommodate

- (1) The holder of a mining lease **accommodates** a worker at a place if the holder—
 - (a) provides a residential dwelling for the worker at the place; or
 - (b) provides a bed for the worker, in premises other than a residential dwelling, at the place during a roster period for the worker.
- (2) In this section—

roster period, in relation to a worker, means a period of consecutive days in a roster cycle during which the worker is scheduled to work shifts at the Byerwen mine.

Example—

for a week-on/week-off roster—each week the worker is scheduled to work shifts

334ZJN Grant of mining lease ML700066

- (1) This section applies to mining lease application 700066 for a mining lease for infrastructure associated with, arising from or promoting the activity of mining for the Byerwen mine.
- (2) On the commencement, the mining lease is, by operation of this section, granted.

- (3) The mining lease granted under subsection (2)—
 - (a) expires on 31 March 2030; and
 - (b) can not be renewed; and
 - (c) can not be consolidated with another mining lease.
- (4) The mining lease is subject to the following conditions—
 - (a) the holder must accommodate at least the following number of workers in Glenden—
 - (i) for the period starting on 31 March 2025 and ending on 30 March 2026—10% of the workers at any time;
 - (ii) for the period starting on 31 March 2026 and ending on 30 March 2027—25% of the workers at any time;
 - (iii) for the period starting on 31 March 2027 and ending on 30 March 2028—50% of the workers at any time;
 - (iv) for the period starting on 31 March 2028 and ending on 30 March 2029—75% of the workers at any time;
 - (b) for a period mentioned in paragraph (a), workers who are not accommodated in Glenden must be accommodated on the area of the mining lease;
 - (c) from 31 March 2029, the holder must accommodate all workers in Glenden;
 - (d) for each of the conditions mentioned in paragraphs (a) and (c)—
 - (i) at least 30% of the workers accommodated in Glenden must be accommodated in a residential dwelling; and
 - (ii) if subparagraph (i) is satisfied and the number of rostered workers is insufficient to enable the condition to be satisfied—the condition is taken to be satisfied if all rostered workers are accommodated in Glenden;
 - (e) from 31 March 2029, the holder must not carry out an activity on the area of the lease other than an activity related to decommissioning of infrastructure, structures or equipment on the area;
 - (f) the holder must give the Minister a report, by 1 July in each year from 2024 to 2029, that—
 - (i) is in the form approved by the Minister; and
 - (ii) includes the information prescribed by regulation about the holder's compliance with paragraphs (a) to (d).
- (5) Subsection (4) does not limit section 276.
- (6) This Act, other than sections 286 to 288, applies in relation to the mining lease as if, on the day of the commencement—
 - (a) the lease had been granted by the Minister under section 271A; and
 - (b) the conditions mentioned in subsection (4) had been lawfully imposed by the Minister under section 276(1)(n).
- (7) However, a condition mentioned in subsection (4) may be varied under section 294 only—
 - (a) to change 1 or more of the dates mentioned in subsection (4)(a), other than the end date of the period mentioned in subsection (4)(a)(iv); and
 - (b) if the Minister has considered the advice of the Coordinator-General before making the variation.
- (8) To remove any doubt, it is declared that this section applies despite any noncompliance with a provision of this Act in relation to the application mentioned in subsection (1), including the mining lease notice issued for the application.
- (9) In this section—

Coordinator-General see the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*, schedule 2.

334ZJO

Variation of particular mining leases

- (1) This section applies to mining leases 70434, 70435, 70436 and 700058.
- (2) On the commencement, each mining lease is varied to include the following conditions—
 - (a) from the commencement, the holder must accommodate all workers either—
 - (i) in Glenden; or
 - (ii) on the area of ML700066 in compliance with the conditions mentioned in section 334ZJN(4)(a) to (c);

- (b) for the condition mentioned in paragraph (a)—
 - (i) at least 30% of the workers accommodated in Glenden must be accommodated in a residential dwelling; and
 - (ii) if subparagraph (i) is satisfied and the number of rostered workers is insufficient to enable the condition to be satisfied—the condition is taken to be satisfied if all rostered workers are accommodated in Glenden.
- (3) The conditions under subsection (2) apply—
 - (a) despite section 234(1); and
 - (b) in addition to any existing conditions of each mining lease.
- (4) This Act applies to the variation of each mining lease under subsection (2) as if the variation had been made by the Minister under section 294(1) on the day of the commencement.
- (5) However, the conditions mentioned in subsection (2) can not be varied under section 294.

334ZJP Deciding particular applications

- (1) This section applies in relation to—
 - (a) mining lease applications 10355, 10356, 10357 and 10374; and
 - (b) any other application for the grant or renewal of a mining lease for the Byerwen mine project, including the grant of a mining lease consolidating other mining leases, if—
 - (i) the application was made, but not decided, before the commencement; or
 - (ii) the application is made after the commencement.
- (2) However, this section does not apply in relation to the application mentioned in section 334ZJN(1).
- (3) If the Minister decides to grant or renew the mining lease under section 271A, 286A or 299, the mining lease is granted or renewed subject to the following conditions—
 - (a) the holder must accommodate all workers either—
 - (i) in Glenden; or
 - (ii) on the area of ML700066 in compliance with the conditions mentioned in section 334ZJN(4)(a) to (c);
 - (b) for the condition mentioned in paragraph (a)—
 - (i) at least 30% of the workers accommodated in Glenden must be accommodated in a residential dwelling; and
 - (ii) if subparagraph (i) is satisfied and the number of rostered workers is insufficient to enable the condition to be satisfied—the condition is taken to be satisfied if all rostered workers are accommodated in Glenden.
- (4) Subsection (3) does not limit section 276.
- (5) The conditions mentioned in subsection (3) can not be varied under section 294.

334ZJQ No compensation payable by the State

- (1) No compensation is payable by the State to any person in connection with the enactment or operation of this part, or anything done to give effect to this part, other than as required under sections 279 and 280.
- (2) This section applies despite any other Act or law.

47F Amendment of sch 2 (Dictionary)

Schedule 2—

insert—

accommodates, in relation to a worker, for chapter 12, part 4C, see section 334ZJM.

Byerwen mine, for chapter 12, part 4C, see section 334ZJL.

Byerwen mine project, for chapter 12, part 4C, see section 334ZJL.

Glenden, for chapter 12, part 4C, see section 334ZJL.

ML700066, for chapter 12, part 4C, see section 334ZJL.

rostered worker, for chapter 12, part 4C, see section 334ZJL.

worker, for chapter 12, part 4C, see section 334ZJL.

Mr LAST: I could not let this opportunity go by without making a comment regarding the manner in which this particular amendment was brought into this place. The underhanded, deceitful manner in which this amendment was buried in a child protection bill is nothing short of disgraceful and is an affront to the people who call Glenden home. Since this amendment was dropped into this place

yesterday I have been inundated with phone calls from residents and business owners expressing their concerns and asking what this means for their community. When this bill passes, who will take over the maintenance of properties in that facility? Who will run the store, the cafe, the swimming pool? Who will pay for the one and only doctor in that town? Does this mean that next week QCoal is responsible for the operation of that community? These are the questions that could have been answered if this had been handled properly.

Let's think for a minute about what a parliamentary committee could have done. For all of those people who are watching parliament tonight on the live stream: a parliamentary committee comprising members from the government, the opposition and crossbenchers could have gone out to Glenden and consulted with that community. They could have asked those questions. They could have met with Glencore and with QCoal, which, I might add, is not impressed with this amendment, despite what the minister said in this place yesterday. They could have asked those questions and got some answers, but instead they are left up in the air.

We see that 10 per cent of the workers must be accommodated in Glenden between 31 March 2025 and 30 March 2026. Does that mean that those 10 per cent of workers can turn up in early March 2026? Can that community survive from now until March 2026? I very much doubt it. That community is seriously hurting. I am fighting for that community. The way this has been handled will go down in the history of this place as an absolute disgrace.

Mr STEWART: I acknowledge representatives of the Isaac Regional Council who have been in the public gallery over the last two days to watch this debate due to how important this amendment is to the township of Glenden. I acknowledge Mayor Anne Baker, Deputy Mayor Kelly Veale and Councillor Gina Lacey. I also acknowledge Melissa Payne, who is a resident of Glenden and in the gallery. Well done. I also acknowledge the Director of Planning, Daniel Wagner. Well done to you, too. Those opposite have no idea what is going on.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Order, members!

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members to my left, order! We will have order even though we might be in consideration in detail.

Mr STEWART: Those opposite do not understand what is going on here because Byerwen coalmine has asked us to act urgently and immediately to get this legislation passed in the House because if it does not get this done it will be breaching its DA which means it will have to close down and those 750 workers will then go elsewhere. By the time this gets introduced into the House and goes through a committee process and then it starts to look at re-employing that will take anywhere from 18 months to two years. What happens to Glenden then? If those opposite are so concerned about Glenden, what happens to Glenden then?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! As I said, we might be in consideration in detail, but the House will be orderly. I will be warning members formally under the standing orders from now on.

Mr STEWART: This is about ensuring that Glenden mine can continue its operations, but it is also about protecting the community of Glenden to ensure it is still viable. Glencore will do a progressive transition out. It is not just moving out all in one go; it is moving out progressively. While that is happening, we will be working with QCoal to come in progressively. The plan is that over five years 100 per cent of the workers will be accommodated in Glenden, so this is about looking after the township of Glenden.

What have we heard from the member for Burdekin? Did he come and meet with me? No. Did he make a phone call about this? No. Did he send me a text about this? No. Did he send me an email about this? No. This is about them just standing up and grandstanding today without actually doing anything about it. This is about protecting Glenden and making sure that that coalmine can continue. This is the best outcome that we can produce: making sure that the Isaac Regional Council gets what it needs and protecting Glenden, saving Glenden. Those opposite want to close it down. They want this to go through the process that will see that town closed and the bulldozers come in. That is what is hanging over their heads.

Mr WEIR: Everybody wants to save Glenden. That is without any doubt. I have spoken to Mayor Anne Baker about this issue and she expressed her disappointment with the way this has been handled. This did not happen yesterday or the day before or the day before that; this has been coming for years. You have known this was coming for years. You have been in this role for nearly three years.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Comments will come through the chair, member for Condamine.

Mr WEIR: Why has this suddenly had to come into a child protection bill? The minister stood in this House yesterday and introduced legislation. He could have done it then. That is not the first bill he has introduced in his time as minister. He could have done it earlier, but he has waited until the last moment. I noticed that the minister did not tell the House how much council has spent pursuing this issue for the town of Glenden. It is hundreds of thousands of dollars. That should never have happened. This government has failed.

Glenden is not the only place. There are other areas, and I talked to the member for Callide about this. Moura is very interested in this situation because it is not far removed from where this situation in Glenden is right now. That is why the minister should have brought this to this place in a much timelier manner. This could have gone through a full committee process so we could identify other areas where this will be repeated, but no! It came in in a child protection bill. This government has failed Glenden. It is trying to patch it now. Unintended consequences are waiting from this, and we have all said that. The member for Burdekin has said it. I have said it. I pursued this at estimates. I said to Mayor Baker, 'We'll look after the interests of Glenden,' but this is a failed performance and it reflects very poorly upon this government.

Mrs GILBERT: It was great to hear that the member for Condamine does want to save Glenden, because that is what we are all here for. The Palaszczuk government supports our resources sector because of the royalties and the jobs that it generates, particularly in my region.

Ms Camm interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, member for Whitsunday.

Mrs GILBERT: Under the Palaszczuk government's watch, more than \$21 billion—

Ms Camm interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, member for Whitsunday.

Mrs GILBERT:—has been invested into resources projects, supporting 8,000 jobs.

Ms Camm interjected.

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

Mrs GILBERT: We want to save Glenden. All I have heard from the other side is roadblocks—one roadblock after the other coming from the member for Burdekin. It is not our fault that the member for Burdekin does not know what is going on in his backyard.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mrs GILBERT: I want to thank the Premier and the resources minister for the work that they have done in arriving at this solution. I particularly want to thank the Isaac Regional Council under the leadership of Mayor Anne Baker for its huge amount of work and advocacy when it comes to this issue. Mayor Baker was steadfast and determined to save Glenden. She has been working towards keeping Glenden as a viable community within her region for a number of years and she has had many discussions with those of us from the government, including myself, the member for Rockhampton and many other members. She has also raised it at the Premier's regional forums, so she has worked very hard. I want to congratulate Mayor Baker.

It is a shame that those opposite keep yelling out. Every time we mention the work and communication that Mayor Baker has done, all they can do is yell. I am glad that the mayor is in the gallery and can hear the disrespect that those opposite have for Mayor Baker. As a government we want to see rural and regional Queensland benefit economically and socially from resource projects that operate in our backyard. That is why we want to save Glenden and that is why we have moved this amendment. I support the amendment because this is good for the Isaac region, this is good for mining workers who can choose to live in a town with their families and this is good for Queensland. I support the amendment.

Mr O'ROURKE: I rise to speak in support of this amendment. I have had discussions with Mayor Anne Baker from the Isaac Regional Council regarding her concerns for the residents of the township of Glenden, and she has been an absolute champion in working there. This amendment is the lifeline needed for those who have made Glenden home and have established themselves and their businesses in Glenden and will provide certainty for the mine into the future. Having worked in the housing industry across regional Queensland for many years, I have seen the impact of mining companies scaling back their local workforce, either by reducing production or establishing mining camps to accommodate fly-in fly-out workforces.

Despite commitments made by Byerwen to house 30 per cent of its workforce residentially in Glenden and to consider locating any workers camp in Glenden, it has applied for a mining lease to make the existing temporary workers camp permanent adjacent to the existing mine, and I totally agree with the Isaac Regional Council as it has consistently refused Byerwen's application to make the camp permanent. When you see mining companies not supporting the currently available residential infrastructure and not considering the impact of their decision on regional towns, it is disgraceful. I remember well what happened to towns like Biloela, Moura and in particular Blackwater. When you see the population drop by 60 per cent or 70 per cent over a relatively short period, it has a massive impact on local businesses. Whether it is the guy mowing the lawn or the local shops, from the service station to the takeaways, just about every facet of life is impacted.

It was difficult for those people who wanted to remain in these great small towns. I remember well when they built the single person's camp near Blackwater. It was disastrous. Suddenly you do not have the parents volunteering at the local schools and sporting clubs. The small shopping centre in Blackwater really struggled. As members would well understand, it had a big impact on everyone in the town. People were having to drive from Blackwater out to Emerald or into Rocky to do a big grocery shop. Rocky is about a 400-kilometre round trip and Emerald about 150 kays. There is also the impact on schools. When there are not enough students there is a reduction in teacher numbers. It has a continuous ripple effect. I am so pleased to see this amendment. This will support the township of Glenden into the future. I support the bill and the amendments.

Ms LAUGA: I too rise in support of this amendment that has been moved by the minister. I acknowledge the mayor of Isaac Regional Council and the councillors and members of the Glenden community who are here in the gallery this evening who have travelled so far to make the voices of regional Queensland heard. Glenden is a beautiful community. It is one that has a long mining history. When I was reflecting on the work that Mayor Anne Baker has done over the years, I reflected on one of the times that she and Councillor Vea Vea came into this place. It was in 2016 when we were debating the Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Bill. This bill has come back around again, which is of great importance to regional communities in Queensland.

How great it would have been if this bill could have applied retrospectivity to existing mining projects across Queensland, but of course it does not apply retrospectively. I was a member of the committee at the time we were considering that bill. The member for Burleigh said we cannot make this bill retrospective because it would cause sovereign risk. The Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Act could well have changed the situation for Glenden. Given that the act is not retrospective, we are here to support this amendment, as I am here today.

Resource communities are so important to regional Queensland. As a member of that committee that undertook that parliamentary inquiry I saw and spoke firsthand to people who live in resource communities right across the state. They spoke to me about how much they loved living there. My neighbours in Yeppoon live 50 per cent of their time in Blackwater. They talk about how their heart is torn between the mining community of Blackwater and the coastal town of Yeppoon. There are so many people across regional Queensland who love living in resource communities and who establish their lives there. Glenden is one of those great communities where we have seen, over the years, friendships created, marriages take place and babies born. That is the social fabric of a resource community that has grown over the years. That is what we are here tonight to protect. This is an example of the Palaszczuk government listening to the resource community of Glenden and taking action. I support the amendment.

Mr BERKMAN: These clowns are going to justify their undemocratic behaviour—

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member, I will ask you to withdraw your unparliamentary language and put your comments through the chair.

Mr BERKMAN: I withdraw. The Labor Party will continue to justify their undemocratic behaviour on the basis of the behaviour of the LNP when it was in government, and whenever the LNP take the reins again we will see even worse conduct from them on the basis of the undemocratic behaviour of the Labor Party. How is it we have found ourselves with two minutes left for consideration in detail and the second only instance of overriding the Human Rights Act is not even going to make the cut?

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

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock. What is your point of order?

Mr STEWART: My point of order is in relation to relevance to amendment No. 6.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I will continue to listen. You have the call, member for Maiwar.

Mr BERKMAN: Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. Given the spurious point of order, we now have one minute left before the time for consideration in detail runs out. Congratulations to the Minister for Resources. He has done well. In relation to the police minister, I have spoken to people today who knew the police minister's father and who spoke about just how ashamed he would be of the way he has brought this into the House. He was a social justice warrior.

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

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Police minister, resume your seat. Member for Maiwar, you have used unparliamentary language. I would ask you to withdraw.

Mr BERKMAN: I withdraw.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Do you have a point of order?

Mr RYAN: I do. To have a reflection on a member's family member is an egregious abuse of the standing orders. For those people who know my father—

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member, I understand—

Mr RYAN: No, I deserve the right to defend my father in this House.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member!

Mr RYAN: I take offence and ask the member to withdraw.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I will take some advice.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Treasurer! Members, I realise the feeling in the chamber is high. I will deal with this in silence. If anybody breaks that silence they will be warned. Thank you for your point of order, member. The member has already been asked to withdraw and has withdrawn.


Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time allocated for this stage of the bill having now expired, I will now put all remaining questions. However, I will start with the current question.

Question put—That the amendment be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: In accordance with sessional order 4, the House must now consider all remaining clauses, schedules and any amendments circulated by the minister in charge of the bill. I call the minister to table a statement of exceptional circumstances.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (5.56 pm): I table a statement of exceptional circumstances.

Tabled paper: Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, statement of exceptional circumstances relating to Hon. Mark Ryan's amendments [\[1198\]](#).

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I note that the minister's amendments Nos 7 to 29 are outside the long title of the bill and therefore will require leave of the House. Is leave granted?

Leave granted.

Question put—That the minister's amendments Nos 7 to 29, as circulated, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendments agreed to.

Amendments as circulated—

7 After clause 50

Page 48, after line 17—

*insert—***50A Amendment of s 46 (When power applies to behaviour)**

Section 46(5)—

omit.

8 After clause 50

Page 48, after line 17—

*insert—***50B Insertion of new ch 2, pt 8**

Chapter 2—

*insert—***Part 8 Power to detain particular intoxicated persons****53BO Other police powers not affected**

Nothing in this part affects the power of a police officer, under this Act or another Act, to take action in relation to a person who is intoxicated.

53BP Detaining intoxicated persons

- (1) A police officer may detain a person who is in a public place if the officer is satisfied—
 - (a) the person is intoxicated; and
 - (b) it is necessary to detain the person because the person is—
 - (i) behaving in a way that—
 - (A) is disorderly, offensive, threatening or violent; and
 - (B) is likely to interfere with the peaceful passage through, or enjoyment of, the public place by a member of the public; or
 - (ii) behaving in a way that is likely to risk the life, health or safety of any person, including, for example, the person to be detained; or
 - (iii) incapable of preserving the person's own life, health or safety.
- (2) A police officer must release the person from detention under this part on the earlier of the following—
 - (a) the officer being satisfied the person is no longer intoxicated;
 - (b) 8 hours elapsing after the person is first detained under this part.
- (3) Also, a police officer may release the person from detention under this part if the officer is satisfied it is appropriate to do so.

53BQ Transporting detained persons

- (1) This section applies if a person is detained under section 53BP.
- (2) A police officer may transport the person to, and release the person at, a place of safety if—
 - (a) for a place of safety where there is a person apparently in charge of the place— the person apparently in charge of the place agrees, verbally or in writing, to provide care for the person at the place; and
 - (b) the police officer is satisfied the person's behaviour or presence does not pose a risk of harm to any person at the place, including, for example, harm caused by domestic violence.
- (3) Subsection (4) applies if—
 - (a) after making reasonable enquiries, a police officer is unable to find a place of safety located within a reasonable distance from where the person is detained; or
 - (b) a police officer is unable to transport and release the person under subsection (2).
- (4) The police officer may—
 - (a) transport the person to a police station or watch-house; and
 - (b) continue to detain the person at the police station or watch-house, subject to section 53BP(2) and (3).
- (5) To remove any doubt, it is declared that nothing in this section requires a person who is released at a place of safety to remain at the place.

9 After clause 50

Page 48, after line 17—

*insert—***50C Amendment of s 244 (Matters to be taken into account)**

Section 244—

insert—

(3) For subsection (1)(g)(iii), the following conduct does not involve the commission of a sexual offence against a person—

(a) possessing, distributing or editing material that depicts a sexual offence;

Example—

administering a website or chat group used by members to share materials that depict sexual offences

(b) producing material that appears to depict a sexual offence provided the material does not depict a real person;

Examples—

- the use of artificial intelligence to fabricate material depicting a sexual offence
- altering material to change the appearance of a person or conduct depicted in the material

(c) communicating with a person suspected of—

- (i) committing, or having committed, a sexual offence; or
- (ii) seeking to commit a sexual offence; or
- (iii) offering to engage in conduct that would constitute a sexual offence; or
- (iv) enabling another person to engage in conduct that would constitute a sexual offence.

(4) In this section—

chat group means a group of persons using electronic communication to communicate within the group, regardless of whether the service used for the communication is intended to be primarily used for that purpose.*Examples of services used to host chat groups—*

instant messaging services, email or computer games

distributing see the Criminal Code, section 207A, definition *distribute*.***material*** see the Criminal Code, section 207A.

10 After clause 50

Page 48, after line 17—

*insert—***50D Omission of s 378 (Additional case when arrest for being intoxicated in a public place may be discontinued)**

Section 378—

omit.

11 After clause 50

Page 48, after line 17—

*insert—***50E Amendment of s 394 (Duty of police officer receiving custody of person arrested for offence)**

(1) Section 394(2)(c)—

omit.

(2) Section 394(3), ‘section 378 or’—

omit.

12 After clause 50

Page 48, after line 17—

*insert—***50F Amendment of s 442 (Application of ch 16)**

(1) Section 442—

insert—

(ea) is detained under chapter 2, part 8; or

(2) Section 442(ea) and (f)—

renumber as section 442(f) and (g).

13 After clause 50

Page 48, after line 17—

*insert—***50G Amendment of s 444 (Powers relating to thing taken from person taken to place of safety)**

- (1) Section 444(1), '378'—

omit, insert—

53BQ(2)

- (2) Section 444(2)(c), 'in possession or'—

*omit.***14 After clause 50**

Page 48, after line 17—

*insert—***50H Amendment of s 602C (Police officer may give initial police banning notice)**

Section 602C(3)(a), examples, sixth dot point—

omit, insert—

- urinating or wilfully exposing genitals in contravention of the *Summary Offences Act 2005*, section 7 or 9

15 After clause 50

Page 48, after line 17—

*insert—***50I Amendment of s 602G (How police banning notices may be given)**

Section 602G(1)(a)—

omit, insert—

- (a) by—

- (i) for an initial police banning notice—personally serving the notice on the respondent; or
- (ii) for an extended police banning notice—serving the notice on the respondent; or

16 After clause 50

Page 48, after line 17—

*insert—***50J Amendment of s 604 (Dealing with persons affected by potentially harmful things)**

Section 604(2), from 'place, other'—

omit, insert—

place of safety.

17 After clause 50

Page 48, after line 17—

*insert—***50K Amendment of s 605 (Duties in relation to person detained under s 604)**

- (1) Section 605(1), example—

omit.

- (2) Section 605(2) to (6)—

omit, insert—

- (2) However, subsection (1) does not apply if—

- (a) after making reasonable enquiries, the police officer is unable to find a place of safety located within a reasonable distance from where the person is detained; or
- (b) there is a person apparently in charge of the place of safety and the person does not agree to provide care for the person; or
- (c) the police officer is satisfied the person's behaviour or presence poses a risk of harm to any person at the place of safety, including, for example, harm caused by domestic violence.

- (3) If subsection (1) does not apply because of subsection (2), the person must be released.
- (4) As soon as practicable after a person is released under subsection (1) or (3), the police officer must enter in a register kept for this section the particulars prescribed by regulation.
- (5) To remove any doubt, it is declared that nothing in this section requires a person who is released at a place of safety to remain at the place.

18 After clause 50

Page 48, after line 17—

insert—

50L Omission of ss 606 and 607

Sections 606 and 607—

omit.

19 After clause 50

Page 48, after line 17—

insert—

50M Amendment of s 640 (Transfer of persons in watch-houses)

Section 640—

insert—

- (2) A failure of a watch-house manager to provide procedural fairness to a child transferred under subsection (1)(a) or (b) does not affect the validity of the decision to transfer the child.
- (3) For the purposes of the *Human Rights Act 2019*, section 43(1), it is declared that subsection (1)(a) and (b) has effect in relation the transfer of a child—
 - (a) despite being incompatible with human rights; and
 - (b) despite anything else in the *Human Rights Act 2019*.
- (4) This subsection and subsections (3) and (5) expire on 31 December 2026.
- (5) A regulation may postpone the expiry of this subsection and subsections (3) and (4) but can not postpone the expiry for more than 1 year after 31 December 2026.

20 After clause 50

Page 48, after line 17—

insert—

50N Insertion of new s 792B

After section 792A—

insert—

792B Meaning of *place of safety*

- (1) A ***place of safety*** for a person who is intoxicated or who has ingested or inhaled a potentially harmful thing is—
 - (a) if the person requires medical attention only available at a hospital—a hospital; or
 - (b) otherwise—a place, other than a police station or watch-house, at which the person can recover safely from the effects of being intoxicated or the potentially harmful thing.

Examples—

- a place, other than a hospital, that provides care for persons who are intoxicated or who have ingested or inhaled the potentially harmful thing
- a place where the person is living, whether on a temporary or permanent basis
- a place where a relative or friend of the person is living, whether on a temporary or permanent basis
- (2) Despite subsection (1)(b), a place mentioned in that paragraph is not a place of safety if there is a risk of an act of domestic violence being committed by, or against, the person while at the place.
- (3) A vehicle, other than a police vehicle, is a ***place of safety*** if the vehicle is used to safely transport the person to a place mentioned in subsection (1).

21 After clause 51

Page 48, after line 25—

insert—

52 Insertion of new ch 24, pt 24

Chapter 24—

insert—

Part 24 Validation and transitional provisions for Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023

Division 1 Preliminary

893 Definition for part

In this part—

former, for a provision of this Act, means the provision as in force immediately before the commencement.

Division 2 Validation provisions

894 Refined limitations on controlled operations does not affect past operations

- (1) This section applies to a controlled operation involving conduct mentioned in section 244(3) if authorised by the chief executive officer under section 243 before the commencement.
- (2) It is declared that nothing in section 244(1)(g)(iii) prevented the controlled operation being granted authority by the chief executive officer under section 243.
- (3) To remove any doubt, it is declared that the authority to conduct the controlled operation, and anything done in reliance on the authority, is, and is taken to have always been, as valid as if section 244(3) had been in force at the time of the authorisation or conduct.

895 Validation of giving of particular extended police banning notices

- (1) This section applies in relation to an extended police banning notice that was, before the commencement, given to a person by sending the notice to the person by post.
- (2) The giving of the extended police banning notice to the person is, and is taken to have always been, as valid as it would have been if, at the time the notice was given to the person, new section 602G was in force.
- (3) Anything done as a result of the giving of the extended police banning notice to the person is, and is taken to have always been, as valid as it would have been if, at the time the notice was given to the person, new section 602G was in force.
- (4) In this section—

given includes purported to be given.

new section 602G means section 602G as in force from the commencement.

Division 3 Transitional provisions

896 Continued application of former ss 378 and 394

- (1) This section applies if, on the commencement, a person is under arrest for being intoxicated in a public place.
- (2) For the purpose of the arrest, former sections 378 and 394 continue to apply as if the *Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023* had not commenced.

897 Continued application of former ss 604 and 605

- (1) This section applies if, on the commencement, a person is being detained under section 604(3).
- (2) For the purpose of the detention, former sections 604 and 605 continue to apply as if the *Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023* had not commenced.

22 After clause 51

Page 48, after line 25—

insert—

53 Amendment of sch 2 (Relevant offences for controlled operations and surveillance device warrants)

- (1) Schedule 2, section 4, seventh, eighth and ninth dot points—
omit.
- (2) Schedule 2, section 5—
omit.

23 After clause 51

Page 48, after line 25—

*insert—***54 Amendment of sch 5 (Additional controlled activity offences)**

Schedule 5, section 9—

*omit.***24 After clause 51**

Page 48, after line 25—

*insert—***55 Amendment of sch 6 (Dictionary)**

(1) Schedule 6—

*insert—***place of safety** see section 792B.(2) Schedule 6, definition *enforcement act*—*insert—*

(y) the detention of a person under chapter 2, part 8.

25 After clause 51

Page 48, after line 25—

*insert—***Part 5 Amendment of Police Powers and Responsibilities Regulation 2012****56 Regulation amended**This part amends the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Regulation 2012*.**57 Amendment of s 16 (Prescribed particulars—Act, s 605(6))**

Section 16, '605(6)'—

omit, insert—

605(4)

58 Amendment of sch 9 (Responsibilities code)

Schedule 9, after section 53D—

*insert—***53E Detention of person under Act, ch 2, pt 8—Act, s 679(1)**

The following information about the detention of a person under chapter 2, part 8 of the Act must be included in the register of enforcement acts—

- (a) the name of the person, if known;
- (b) the time the person was detained;
- (c) where the person was detained;
- (d) if the person was transported to, and detained at, a police station or watch-house—the reason why the person was transported to, and detained at, the police station or watch-house;
- (e) any apparent injury the person received during the detention.

26 After clause 51

Page 48, after line 25—

*insert—***Part 6 Amendment of Police Service Administration Act 1990****59 Act amended**This part amends the *Police Service Administration Act 1990*.**60 Amendment of pt 11, hdg (Transitional and declaratory provisions)**

Part 11, heading, 'and declaratory'—

*omit, insert—***, declaratory and validating**

61 Insertion of new pt 11, div 16

Part 11—

*insert—***Division 16 Transitional and validation provisions inserted under Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023****11.44 Definitions for division**

In this division—

affected referral means a referral to which this division applies under section 11.45.**disciplinary sanction** see section 7.34.**professional development strategy** see section 7.3.**subject officer** see section 11.45(1)(a).**11.45 Application of division**

- (1) This division applies if—
 - (a) the commissioner referred a complaint about a police officer (the **subject officer**) under section 7.10 on or after 30 October 2019 but before 8 March 2023; and
 - (b) the referral mentioned in paragraph (a) was not properly made.
- (2) For this division, a referral was not properly made if—
 - (a) the referral did not specify a particular prescribed officer as the entity to whom the referral was made; or
 - (b) the referral specified a particular prescribed officer as the entity to whom the referral was made but another officer purported to act as the prescribed officer; or
 - (c) the referral did not specify a particular prescribed officer by name and rank.
- (3) A reference in subsection (1) to having referred a complaint about a police officer under section 7.10 includes a reference to purportedly having done so.

11.46 Validation of affected referrals and subsequent action

- (1) An affected referral, and anything else done under this Act or another law in relation to the referral (**subsequent action**), is, and is taken to have always been, as valid as it would be or would have been if the referral had been properly made.
Examples of subsequent action—
 - starting a disciplinary proceeding
 - accepting a proposed disciplinary sanction under section 7.21
 - imposing a disciplinary sanction or professional development strategy
- (2) Subsection (1) applies for all purposes, including a legal proceeding started before the commencement.
- (3) To remove any doubt, it is declared that—
 - (a) an affected referral and subsequent action is taken to have had effect from the day the referral or action would have had effect if the referral had been properly made; and
 - (b) subject to this division, a disciplinary proceeding related to the affected referral may be commenced, continued or concluded under part 7; and
 - (c) a disciplinary sanction, or professional development strategy, imposed on the subject officer because of the affected referral is, and is taken to have always been, as valid as it would be or would have been if the referral had been properly made.
- (4) No compensation is payable to a person because of the operation of this section.

11.47 Demotions and suspensions affected by validation

- (1) This section applies if—
 - (a) the imposition of a disciplinary sanction on the subject officer is, as subsequent action, validated under section 11.46; and
 - (b) the disciplinary sanction is the demotion or suspension of the subject officer.
- (2) The performance of duties by the subject officer during the period of the demotion or suspension, and anything else done under this Act or another law in relation to the officer's performance of those duties has the same effect, and is taken to have always had the same effect, as it would have had if the officer had not been demoted or suspended at the relevant time.
- (3) Subsection (2) applies for all purposes, including a legal proceeding started before the commencement.

- (4) A reference in subsection (2) to the performance of duties includes a reference to the purported performance of duties.

- (5) In this section—

duties includes—

- (a) higher duties performed by an officer; and
- (b) the exercise of a power, or authorisation of an action, by an officer under the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000* or another law.

higher duties, performed by an officer, means the duties performed by the officer because of a rank held by the officer on a temporary basis.

11.48 New period for starting disciplinary proceedings

- (1) This section applies if—
- (a) a disciplinary proceeding related to an affected referral had not been started under part 7 before the commencement; and
 - (b) the disciplinary proceeding can not be started because of a time restriction under section 7.12.
- (2) Despite section 7.12, the disciplinary proceeding may be started within 28 days after the commencement.
- (3) Before starting the disciplinary proceeding, the commissioner may specify a new prescribed officer as the entity to whom the affected referral was made, regardless of whether a prescribed officer was properly specified for the referral when first made.

11.49 Continuation of interrupted disciplinary proceedings

- (1) This section applies if, before the commencement, a disciplinary proceeding related to an affected referral was started, but not finally dealt with, under part 7.
- (2) The disciplinary proceeding may be continued by the prescribed officer repeating the last action taken by the officer under part 7, division 3 or 4.

Example—

If the last action taken by the prescribed officer was to give the subject officer a proposed sanction notice under section 7.28(2), the disciplinary proceeding may be continued by the prescribed officer giving the subject officer a new proposed sanction notice under section 7.28(2).

- (3) For subsection (2), a reference to the last action taken by the prescribed officer includes a reference to the last action taken by the officer who purported to be the prescribed officer for the disciplinary proceeding.
- (4) Before continuing the disciplinary proceeding, the commissioner may specify a new officer as the prescribed officer to whom the affected referral was made, regardless of whether a prescribed officer was properly specified for the referral when first made.

11.50 Right to review by tribunal

- (1) This section applies if, on or after 15 June 2022, a subject officer was given a QCAT information notice for a disciplinary decision relating to an affected referral, unless—
- (a) the officer applied to the tribunal for a review of the decision; and
 - (b) the tribunal made a decision on the application concluding the review.
- (2) Within 14 days after the commencement, the commissioner must give the subject officer and the CCC a new QCAT information notice for the disciplinary decision.
- (3) Subsection (4) applies if, after receiving the new QCAT information notice, the subject officer applies to the tribunal for a review of the disciplinary decision.
- (4) For the purpose of the tribunal reviewing the disciplinary decision, the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*, chapter 5, part 3 applies with the following changes—
- (a) the subject officer is taken to be the aggrieved person;
 - (b) the disciplinary decision is taken to be the reviewable decision;
 - (c) the application for the review must be made within 28 days after the subject officer is given the QCAT information notice under subsection (2).
- (5) Also, the tribunal must have regard to the action, if any, taken by the commissioner under section 11.51(2) or (7) in relation to the disciplinary decision.
- (6) The giving of a QCAT information notice under subsection (2) does not affect the day the disciplinary decision has effect under section 11.46.
- (7) No application fee is payable by the subject officer if, before the commencement, the officer paid an application fee for a review by the tribunal of the same disciplinary decision.
- (8) In this section—

application fee means the fee payable under the QCAT Act, section 38 for an application for review by the tribunal of a disciplinary decision.

disciplinary decision means a decision made under section 7.27(2) or 7.30(2).

11.51 Remedial action by commissioner

- (1) This section applies if the imposition of a disciplinary sanction or professional development strategy on a subject officer is, as subsequent action, validated under section 11.46.
- (2) The commissioner must take all action (**remedial action**) necessary to impose the disciplinary sanction or professional development strategy from the day it has effect under section 11.46.
- (3) Without limiting subsection (2), the commissioner may take the following remedial action—
 - (a) recover an amount paid to the subject officer that would not have been paid had the disciplinary sanction had effect before the commencement;
 - (b) exercise the powers of a prescribed officer in imposing the disciplinary sanction under part 7, division 5, including, for example, imposing conditions on probation;
 - (c) if the disciplinary sanction imposed on the subject officer is a fine—recover the fine in accordance with section 7.40.
- (4) An amount may be recovered under subsection (3)(a) by—
 - (a) deducting the amount from the subject officer's fortnightly salary; or
 - (b) recovering the amount from the subject officer as a debt payable to the State.
- (5) A deduction mentioned in subsection (4)(a) must not be made at a rate of more than 2 penalty units each fortnight without the written consent of the subject officer.
- (6) Subsection (3)(a) does not apply to amounts paid to the subject officer for duties actually performed by the officer.

Examples—

- amounts paid to the subject officer for performing the duties of a sergeant during a period after the officer is taken to have been demoted to a senior constable
 - amounts paid to the subject officer for working during the period for which the officer is taken to have been suspended
- (7) Despite subsection (2), the commissioner may refrain from taking any or all remedial action if the commissioner is satisfied—
 - (a) taking the action would cause excessive hardship to the subject officer; and
 - (b) refraining from taking the action because of the excessive hardship is in the public interest.
 - (8) The commissioner may only delegate the commissioner's power under subsection (7) to a police officer of the rank of deputy commissioner.
 - (9) To remove any doubt, it is declared that the commissioner may act under subsection (7) even if that action would, in effect, negate the imposition of the disciplinary sanction.

11.52 Notice before taking remedial action

- (1) This section applies if the commissioner proposes to take remedial action in relation to the subject officer under section 11.51.
- (2) Before taking the remedial action, the commissioner must give the subject officer a written notice stating the following information—
 - (a) the remedial action proposed to be taken;
 - (b) the day the remedial action is proposed to begin;
 - (c) that, if the officer believes the remedial action would cause the officer excessive hardship, the officer may, within the response period, give the commissioner a written submission about the hardship.
- (3) If the subject officer makes a written submission mentioned in subsection (2)(c) within the response period, the commissioner must consider the submission before taking the remedial action.
- (4) In this section—

response period, for a written notice given to a subject officer under subsection (2), means the period of 21 days after the notice is given to the officer.

11.53 Division not affected by other action

- (1) This division applies regardless of—
 - (a) any direction given by the commissioner to the subject officer before the commencement because of the complaint for the affected referral; or
 - (b) any action taken against the subject officer before the commencement, under this Act or another Act, because of the complaint for the affected referral.

- (2) Any of the following notices given to the subject officer by the commissioner or a superior officer before the commencement is of no effect—
 - (a) a notice stating that the affected referral is invalid (however described);
 - (b) a notice stating that a disciplinary proceeding related to the affected referral is concluded (however described).

11.54 Judicial review

- (1) Unless the Supreme Court decides a decision made under this division is affected by jurisdictional error, the decision—
 - (a) is final and conclusive; and
 - (b) can not be challenged, appealed against, reviewed, quashed, set aside or called in question in any other way under the *Judicial Review Act 1991* or otherwise (whether by the Supreme Court, another court, a tribunal or another entity); and
 - (c) is not subject to any declaratory, injunctive or other order of the Supreme Court, another court, a tribunal or another entity on any ground.
- (2) The *Judicial Review Act 1991*, part 5 applies to a decision made under this division to the extent it is affected by jurisdictional error.

27 After clause 51

Page 48, after line 25—

insert—

Part 7 Amendment of Summary Offences Act 2005**62 Act amended**

This part amends the *Summary Offences Act 2005*.

63 Amendment of s 7 (Urinating in a public place)

- (1) Section 7(1), 'place.'—
omit, insert—
place, other than by using a toilet.
- (2) Section 7(3)—
omit, insert—
- (3) Before a police officer takes enforcement action for an offence against subsection (1), the officer must consider whether, in all the circumstances, it is more appropriate to take no action.
- (4) Without limiting subsection (3), the police officer must have regard to the following circumstances—
 - (a) whether any vulnerability, or special health needs, of the person contributed to the person committing the offence;
 - (b) whether the person, when committing the offence, took reasonable steps to avoid offending or embarrassing anyone.
- (5) In this section—
enforcement action, in relation to an offence against subsection (1), means—
 - (a) starting a proceeding for the offence; or
 - (b) serving an infringement notice for the offence.

64 Omission of s 8 (Begging in a public place)

Section 8—

omit.

65 Omission of s 10 (Being intoxicated in a public place)

Section 10—

omit.

28 After clause 51

Page 48, after line 25—

insert—

Part 8 Amendment of Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991**66 Act amended**

This part amends the *Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991*.

67 Amendment of pt 12, hdg

Part 12, heading, after 'Transitional'—

insert—

and validation

68 Insertion of new s 95

After section 94—

*insert—***95 Validation provision for Supreme Court of Queensland Regulation 2012**

- (1) Despite the *Statutory Instruments Act 1992*, section 54, the *Supreme Court of Queensland Regulation 2012*—
 - (a) is taken not to have expired on 1 September 2022; and
 - (b) expires on 1 September 2024 unless—
 - (i) it is repealed before that day; or
 - (ii) a regulation mentioned in subsection (2) is made before that day exempting it from expiry.
- (2) A regulation under the *Statutory Instruments Act 1992*, section 56A may exempt the *Supreme Court of Queensland Regulation 2012* from expiry, and extend a period of exemption, as if expiry under subsection (1)(b) were expiry under section 54 of that Act.
- (3) Anything done under this Act or another law before the commencement of this section has the same effect, and is taken to have always had the same effect, as it would have had if the *Supreme Court of Queensland Regulation 2012* had not expired.
- (4) A reference in subsection (3) to anything done includes a reference to—
 - (a) an exercise of the court's jurisdiction; or
 - (b) the commencement of a proceeding or taking of a step in a proceeding; or
 - (c) the performance of a function; or
 - (d) the exercise of a power; or
 - (e) the establishment of a district registry; or
 - (f) the taking of an action with a document including, for example, executing, filing, making an entry in, presenting, issuing or serving a document; or
 - (g) the making of a decision.

29 After clause 51

Page 48, after line 25—

*insert—***Part 9 Amendment of Youth Justice Act 1992****69 Act amended**This part amends the *Youth Justice Act 1992*.**70 Replacement of s 56 (Custody of child if not released by court)**

Section 56—

*omit, insert—***56 Custody of child if not released by court**

- (1) This section applies if—
 - (a) a court remands a child in custody; and
 - (b) the child does not remain the prisoner of the court; and
 - (c) the child is not already in the custody of the chief executive.
- (2) The commissioner of the police service must—
 - (a) take immediate custody of the child; and
 - (b) deliver the child into the custody of the chief executive as soon as reasonably practicable after the date the chief executive notifies to the commissioner under subsection (3).
- (3) The chief executive must—
 - (a) notify the commissioner of the police service of the date from which delivery of the child into the chief executive's custody will be accepted; and
 - (b) fulfil the duty under paragraph (a) as soon as reasonably practicable in all the circumstances, including, for example, the number of children held by the commissioner and the capacity of detention centres.
- (4) In deciding the date, the chief executive must have regard to the information available to the chief executive about the following matters—
 - (a) the child's needs, having regard to—
 - (i) the child's age and sex; and
 - (ii) the child's cultural background; and

- (iii) the child's historic and current self-harm risk and suicide risk; and
- (iv) the child's medical conditions, if any; and
- (v) the child's physical health and mental health issues, if any; and
- (vi) the child's substance misuse and withdrawal issues, if any; and
- (vii) the child's cognitive capacity; and
- (viii) the location and date of the child's next court appearance; and
- (ix) any other issue the chief executive considers may affect the child's health or wellbeing in a watch-house environment; and
- (x) any other issue the chief executive considers may affect the child's health or wellbeing while the child is being transported between a watch-house and a detention centre;
- (b) if 1 or more other children are being held by the commissioner of the police service—the relative needs of the child and the other children having regard to the matters mentioned in paragraph (a);
- (c) the effect the delivery of the child is likely to have on—
 - (i) the chief executive's ability to comply with section 263; and
 - (ii) the chief executive's ability to fulfil the chief executive's duties as an employer; and
 - (iii) the commissioner of the police service's ability to fulfil the commissioner's duties as an employer; and
 - (iv) the commissioner of the police service's ability to fulfil the commissioner's responsibility for—
 - (A) the security and management of watch-houses; and
 - (B) the safety and wellbeing of people detained in watch-houses.
- (5) A failure of the chief executive to provide procedural fairness to the child in deciding the date under subsection (4) does not affect the validity of the decision.
- (6) Subsection (2) does not apply to a person who is an adult being dealt with for an offence committed by the person as a child if, under section 136, 137 or 138, the person must be held in a corrective services facility.
- (7) Subsection (8) applies to jurisdiction conferred by an Act on a court—
 - (a) to commit a person to a place of detention (other than a detention centre) pending appearance before a court; and
 - (b) to give directions to the person in charge of the place.
- (8) The jurisdiction is taken, if the person is a child and this section applies, instead to confer jurisdiction on the court to remand the child into the custody of the chief executive and to give directions to the chief executive.
- (9) If a court remands a child into the custody of the chief executive under subsection (8), subsection (2) applies to the child.
- (10) Subject to subsection (11), the chief executive may keep a child mentioned in subsection (1) who is in the chief executive's custody in places that the chief executive determines from time to time.
- (11) The chief executive can not determine under subsection (10) that a child is to be kept in a prison.
- (12) For the purposes of the *Human Rights Act 2019*, section 43(1), it is declared that this section has effect—
 - (a) despite being incompatible with human rights; and
 - (b) despite anything else in the *Human Rights Act 2019*.
- (13) This subsection and subsections (12) and (14) expire on 31 December 2026.
- (14) A regulation may postpone the expiry of this subsection and subsections (12) and (13) but can not postpone the expiry for more than 1 year after 31 December 2026.

71 Amendment of s 135 (Where offender is detained for adult offence)

Section 135(2), 'the offender must be remanded into the custody of the chief executive and, for that purpose,'—
omit.

72 Amendment of s 210 (Detention to be served in detention centre)

(1) Section 210(2)—
omit, insert—

- (2) If a court makes a detention order against a child and the child is not already in the custody of the chief executive, the commissioner of the police service must—
 - (a) take immediate custody of the child; and

- (b) deliver the child into the custody of the chief executive as soon as reasonably practicable after the date the chief executive notifies to the commissioner under subsection (3).
- (2A) The chief executive must—
 - (a) notify the commissioner of the police service of the date from which delivery of the child into the chief executive's custody will be accepted; and
 - (b) fulfil the duty under paragraph (a) as soon as reasonably practicable in all the circumstances, including, for example, the number of children held by the commissioner and the capacity of detention centres.
- (2B) In deciding the date, the chief executive must have regard to the information available to the chief executive about the following matters—
 - (a) the child's needs, having regard to—
 - (i) the child's age and sex; and
 - (ii) the child's cultural background; and
 - (iii) the child's historic and current self-harm risk and suicide risk; and
 - (iv) the child's medical conditions, if any; and
 - (v) the child's physical health and mental health issues, if any; and
 - (vi) the child's substance misuse and withdrawal issues, if any; and
 - (vii) the child's cognitive capacity; and
 - (viii) the location and date of the child's next court appearance; and
 - (ix) any other issue the chief executive considers may affect the child's health or wellbeing in a watch-house environment; and
 - (x) any other issue the chief executive considers may affect the child's health or wellbeing while the child is being transported between a watch-house and a detention centre;
 - (b) if 1 or more other children are being held by the commissioner of the police service—the relative needs of the child and the other children having regard to the matters mentioned in paragraph (a);
 - (c) the effect the delivery of the child is likely to have on—
 - (i) the chief executive's ability to comply with section 263; and
 - (ii) the chief executive's ability to fulfil the chief executive's duties as an employer; and
 - (iii) the commissioner of the police service's ability to fulfil the commissioner's duties as an employer; and
 - (iv) the commissioner of the police service's ability to fulfil the commissioner's responsibility for—
 - (A) the security and management of watch-houses; and
 - (B) the safety and wellbeing of people detained in watch-houses.
- (2C) A failure of the chief executive to provide procedural fairness to the child in deciding the date under subsection (4) does not affect the validity of the decision.
- (2) Section 210—
 - insert—*
 - (4) For the purposes of the *Human Rights Act 2019*, section 43(1), it is declared that this section has effect—
 - (a) despite being incompatible with human rights; and
 - (b) despite anything else in the *Human Rights Act 2019*.
 - (5) This subsection and subsections (7) and (9) expire on 31 December 2026.
 - (6) A regulation may postpone the expiry of this subsection and subsections (7) and (8) but can not postpone the expiry for more than 1 year after 31 December 2026.
- (3) Section 210(2A) to (6)—
 - renumber* as section 210(3) to (9).

73 Amendment of s 262 (Establishment of detention centres and other places)

Section 262—

insert—

- (2) For the purposes of the *Human Rights Act 2019*, section 43(1), it is declared that subsection (1) has effect—
 - (a) despite being incompatible with human rights; and
 - (b) despite anything else in the *Human Rights Act 2019*.

- (3) Despite the *Human Rights Act 2019*, section 43(3), subsection (2) does not apply to a regulation made under subsection (1)—
 - (a) before 23 August 2023; or
 - (b) that declares subsection (2) does not apply to the regulation.
- (4) Before recommending to the Governor in Council the making of a regulation under subsection (1) to which subsection (2) applies and that establishes a detention centre, the Minister must have regard to whether the establishment of the detention centre would be compatible with human rights.
- (5) To remove any doubt, it is declared that—
 - (a) subsection (4) does not require the Minister to comply with the *Human Rights Act 2019*, section 58; and
 - (b) a failure to comply with subsection (4) does not affect the validity of the regulation.
- (6) A regulation made under subsection (1) to which subsection (2) applies expires when subsection (2) expires.
- (7) This subsection and subsections (2) to (6) and (8) expire on 31 December 2026.
- (8) A regulation may postpone the expiry of this subsection and subsections (2) to (7) but can not postpone the expiry for more than 1 year after 31 December 2026.

74 Insertion of new s 262A

After section 262—

insert—

262A Human Rights Act 2019, s 58 does not apply to particular acts and decisions

- (1) It is declared that the *Human Rights Act 2019*, section 58 does not apply to acts and decisions that—
 - (a) are reasonably necessary for the administration of this Act; and
 - (b) relate to—
 - (i) a child in a relevant detention centre; or
 - (ii) the placing of a child in a relevant detention centre.

Examples of acts and decisions—

- a decision by the chief executive under section 56 or 265 to place a child in a relevant detention centre
- the transportation of a child to a relevant detention centre
- the chief executive's carrying out of their responsibility under section 263 for the wellbeing of a child detained in a relevant detention centre
- the chief executive's carrying out of their responsibility under section 302 to establish programs and services for a child detained in a relevant detention centre

- (2) This section expires on 31 December 2026.
- (3) A regulation may postpone the expiry of this section but can not postpone the expiry for more than 1 year after 31 December 2026.
- (4) In this section—

relevant detention centre means a detention centre established by a regulation to which section 262(2) applies.

75 Amendment of s 272 (Ordinary visitor)

Section 272(1)—

insert—

- (e) the inspector of detention services.

76 Amendment of s 276DB (Review by Childrens Court)

Section 276DB—

insert—

- (6) The proceeding must be heard by the Childrens Court constituted by a Childrens Court judge.

77 Omission of s 276G (Application of subdivision)

Section 276G—

omit.

78 Amendment of s 276H (Prison transfer notice)

- (1) Section 276H, before subsection (1)—
insert—
- (1A) This section applies in relation to a person—
- (a) remanded in custody in detention in relation to a charge of an offence; and
 - (b) who is at least 17 years and 10 months; and
 - (c) for whom—
 - (i) there is no future court date in relation to the charge; or
 - (ii) the future court date in relation to the charge is in at least 2 months time.
- (2) Section 276H(1)(d)(i), 'subsection (6)'—
omit, insert—
subsection (7)
- (3) Section 276H(3), 'Subsection (2)'—
omit, insert—
Subsection (3)
- (4) Section 276H(4), 'subsection (3)'—
omit, insert—
subsection (4)
- (5) Section 276H(1A) to (6)—
renumber as section 276H(1) to (7).

79 Amendment of s 276I (Decision of chief executive)

- (1) Section 276I(1), 'the person a prison transfer notice'—
omit, insert—
a person a prison transfer notice under section 276H
- (2) Section 276I(2)(a), 'section 276H(1)(d)'—
omit, insert—
section 276H(2)(d)

80 Amendment of s 276J (Review by Childrens Court)

- (1) Section 276J(1), 'transfer the person'—
omit, insert—
transfer a person
- (2) Section 276J—
insert—
- (5A) The proceeding must be heard by the Childrens Court constituted by a Childrens Court judge.
- (3) Section 276J(5A) and (6)—
renumber as section 276J(6) and (7).

81 Amendment of part 11, hdg (Transitional provisions)

Part 11, heading, after 'Transitional'—
insert—

and validation

82 Insertion of new pt 11, div 22

Part 11—
insert—

Division 22 Validation and transitional provisions for Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023**414 Definition for division**

In this division—

former, for a provision of this Act, means the provision as in force from time to time before the commencement.

415 Validation of holding of child remanded in custody before commencement

- (1) This section applies if, before the commencement—
- (a) a child was remanded in custody by a court; and

- (b) the child was subsequently held by the commissioner of the police service; and
 - (c) the court did not make an order under former section 56(4) in relation to the child.
- (2) The child is taken to have been in the lawful custody of the commissioner of the police service while the child was held by the commissioner.
- (3) Anything done in good faith in relation to the child while the child was held by the commissioner of the police service is as valid and lawful as it would have been if the court had made an order under former section 56(4) in relation to the child.
- (4) To remove any doubt, it is declared that, in a proceeding in which good faith under subsection (3) is relevant, the burden of proof is on the person who seeks to show a lack of good faith.

416 Validation of holding of child sentenced to detention before commencement

- (1) This section applies if, before the commencement—
- (a) a child was sentenced by a court to serve a period of detention; and
 - (b) the child was subsequently held by the commissioner of the police service; and
 - (c) the court did not issue a warrant under former section 210(2) in relation to the child.
- (2) The child is taken to have been in the lawful custody of the commissioner of the police service while the child was held by the commissioner.
- (3) Anything done in good faith in relation to the child while the child was held by the commissioner of the police service is as valid and lawful as it would have been if the court had issued a warrant under former section 210(2) in relation to the child.
- (4) To remove any doubt, it is declared that, in a proceeding in which good faith under subsection (3) is relevant, the burden of proof is on the person who seeks to show a lack of good faith.

417 Application of s 56 to child remanded in custody before commencement

Section 56 applies to a child who—

- (a) before the commencement was remanded in custody by a court; and
- (b) was subsequently held by the commissioner of the police service; and
- (c) on the commencement is still held by the commissioner of the police service.

418 Application of s 210 to child sentenced to detention before commencement

Section 210 applies to a child who—

- (a) before the commencement was sentenced by a court to serve a period of detention; and
- (b) was subsequently held by the commissioner of the police service; and
- (c) on the commencement is still held by the commissioner of the police service.

Clauses 48 to 51, as amended, agreed to.

Third Reading

Division: Question put—That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

AYES, 50:

ALP, 47—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, S. King, Lauga, Lui, Madden, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

NOES, 33:

LNP, 31—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Pairs: A. King, Millar; Linard, Simpson; Pitt, O'Connor.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

Question put—That the minister's amendment No. 30 be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment as circulated—

30 Long title

Long title, 'and the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*—

omit, insert—

, the *Mental Health Act 2016*, the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*, the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*, the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Regulation 2012*, the *Police Service Administration Act 1990*, the *Summary Offences Act 2005*, the *Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991* and the *Youth Justice Act 1992*

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

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Toowoomba North South Transport Corridor



Mr WATTS (Toowoomba North—LNP) (6.03 pm): Today I would like to address the corridor that is to run from north to south around the western side of Toowoomba and the Highfields southern connector corridor. There has been a lot of angst about this in my community and I know that the minister has received a fair amount of correspondence in relation to it. I hope that the petition that was tabled this week, which had 10,360 signatures on it, will help the minister make a decision to stop the existing process, consult with the community and find a better corridor than the one proposed.

The proposed corridor has the potential to upset some traditional custodians. I table a submission from the custodians at Gummingurru. The road will affect a significant spiritual and cultural landscape. I have a couple of copies of the submission for the ministers. I see they are both here and I would love to share it with them because the corridor should avoid and give a wide scope to that area.

Tabled paper: Document, dated 14 August 2023, titled, 'Gummingurru Ceremonial Site and Cultural Landscape: A vitally significant spiritual place' [\[1199\]](#).

Where possible, the corridor should also avoid people's homes, some of which have been there for many generations. In the very northern part, outside of my electorate, there is concern about koala habitat. I understand the department has used some mapping that is potentially a bit out of date. People have developed land and built homes in recent times. This project needs a serious review, whether it is about the effect on cultural heritage, the environment or, most importantly, people's homes and lifestyles. I think we can do better. My community accepts that we need a corridor but we can do better than the corridor that is proposed.

There are a few outstanding questions. Alternatives were considered, but nobody has seen them. We would like to see the selection criteria for this particular track and the consultation process that is going to be implemented with direct landholders, particularly those whose homes would be directly impacted when there is an alternative near them. I hope that the minister will, with good conscience, look at this process, consider halting it and then restart it with a more consultative approach

Redcliffe Electorate, Events



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (6.06 pm): I rise to share with the parliament some of the wonderful events that have been happening in my electorate recently. As we know, Redcliffe is known for our beautiful beaches, cafes and restaurants, but my community is also known for hosting events that people love to flock to.

I want to talk about a really important fundraiser that was held a week ago for Chameleon Housing so that they can build more youth shelters for disengaged and vulnerable youth who find themselves unable to reside in their own homes. I acknowledge Ausbuild, the major sponsor, which is partnering with Chameleon Housing to build that housing, and Moreton Bay Region Industry and Tourism, which put on the event. This year they raised \$110,000. I thank them and everybody who attended to support that fundraising event.


At the end of June, we celebrated 100 years of the Redcliffe Show. It is a significant anniversary that was marked by an award from the Queensland Chamber of Agricultural Societies. I say a big thank to President Garry Barlow, the management team and the executive for all of their hard work. I thank all of the volunteers who helped to bring their vision to life. I thank the sponsors, the local businesses, the artists and hobbyists who had work on display, the school students, the ride operators and the food van operators who brought us the most exhilarating and delicious experiences. I know the Ekka is good but the Redcliffe Show is just as good—just saying.

In July we hosted the annual Jetty 2 Jetty fun run. I have been participating in the Jetty 2 Jetty since 2007. I believe it is one of the most scenic fun runs in Queensland. I congratulate the almost 5,000 participants in that event. Of course, funds raised always go to a great cause in our community.

In August, it was a privilege to attend the Moreton Bay Food and Wine Festival 2023, located in the beautiful Woody Point area in my electorate. The festival was held across three days. It was a fantastic event, boasting celebrity chefs, cooking demonstrations, seaside bars and unique dining experiences along the water's edge. The festival is part of the council's regional economic development strategy goal to become a bigger, brighter, bolder region showcasing two of its four industry priorities, food and agribusiness, and tourism and major events. I think we had around 20,000 foodies visit over those three days.

I give a big shout-out to Redcliffe State High School hospitality students who worked at those events and the dinners and lunches that were held. It is wonderful to see our school students benefitting from those events as well. It was a wonderful showcase for our electorate and also businesses right across the Moreton Bay region. We hope people will continue to support and buy products from them all year around and not just over the three days of the festival. I express my thanks to all the event organisers for putting on those amazing events over the past few months.

Joyce Newton OAM Memorial Bursary


 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (6.09 pm): Many members here will have heard me speak before of my dear friend Joyce Newton OAM and her many legacies: her contributions to politics, the dairy industry, health and education in the Sunshine Coast hinterland and so much more. Joyce was an absolute powerhouse of a woman and I miss her dearly. On her passing in 2018 and with the blessing and support of her family, I established the Joyce Newton OAM Memorial Bursary for Glass House year 11 and 12 students to honour her incredible life. To apply for the bursary, students shared their school achievements, the field of study they wished to pursue after school and how a bursary would aid their educational goals and, importantly, outlined how Joyce contributed to our community.

I would like to express my gratitude to all of the applicants for this year's bursary: Charlie Bidgood from Glass House Christian College; Nathaniel Audley and Kelly Schofield from Maleny State High School; Nina Taylor from St Columban's College; and Nikita Emhofer from Beerwah State High School. Your applications and interviews were all exceptional and selecting a winner was no easy task. The students highlighted some of Joyce's achievements, including her time teaching mathematics and science and being the driving force behind the construction of an indoor activity centre at Maleny State High School. Nina from St Columban's College put it pretty succinctly: 'What did Joyce Newton do? Well, what did she not do?'

After much deliberation with Joyce's daughter Jen, who has joined us here tonight, we decided to award the 2023 bursary to Nikita Emhofer, who is also in the gallery here this evening. The competition was so fierce that we have recognised two runners-up in Nina and Kelly. In her application Nikita discussed how she juggles her schooling with assisting a small business, learning the ropes of entrepreneurship and gaining practical skills. Upon graduation, Nikita has ambitions to study medicine and eventually to become a paediatric doctor. Her motivation stems from wanting to aid children who often fall through the cracks—an experience she witnessed with her own brother, who has multiple disabilities. Nikita aptly stated in her application: 'The idea of standing up for kids whom others deem too challenging is so riveting to me.' This is a young woman who shares the spirit of Joyce Newton.

Nikita has earned a \$1,000 gift voucher for Concept IT in Maleny along with dinner here in parliament tonight. To Nikita and her parents, Michael and Linda: it is an honour to have you join us. To quote Nikita once more: 'Joyce was truly a woman of substance and admirable character.' Nikita, the same can already be said of you. Congratulations once again.

Aspley Electorate, Schools

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (6.12 pm): I rise to speak about some incredible milestones and significant investment at Aspley schools. Aspley State High School recently hosted a fantastic evening which showcased its impressive student talent and provided a diverse range of activities to celebrate its 60th birthday. There was minigolf. The Brisbane Roar were there. There was a football game, school tours, school memorabilia, a roll call and, of course, as it was an Aspley State High School event, amazing young singers and bands on the stage all night playing fantastic music. I was proud to support and attend such a large community-driven affair where you could see how loved and rich the school's history and present are.

With the school hosting flashback tours, you could get a feel of the history its buildings hold—the old ones and the new hall which we opened just a few years ago. Live music performances played throughout the entire night by students from their vocal excellence and band and performance programs. The student bands included many I have seen before including Old Mate Special, Sons of Hades and Melophobia as well as talented student solo singers Dylan Seiler, Phoenix Symonds and Zoe Holmes. Aspley alumni the Watchmen Band also visited for a legendary performance. Seeing students come back to perform at their old school really did make the celebration feel like a family affair.


These outstanding musical performances were also accompanied by the 60th celebration football match between current students and alumni. It was fantastic to see current and ex-students compete head-to-head. Seeing both music and sporting talent, I got to see the plethora of opportunities that the school provides for all its students. It continues to be a cornerstone within the electorate. I thank the school for organising such a fantastic and engaging celebratory event. Well done to Principal Jacquita Miller for a great night.

This Saturday I will be attending Geebung State School's 70th birthday celebration. I have heard that the instrumental ensemble and choir have been hard at work practising for their performances, to be hosted in the hall and courtyard. There will be alumni and past students in attendance, memorabilia displays and stalls to be run by the student council, the school chaplain and the very hardworking P&C.

I look forward to soon opening Aspley Special School's new two-storey 12-classroom learning facility. This \$11 million newly completed school block will expand the school's resources to ensure it can continue to develop a supportive and modern learning environment for all students. I thank the education minister for that brilliant project. Every child deserves an education—from prep to year 12—and every child deserves good facilities. This is why I am extremely proud to be opening this great facility at Aspley Special School.

I wish good luck to the Aspley Hornets QAFLW team. They are in their very first grand final this weekend. They are playing against Bond Uni. Good luck against the Silvertails. The Hornets have a lot of teams still in preliminary and qualification finals. They are having an outstanding season. Well done to them. I also wish good luck to the Aspley Devils under-15 division 3 boys. They are playing in the grand final on Sunday against Pine Central. I am sure they will bring it home.

Bushfire Preparedness

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (6.15 pm): Now is the time to plan and prepare. This is the direct warning that has been issued by the chief executive of the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council in relation to the increased risk that Queensland is facing for the forthcoming bushfire season. Lower rainfall, increasing and drying fuel loads and warmer temperatures over coming months has significantly increased the risk of bushfires for our local communities, including in the electorate of Moggill.


On behalf of local residents of the electorate of Moggill, I have already formally written on a number of occasions to both the Queensland Minister for Fire and Emergency Services and the Brisbane City Council requesting that additional emergency management resources and support be made available as well as direct assistance be provided to local residents seeking to clear fuel loads on their properties. It is imperative that the state government and the Brisbane City Council work collaboratively together to ensure that every resource, including additional funding, be made available to support the important work of our local Brookfield Rural Fire Brigade, the Pullenvale Fire Station and the Moggill Group State Emergency Service. I again reiterate my previous advocacy and joint community support for the establishment of an additional dedicated Rural Fire Service brigade and provision of additional SES resources to support local residents of the suburbs of Karana Downs, Mount Crosby, Kholo, Anstead, Bellbowrie, Moggill and surrounds.

It is also imperative that local residents have full access to the Australian warning and early alert system that is fit for purpose and that delivers information and warnings, including bushfire alerts, in a timely and accurate manner. There must be open and clear lines of communication and responsibility between relevant state and local government authorities.

We all have a role to play to ensure that our families, home and communities are best prepared as possible for not only bushfires but other significant events. It is important that local residents are fully prepared and understand their level of risk. I strongly encourage all local residents of the electorate of Moggill—and indeed all Queenslanders—to take action now and to plan and prepare for the coming 2023-24 bushfire season. This includes removing dried vegetation and potential fuel loads, cleaning out home gutters and keeping the grass around properties well maintained. Residents in rural and semirural areas have also been asked to ensure that there is easy access to their property and that a sustained water supply is available if the need arises. Residents should also take the time to check their pumps and water sources.

I implore all residents to visit the Get Ready Queensland website, getready.qld.gov.au, for a wealth of important information so that residents can understand their risk, prepare a household emergency plan and pack their household emergency kit. Finally, as always in times of natural disaster and emergency, local residents are reminded to listen to the advice of our dedicated emergency services.

Bushfire Preparedness

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (6.18 pm): The first pipes for the \$983 million Fitzroy to Gladstone pipeline have arrived in Rockhampton, signalling that preparations are well underway for the start of construction. This is another major project for Central Queensland. Currently we have seen about \$4 billion in investment into major infrastructure projects which include our schools, Browne Park, numerous roads—including the Rockhampton Ring Road—and of course Rookwood Weir, which is now about 95 per cent complete.


This pipeline is 117 kilometres in length and will run from the lower Fitzroy River in Rockhampton and connect to Gladstone Area Water Board's existing water network at Yarwun, providing long-term water security to Gladstone industry and supporting the ongoing economic development in the region. The Palaszczuk government approved construction of the \$983 million project and has contributed \$548 million in the last budget.

The pipeline will have the capacity to transport 30 gigalitres per annum from the Fitzroy River to Gladstone. The pipes are being manufactured by Steel Mains Pty Ltd, an Australian manufacturer and supplier of complete steel. Works are underway and the expected project completion will be late 2026, subject to weather and construction conditions.

We are eager to see the lasting and positive legacy that the Fitzroy to Gladstone pipeline will have on our region as a result of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to supporting local businesses and the local workforce. We expect to see at least 40 per cent of the Fitzroy to Gladstone pipeline construction costs spent locally through the duration of this project, which is a fantastic opportunity and economic boost for Rockhampton. Rockhampton is very busy at present. Our local businesses are saying trade is very good.

The Fitzroy to Gladstone pipeline will create more than 400 jobs at the peak of construction in Rockhampton and Gladstone. We are also investing the time and the money into upskilling our next generation with more than 25 apprenticeships and trainees. Over 10,000 hours of training is being facilitated as part of this project. This is another great Labor project supporting our region and looking after regional Queensland.

Chalumbin Wind Farm

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (6.21 pm): I rise to highlight the hypocrisy surrounding wind farms. The Tully-Millstream Hydro-electric Scheme was a clean, green approved project that had started construction to power 100,000 homes and save \$200 million in electricity transmission losses, with all profits returned to the state. Sadly, it was abandoned in 1988 due to the declaration of the Wet Tropics World Heritage area, in which the project would partially be located. Politicians, environmental groups, tree huggers—you name it—jumped on the bandwagon, citing perceived environmental concerns to stop the project.

Fast forward to today and there has been complete silence from politicians, the same environmental groups—the WWF and the Australian Conservation Foundation—towards the proposed Chalumbin Wind Farm on the Atherton Tablelands. This is despite the wind farm location being right next door to the World Heritage listed Wet Tropics area. These same environmental groups have now magically turned a blind eye and believe that if it is a wind farm it must be good. However, they could not care less about the destruction the wind farm would cause to our natural habitat and wildlife. Even the state and federal Greens are still silent on this issue. However, locals have been fighting back and are rallying to stop this wind farm that will be the third one built that surrounds the township of Ravenshoe. This wind farm will comprise some of the tallest turbines in the Southern Hemisphere which will destroy forest and threaten endangered species.

To further highlight the renewable fantasy to achieve the government's 50 per cent renewable target by 2030, this will require an additional 2,200 megawatts of new renewables, which means 540,000 hectares of land has to be cleared for wind farms, excluding transmission lines. As long as it is a wind farm, foreign owned companies can clear whatever they like. Governments continue to knock back any new water project proposed while at the same time wind farms are given a free pass to completely destroy natural habitat. There is hope with the state government earlier this month announcing a review of the requirements for wind farm developments to identify how they can better protect areas of high ecological and biodiversity value. I believe this is effectively an admission that the Chalumbin approval was a mistake and it is a clear warning to the federal minister ahead of a decision on final approval of the Chalumbin Wind Farm in September. In light of this announcement, I find it incredible that the federal government is still considering this project.

There is a town that has been continually done over and that is Ravenshoe, and I 100 per cent support them.

Federal Labor Government, Bulk-Billing



Mr POWER (Logan—ALP) (6.24 pm): As we well know, under the Morrison LNP government we saw more and more GPs step away from bulk-billing. The effective cuts to Medicare payments by the LNP made it harder and harder. This had a significant effect on locals in Logan. Locals in Hillcrest, Park Ridge, Boronia Heights and right through Browns Plains—the member for Woodridge is here with me—had to pay more. They were sometimes put off going to the doctor altogether which meant that they got sicker. We know that the LNP cuts had a real effect on the Queensland hospital system—

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr POWER: That is right. This is what some think. It added to the pressure on our hospitals and made what could have been a simple GP treatment into a multiday stay in a hospital. That is why I am so pleased that the new Anthony Albanese Labor government is taking this problem seriously. Locally, Jim Chalmers knows that and he is investing in the Browns Plains Medicare Urgent Care Clinic. After nine long years of LNP neglect Jim and Albo tripled the bulk-billing rate. That is the biggest increase in 40 years. It is going to help bring back bulk-billing. Even better, they are investing in the local Browns Plains Medicare Urgent Care Clinic. The urgent care clinic bulk bills, but it also has expanded services—including X-ray—extended hours seven days a week and has highly trained doctors, some of whom I have met. There is no need for an appointment. It will help support our hospital system.

At Logan Hospital there is investment in over 206 new beds, upgraded maternity services, four new floors and a modular ward. There was no investment in Logan Hospital from the LNP government. Now we have a real partnership with a new government that cares about increasing bulk-billing rates because they know it takes the pressure off emergency departments. They are putting money into the urgent care clinics. They are partnering with us in investing in the Logan Hospital.

On a personal note, when Jack broke his arm at the Park Ridge soccer club—and we were not certain his arm was broken, but we knew he was in pain—we had to take him to Logan Hospital where the service, frankly, was exemplary. They were fantastic. This urgent care clinic would have provided us and other families like mine in the local Browns Plains area with a choice. Jack and I could have gone to the urgent care clinic and received all of the treatment he needed, including X-rays and setting. That would have made a tremendous difference and we would not have had to put any pressure on the Logan emergency department.

Theodore Electorate, M1



Mr BOOTHMAN (Theodore—LNP) (6.27 pm): I rise tonight to talk about the traffic chaos that is forced upon my electorate every time there is an accident on the M1 motorway, especially when the accidents occur within close proximity to the Coomera River bridge. Last weekend a serious accident on the M1 motorway once again sent the Theodore electorate into a complete meltdown. I table a congestion map for the benefit of members.

Tabled paper: Map, undated, depicting traffic congestion along the M1 motorway on the Gold Coast [1200].

If members look closely at this congestion map, they will see that most of the traffic was forced across the John Muntz Bridge, which is located in my area. This bridge has had its connection road washed away back in 2017. According to the department's figures, 19,492 vehicles use this section of road daily. These figures do not include the enormous number of vehicles that are forced to use this connection road when there is an accident on M1 motorway.

On 14 October 2020, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads finally committed to fixing the riverbank upstream of the John Muntz Bridge. I quote from an interview on the minister's Facebook where he said—

This is also about strengthening the embankment further up so that the erosive impact of the river in another kind of event will have a lot more bank protection so I think that's something people wanted to see and Labor is delivering it.

Yet in this year's QTRIP document the funding for these important works has disappeared. I am regularly reminded by residents—people like Bill Page, Scott Stratton and other locals—of the critical importance of the John Muntz Bridge for our local community.

Residents are watching the riverbank slowly get eaten away during heavy rain events. It will only be a matter of time before erosion will get behind the rock enforcement adjacent to the bridge, therefore placing the connection road at risk again. Locals have vivid memories of the traffic chaos and the damage to local businesses when this arterial link was severed last time. They expect the government to do everything they can to protect this critically important infrastructure.

This bridge is not just the gateway for my electorate. It is also the gateway for Mount Tamborine. It is also—and this is very important—a backup link for the M1 motorway every time we have an accident. This is why it is so important for my residents to have this fixed. If it were fixed properly when it originally blew out, it would have cost probably less than one-eighth of what it would cost today. By delaying it, it is going to cost more and more and more. Nineteen thousand cars use this bridge daily. It is a critical piece of infrastructure on the northern Gold Coast.

Lenthall, Mrs P



Mr BROWN (Capalaba—ALP) (6.30 pm): We lost an absolute stalwart of the Labor Party and the Labor movement in Capalaba with the passing of Pam Lenthall. I wish to take the opportunity to pay tribute to Pam, a woman and an activist of the highest calibre. Pam was a true Labor warrior, faithfully serving our party, and a formidable activist for over 40 years. Pam was there through the highs and lows of many election campaigns during that time. In the dark days that followed the 2012 wipe-out, Pam and her devoted husband, Barry, were instrumental in the survival and the growth of the Capalaba branch.

She was immensely dedicated to the cause in every community she lived in throughout the state—from Cairns, where she served as a councillor on the former Mulgrave shire council in the nineties, to the Lions Club on the Sunshine Coast and to Capalaba and Redlands over the last 20 years. Pam served for decades in many branch executive roles and on committees and enthusiastically contributed to policy debates, events and, of course, countless election campaigns at every level. Pam and Barry were absolute legends as booth captains for the Vienna Woods branch. There is no doubt that in most of my election campaigns the Vienna Woods branch in my electorate had the highest number of Labor voters. I always appreciated her sincerity, support and advice. I was deeply honoured to have her on my campaign teams each time.

Pam was well loved by all who associated with her. She would always take new members under her wing with her warmth and sincerity. There was no task or request too challenging for Pam. She was truly a force to be reckoned with in our great party.

Pam's own experience of serving in local government saw her become a passionate champion for increasing the level of female involvement in politics. She was heavily involved in Emily's List and Labor women events, actively encouraging more women to participate in our great party and eventually run for office. Our party is better off because of champions like Pam.

Pam was awarded life membership of the Australian Labor Party in 2025 in recognition of her unwavering dedication and service to our party. She continued to serve our party up until her health declined in recent years.

My thoughts and the thoughts of the Capalaba branch are with Pam's beloved husband, Barry, her family and friends. Undoubtedly it has been a difficult time for them. We will remember Pam as a true Labor warrior, a passionate activist for social justice and dearly loved by her family, her friends and her community.

The House adjourned at 6.33 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, Lauga, Leahy, Lister, Lui, MacMahon, Madden, Mander, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke, Palaszcuk, Pease, Perrett, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting