



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Hansard Home Page: <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/hansard>

Email: hansard@parliament.qld.gov.au

Phone (07) 3553 6344

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 12 October 2023

Subject	Page
SPEAKER'S STATEMENT	2987
Member for Clayfield	2987
SPEAKER'S RULING	2987
Same Question Rule	2987
SPEAKER'S STATEMENT	2988
School Group Tours	2988
MOTION OF CONDOLENCE	2988
Ahern, Hon. MJ, AO	2988
PETITIONS	2997
TABLED PAPERS	2998
MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS	2998
Manufacturing	2998
Townsville, Community Cabinet	2999
Mangoes	2999
Renewable Energy, Projects	2999
Critical Minerals	3000
Workplace Safety	3001
Rockhampton Hospital, Patient Complaint	3001
Personal Mobility Devices	3002
Renewable Energy	3002
Community Safety	3003
Housing, Modular Homes	3003
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Sector	3004
Resources Industries, Safety	3004
Bushfire Preparedness	3005

Table of Contents – Thursday, 12 October 2023

YOUTH JUSTICE REFORM SELECT COMMITTEE	3006
Order of Appointment	3006
Membership	3007
LEGAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE	3007
Membership	3007
SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT	3007
PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE	3007
Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner, Report	3007
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner: Report of the work and activities of the Crime and Corruption Commission under chapter 11 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, dated September 2023.	3007
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	3007
Sexual Assault Services	3007
Sexual Assault Services	3008
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 10 October 2023, from the Leader of the Opposition and member for Broadwater, Mr David Crisafulli MP, to the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women, Hon. Shannon Fentiman, regarding training and provision of sexual assault kits to Queensland Hospitals.	3008
Mental Health	3009
Sexual Assault Services	3009
Infrastructure	3010
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 8 September 2023, from the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure, Hon. Dr Steven Miles, to the Mayor, Redland City Council, Ms Karen Williams, regarding funding provided to Redland City Council.	3010
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 18 September 2023, from the Mayor, Redland City Council, Ms Karen Williams, to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure, Hon. Dr Steven Miles, regarding funding provided to Redland City Council.	3010
Rockhampton Hospital, Patient Complaint	3011
Manufacturing	3011
Sexual Assault Services	3011
Voice to Parliament	3012
Rockhampton Hospital, Patient Complaint	3012
First Nations School Students	3013
Infrastructure Projects	3013
Community Safety	3014
Crocodile Management	3015
Agriculture Industry	3015
Inner-West Brisbane, Primary Schools	3016
Seniors	3017
Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services	3017
Critical Minerals	3018
Callide Power Station	3018
Wet Tropics, Yellow Crazy Ants	3019
PRIVILEGE	3020
Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House	3020
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT	3020
Member for Sandgate	3020
TRANSPORT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	3021
Introduction	3021
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023.	3021
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, explanatory notes.	3021
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, statement of compatibility with human rights.	3021
First Reading	3023
Referral to Transport and Resources Committee	3023
CRIMINAL CODE (SERIOUS VILIFICATION AND HATE CRIMES) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	3023
Second Reading	3023
PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS	3028
Kawana Electorate, Desalination Plant	3028
Social and Affordable Housing	3029
Capricornia Correctional Centre, Grass Fire	3030
Ipswich West Electorate, School Infrastructure	3030
McDonald, Mr JN, AM	3031
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Bundle of tributes to Mr John Norman McDonald AM.	3031
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Order of service for Mr John Norman McDonald AM.	3031
Music Industry	3031
Ipswich Environment Advocacy	3032
Mental Health Week, Remote Communities	3033
Palaszczuk Labor Government, Tax Policy	3033

Table of Contents – Thursday, 12 October 2023

Cairns Convention Centre	3034
Electricity Supply	3034
Mundingburra Electorate, Road Upgrade	3035
Whitsunday Electorate, Road Upgrade; Sexual Violence Awareness Month	3035
Thuringowa Electorate, Roads	3036
Townsville, Youth Crime	3037
Gladstone Engineering Alliance Major Industry, Energy and Manufacturing Conference	3037
Palaszczuk Labor Government, Cash for Access	3038
Fishing Industry	3038
Local Government, Gravel Pits	3039
Morgan, Mr L	3040
STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE	3040
Report, Motion to Take Note	3040
TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE	3045
Report, Motion to Take Note	3045
COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	3052
Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates	3052
PUBLIC RECORDS BILL	3052
Introduction	3052
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Public Records Bill 2023.	3052
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Public Records Bill 2023, explanatory notes	3052
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Public Records Bill 2023, statement of compatibility with human rights.	3052
First Reading	3054
Referral to Community Support and Services Committee	3055
Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date	3055
INFORMATION PRIVACY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	3055
Message from Governor	3055
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Message, dated 12 October 2023, from Her Excellency the Governor, recommending the Information Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023.	3055
Introduction	3055
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Information Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023	3055
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Information Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, explanatory notes.	3055
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Information Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, statement of compatibility with human rights.	3055
First Reading	3058
Referral to Education, Employment and Training Committee	3058
Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date	3058
CRIMINAL CODE (SERIOUS VILIFICATION AND HATE CRIMES) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	3058
Second Reading	3058
Consideration in Detail	3071
Clauses 1 to 6, as read, agreed to.	3071
Clause 7, as read, agreed to.	3071
Clauses 8 to 11, as read, agreed to.	3072
Clause 12, as read, agreed to	3072
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Criminal Code (Serious Vilification and Hate Crimes) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, explanatory notes to Hon. Leanne Linard's amendments.	3072
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Criminal Code (Serious Vilification and Hate Crimes) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Leanne Linard's amendments.	3072
Insertion of new clauses—	3073
Amendment agreed to.	3073
Clauses 13 to 30, as amended, agreed to.	3073
Third Reading	3073
Long Title	3073
Amendment agreed to.	3073
ADJOURNMENT	3073
Merrimac State School	3073
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Nonconforming petition regarding the installation of a water bubbler at Merrimac State School.	3073
Prince Charles Hospital; Aspley Electorate, Sport	3074
Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 4	3075
Cooper Electorate, Bushfire Preparedness	3075
Gold Coast, Crime	3076
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Article from the <i>Gold Coast Bulletin</i> , dated 27 September 2023, titled, 'Inside the brawl that changed the Gold Coast—Broadbeach bikie brawl 2013: Truth finally revealed about night Bandidos and Finks battled in restaurant'	3076
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Article from the <i>Gold Coast Bulletin</i> , dated 2 October 2023, titled, 'Gold Coast bikies laugh off gang 'crackdown', tell police: 'We run this town'	3076
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Article from the <i>Gold Coast Bulletin</i> , dated 12 October 2023, titled, 'Fires a 'warning'	3076
Bundaberg Electorate, Little Dreamers	3077

Table of Contents – Thursday, 12 October 2023

Priority Development Areas; Refugees	3077
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Image depicting a handshake and the phrases 'Labor State Government', 'LNP City Council', and 'Kurilpa TLPI'.	3078
First Nations Children, Voice to Parliament	3078
Theodore Electorate, Bushfire Preparedness	3078
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Document, undated, titled 'Vegetation clearing—fire management'.	3079
Eaves, Mr GR	3079
ATTENDANCE	3080

THURSDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2023

The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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



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

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Member for Clayfield



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, as you are aware, yesterday the member for Clayfield experienced a medical matter in the chamber. I know the member has already thanked fellow members and staff for their assistance and response. I was proud of the way all sides of the House immediately came together to help the member, and once again I was very impressed by the trained first responders, who were fast and professional in rendering assistance, as they always are.

I have heard this morning from the member for Clayfield, who seems to be in very good spirits. He says that, despite rumours he does not have a heart, one has been discovered and it is still beating; therefore, he will not be troubling me to issue writs for a by-election. On behalf of the House, we wish the member well.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER'S RULING

Same Question Rule



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have considered the application of the same question rule to the Body Corporate and Community Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 and the Property Law Bill 2023. Clause 25 of the Body Corporate and Community Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and clause 264 of the Property Law Bill both seek to insert inconsistent versions of a new section into the Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1987 without the omission of any existing section. As drafted, these clauses cannot stand together. I seek leave to incorporate my full ruling circulated in my name.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—APPLICATION OF SAME QUESTION RULE TO BODY CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL AND THE PROPERTY LAW BILL

Honourable members, I have considered the application of the same question rule to the Body Corporate and Community Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 and the Property Law Bill 2023.

The Property Law Bill 2023 was introduced on 23 February 2023. The Body Corporate and Community Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 was introduced on 24 August 2023.

Clause 25 of the Body Corporate and Community Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and clause 264 of the Property Law Bill both seek to insert a new section 205AAA in the Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997 without the omission of any existing section.

The difficulty is that these clauses seek to insert inconsistent versions of section 205AAA at the same point in the Body Corporate and Community Management Act and, as drafted, these clauses cannot stand together. An amendment will be required to either renumber one of the provisions or omit the first amendment agreed to. If the latter, the same question rule will be enlivened and a motion to suspend Standing Order 87 will be required.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

School Group Tours



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Thangool State School in the electorate of Callide, Nambour State College in the electorate of Nicklin, Drillham State School in the electorate of Callide, Cannon Hill Anglican College in the electorate of Bulimba, St Andrew's Anglican College in the electorate of Ninderry, and Toowoomba Christian College in the electorate of Toowoomba North.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Ahern, Hon. MJ, AO



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.33 am): I move—

1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this State by the late Honourable Michael John Ahern AO, a former member of the Parliament of Queensland, Premier of Queensland, and Minister of the State.
2. That Mr Speaker be requested to convey to Mr Ahern's family the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the Members of the Parliament of Queensland, in the loss they have sustained.

Michael John Ahern AO was farewelled at a state funeral in his family church at Caloundra in August. Along with friends and family, it was attended by governors and governors-general, four premiers, state and federal leaders of the opposition, former Speakers, current and former members of parliament, mayors, local councillors, former judges, journalists who had covered Mike's time in office, and Tony Fitzgerald—the man with whom Mike would change the course of Queensland's history. It was an honour to speak at Mike's funeral, and I would like to read into the record some of the words I used on that day.

George Bernard Shaw said, 'A gentleman is one who puts more into the world than he takes out.' Mike Ahern was one of the truest gentlemen I ever met. Mike was elected on St Patrick's Day weekend, 16 March 1968. He would say that he was born into a political life. Mike's father, Jack, was president of the Country Party and his close friend was former premier Sir Frank Nicklin. Then aged 25, Mike was at the time the youngest person ever elected. He said that everyone called him 'son'—even parliamentary staff. Perhaps that is where he got the habit of calling people 'father'—something that remained long after he stopped being younger than everyone else. The voters of Landsborough re-elected Mike Ahern eight times until his retirement in 1990. He served them an astonishing 22 years.


We choose our leaders never knowing the storms that will come to test them. With the benefit of hindsight, we can see from the beginning that Mike Ahern was ahead of his time and was not afraid to stand out on his own. He was the first in his party to hold a university degree when such a thing was regarded with suspicion. He championed new ideas, innovation and social justice issues and had an ironclad moral compass. This would manifest itself when Mike was health minister and AIDS arrived. At the time, a lot of fear surrounded the disease. Mike refused to have anything to do with such small-mindedness and was photographed holding the hands of a patient. As Malcolm McMillan said at Mike's funeral, Mike and federal health minister Neal Blewett had to channel funding in the AIDS fight via Sister Angela Mary Doyle and the Sisters of Mercy at the Mater Hospital. Dr Blewett called them 'the most altruistic money launderers I have ever seen'. Bill Bowtell, Blewett's chief adviser, said of Mike—

Faced with the choice between saving lives and chasing votes, Mike chose the protection of Queensland public health.

Not for the first time it put him at odds with Sir Joh. They were, Mike said, men made of separate moulds. Soon history would put the pair on a collision course. The saying 'cometh the hour, cometh the man' could easily have been coined to apply to Mike Ahern. The immovable object of Sir Joh met the irresistible force of the Fitzgerald inquiry and the rock-solid moral conviction of Mike Ahern. The state sat on the edge of its seat as Mike and Sir Joh faced each other in a stalemate over who should lead Queensland. Sir Joh sacked Ahern and others and literally refused to leave his office. Ahern persisted and won. Despite the political risks, he committed himself to adopting Fitzgerald's recommendations with the first four most profound words ever uttered in our history: 'lock, stock and barrel'. It has remained the high bar the rest of us strive to live up to.

Mike Ahern is remembered for three things: courage, honour and decency. He reached out across the political divide, advising a young Terry White not to weigh in on every political debate unless he knew what he was talking about. 'More people talk themselves out of this place than into it,' he said. The committees Mike introduced to parliament remain enduring cornerstones of our democracy, and his post-political interests in philanthropy and entrepreneurship, including the Liver Foundation and the Queensland Community Foundation, continue the work he began.

Today we are honoured to be joined in the public gallery by Mr Ahern's family. No matter the demands of his public life, Mike ensured that his family always came first. Andrea, Louise, Claire, John, Christine and Sharon, I know how much you miss him. You have lost a much loved giant of your family and Queensland has lost a friend. Mike Ahern stayed true to the adage that it is not the harvest you reap that is important; it is the seeds that you sow. Vale, Premier. You made Queensland a better place.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.38 am): On 2 December 1987 then Queensland premier Mike Ahern sought and received the confidence of the Queensland parliament in his recently appointed government. During that debate he set out his objectives as premier and described how he saw himself and the government he led. He said—

I have always regarded myself as a parliamentarian first and a politician second.

He revealed his plans to make this a reality for the entire parliament, and again I will quote from that speech. He said—

It has been a long, hard, often frustrating struggle to restore the dignity, the power and the influence that this Parliament deserves as of right, and even today much work has yet to be done to elevate this House to its proper standing in the affairs of State. I give an unequivocal assurance that an Ahern Government will move with determination and all possible speed to achieve that elevation and to ensure that the parliamentary institution is held in the highest-possible public regard.

No words could better describe what Mike Ahern sought to achieve in his 22 years in this House. Whatever his innovative solutions to policy challenges, it will be as a champion of this parliament and of integrity in government that he will be remembered. Central to his commitment to service was his passionate belief that the interests of the people always took precedence over the demands of politics. Mike Ahern put people before politics. It was this belief that inspired his public life and formed the basis of his commitment to the wellbeing of others.

Mike Ahern was a son of the Sunshine Coast. The lessons he learned growing up in that part of Queensland stayed with him for his entire life and they pointed to the value he placed on community, belief and family. Educated at Conondale school, Downlands College and the University of Queensland, where he graduated with a degree in agricultural science, Mike Ahern was drawn to politics and the then Country Party. As the Premier said, under the influence of two of his mentors, Mike Ahern was drawn towards a political career. It was in organisational politics that he first made his mark—as state president of the Young Country Party, federal president of the Young Country Party and junior vice-president of the Country Party in Queensland.

Nicklin's retirement from state parliament after nearly 36 years and after nearly 11 years as premier gave Mike Ahern the opportunity to embark on a parliamentary career. The tumultuous Landsborough by-election of March 1968 saw Mike Ahern take his place on the government benches and commence a career of service and commitment to others. Paul Reynolds, in his biography of Mike Ahern *Lock, Stock & Barrel*, pointed to the enigmatic nature of Ahern's entry into parliamentary politics. His youth, education and religious persuasion set him apart from many of his colleagues in the Queensland parliament of the late 1960s. It was in his early days in parliament that Mike Ahern gave voice to those forces that drove his public life. It was a desire to assist others in achieving their goals that motivated him. In his address-in-reply speech in August 1968 he said—


We will seek new solutions to the problems that confront our industries and our people with only one criterion in mind, namely, what is best for the greatest number of people in the State of Queensland.

It was not until 1980—12 years after his election—that Mike Ahern first achieved ministerial rank. He successively held the portfolios of primary industries; industry, small business and technology; and health and environment. However, in the preceding decade he had served as government whip and contributed through membership of two significant select committees—punishment of crimes of violence, and education. It was as a member of these committees that he gave voice to his belief in the importance of this place as a vehicle for social change. To him, parliament was a dynamic institution which had a key role to play in improving conditions within the community. By harnessing its expertise, goodwill and diligence, parliament could make a genuine difference to so many people.

When Mike Ahern became premier in 1987, he embarked on a course designed to change Queensland, restore the fortunes of the then National Party and restore the institutions which he regarded as vital to the state's progress. It was a difficult challenge but one he accepted with a combination of quiet determination, vigorous endeavour and optimism. While his premiership was relatively short, it was marked by a genuine attempt to initiate change and create opportunities for all Queenslanders. That he championed the changes that needed to be made will forever be to his credit. Central to his commitment to his fellow Queenslanders was his belief in the political process and the capacity for practical politics to promote improvements in society. To him, political parties were vehicles for change in which the collective will and commitment could achieve so much.

When I was privileged to be asked to speak at Mike Ahern's funeral, I was told by his daughter Louise of her father's enthusiasm for meetings with the party membership, both during and after his time in this House. As she recalled, the party nourished him. He loved them and they loved him. Upon his retirement from parliament in 1990, Mike's contribution to the wider community did not cease. He established a successful career in business and philanthropy and continued his lifelong ambition of helping others.

Queensland is the poorer for Mike Ahern's passing. This parliament and the entire state owe him a debt of gratitude. He showed us the importance of change, the importance of decency in public life and the value of putting the interests of others over self-interest. To his wife, Andrea; their children, Louise, Claire, John, Christine and Sharon; and their families who join us today, we offer our sincere condolences and welcome you to this House. Mike Ahern's contribution to this state and its people will be remembered for many years. He set an example for all of us to follow.

 **Mr HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (9.44 am): Michael John Ahern was born in Maleny, Queensland in June 1942 and left us in August 2023. I hasten to add that in the 50 years I have lived in Caloundra I do not think I ever heard anyone call him 'Michael'. To Caloundra, he will always be 'Mike'. When his friend and mentor premier Frank Nicklin retired as the member for Landsborough in 1968, Mike was preselected and won the ensuing by-election. Wikipedia tells us that he 'handily won' the ensuing by-election. Well, you might say that. Mike barely fell across the line, with 63 per cent of the primary vote!

The time spent with Frank Nicklin prior to his retirement seems to have been transformative for Mike. Frank was a well-regarded parliamentarian. I imagine the time they spent together driving around the electorate on Saturdays was invaluable to Mike in later life. At the tender age of 25, he became the MP for the seat and remained the member for over 20 years. When eulogising Mike, Malcolm McMillan stated—

He was a cultured man, a man of the arts, an educated man, a first class family man, a man of science and technology, who possessed a constant intellectual thirst to always keep on learning irrespective of what the subject might be.

Much has been said about Mike since his passing: his integrity, his clashes with his predecessor, his brief but highly active tenure as premier—all of which is vital to the commemoration of the man and his legacy. We here are all familiar with Mike's impeccable conduct as it pertains to the Fitzgerald inquiry and his earnest desire to set things right after the disastrous previous few years of his predecessor, but by repetition we risk diluting the magnitude of what Mike Ahern was. The phrase 'lock, stock and barrel' is worth retelling certainly, but let us dig a little deeper and acknowledge Mike's true worth. To do what he did, to say what he said, to enact the things he enacted and to take the stand that he took—these things show not just integrity but also courage, and when I say 'courage' I mean it in its most literal sense. Courage comes from two Latin words: 'cor' meaning heart and 'agere' meaning to act—to act from the heart. That is what Mike did in those dark days. He acted from the heart when many about him could find neither their heart nor their courage.


So far as his family was concerned, Mike did not just represent the seat of Landsborough; he loved it. It was his home. Mike continued to serve as patron of many local organisations long after he retired from parliament because he would never say no if the community needed him. As the member for Landsborough, he fought hard for local schools because he believed in the power of education to transform lives—something Mike and I have in common. To walk down the street with Mike was to feel as though he knew absolutely everyone. He had the most extraordinary memory for names and was always up for a chat—with a cheery 'hello' and a joke or a story to tell. Mike listened—and I mean he really listened, with an open mind and an open heart.

On 25 August Mike was given a state funeral. I had never been to a state funeral and I did not know what to expect. I imagined a service that might have been so ceremonial as to lose some of its humanity. This was absolutely not the case with Mike's state funeral. The reasons for that are sitting in the gallery today. Mike's grandchildren, but especially Mike's children, gave him a send-off such that we would all wish when our time comes. The love, the respect, the adoration, the humour and the palpable sense of loss all came across in the words of his children. I do not know the Ahern family, although I did go to primary school with Louise Ahern. I remember a small girl with a dusting of freckles, short pigtailed and a hand-knitted green cardie. Those are my memories of Louise. I can honestly say that his children did him proud that day. It is testimony to the character of Mike that after 20 years in this chamber he was roundly and genuinely respected by both sides of the House, and how many of us will be able to say that?

In Caloundra, Mike will be remembered for his greatness, but equally he will be remembered as the kindly, softly spoken, silver-haired, extremely tall gentleman, for a gentleman he was by every measure. He strolled along the headlands of Shelly and Moffat beaches with ever a nod and a kind word for anyone who stopped to chat.

I close now with an anecdote that speaks about these very traits. Some years ago, while still a custodial officer, I was coming home after a night shift at six or 6.30 in the morning. I was renting in Moffat Street at Moffat Beach at the time, so I pulled into one of the cafes in Moffat Beach to grab a coffee. Mike was standing at the counter beside me when I ordered and he glanced down at my uniform—he was clearly curious. He asked me where I worked and I told him, 'Woodford Correctional Centre.' He said, after a pause, 'Yes, we had to close down part of Boggo Road jail. It was getting old and the Prison Officers Union was getting very militant.' He asked me, 'What do you do there?' I said with a tiny smirk, 'I am a prison officer and the union vice-president.' At that, with the merest suggestion of a smile, he laid his hand upon my shoulder and said, 'Step lightly, won't you.'

It is customary in this House to conclude a condolence motion with 'vale', meaning 'farewell', but instead I will be borrowing one of Mike's favourite bon mots with the permission of his family. Mike, abyssinia later. You are part of the fabric of Caloundra.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (9.50 am): I, too, rise to address the condolence motion for the Hon. Mike Ahern AO, FTSE. It would be hard to get any more local to the Sunshine Coast hinterland than Michael John 'Mike' Ahern. The second selector in Maleny was a man by the name of Joseph McCarthy. Along with his wife, Marie, they selected 640 acres in 1879, and it was the only selection that crossed the Obi Obi Creek. They were Mike's great-grandparents. His grandfather was incredibly influential in the early history of Maleny. His father, John, or 'Jack', Ahern was born in 1904 at the family property, Connemara, in the Conondale district just down from Maleny. It was a farm that, I was told this morning, Mike loved to continue to visit even after it left family ownership. Jack Ahern sold pine, beech, cedar and hardwood from the property, including much of the timber used in the construction of the Hornibrook Highway bridge that linked Brisbane and the Redcliffe Peninsula in 1935.

I would like to share the following story about Mike's stepmother because it is Maleny folklore. I did forget to check with the family this morning. I hope it is accurate but, if not, it will continue to be Maleny folklore regardless. His stepmother was a lady by the name of Matron O'Laherty from the Maleny Hospital. She was a very righteous lady and never let anyone forget that she was the matron of the hospital. Mike's dad gave up driving; she took over. Over time, Mike's sisters realised she was not driving safely and suggested to Mike that he have a chat to her about giving up her licence. She was so angry with the then premier she told him, 'You might be Premier of Queensland, but you can't take my licence from me.' Mike replied that her driving was not safe and that he could. In turn she said, 'Well, you can't take it from me because I don't have one.' It is true. She was originally from Western Queensland and never had a licence that he could take away.

Ironically, Mike was born in Maleny Hospital and, as others have said, was educated at Conondale State School in the electorate of Glass House and at Downlands College in Toowoomba. He was elected as the member for Landsborough at the age of 25, following the retirement of former premier Frank Nicklin. It remains incredibly daunting that my part of the world has provided two incredible Queensland premiers, but I want to reassure the member for Broadwater that I have no such aspirations. Instead, I will faithfully serve so see him elected as the next Premier of this great state.

In his maiden speech, Mr Ahern also paid tribute to his late leader Mr Pizzey. I quote—

I am sure it was a source of regret to many of us that Mr. Pizzey had only one opportunity to lead his team in an election—the Landsborough by-election. I had the honour of representing his Government in that election. He won it well.

He won it very well, as we heard from the member for Caloundra.

Others will speak of Mr Ahern's time as premier and minister. I want to focus on his service as a local member. He began his representation of Landsborough by speaking at length about the economic opportunities and the challenges facing the agriculturalists on the Sunshine Coast. He never stopped representing the banana farmers, the pineapple farmers, the canegrowers and the graziers. But he was also cognisant of the attractiveness of the Sunshine Coast and what growing numbers of tourists and residents would bring. I quote him again—

I represent in this House the key electorate of the Sunshine Coast of Queensland. This is one of Queensland's fastest-growing tourist areas. Projected growth figures indicate that in 10 years the Maroochy Shire will have a population increase equal to Nambour's present population—7,000 ...

The magnitude of the population growth on the Sunshine Coast may have changed, but the consequences have not. Mike continued—


This growth, although assured, will mean some special problems for the Sunshine Coast, firstly in the provision of school facilities, which will result in an increasing cost burden on this State Government in the future... As the tourist industry surges ahead we will need more policemen in the area to cater for the increasing number of tourists ...

Oh, those troublesome tourists! He got into a stoush with his Labor opponents in his maiden speech over the four-laning of the Bruce Highway, what with the more than 6,000 vehicles a day flowing between Beerburum and Landsborough. It was desperately needed then and it continues to be now.

Because of this continuous advocacy and because he was such a gentleman, such a genuine and approachable man, he was dearly loved in our community. Desley Malone, our resident Maleny historian who helped me with this speech, shared that he was a huge help to her husband, Tom, in establishing Maleny's Committee of the Ageing and Maleny Meals on Wheels. Glass House Mountains pineapple farmer Ken Fullerton was chuffed that Mike agreed to become the first patron of the Beerwah Glass House Mountains Football Club, otherwise known as BeeGees, and he was even more chuffed that Mike returned for the 50th anniversary of the club and, despite the many years in between, still knew Ken by name. In his maiden speech, Mike said that Sir Frank Nicklin may have been 'too honest for the job of premier of this state'. I suspect Mr Ahern was foreshadowing his own legacy.

I had a lot of fun just now in meeting with Mr Ahern's family and, as someone else who has had children grow up with their father in politics, I asked what it was like being in and around this place and government. I got the usual stories about ghosts in the Annexe and how dreadful the family unit is to stay in, but I also had a laugh when his son, John, explained that he made the news for hacking into the ministerial computer system. He turned up at the Executive Building and saw a number written down above the modem and, at the age of 12, a couple of weeks later, decided to put it into his own modem and send his dad a message. Before he knew it, he was being interrogated as to how he had managed to achieve it and made it into the newspaper. Oh, the joys of being a child of a politician!

I pay my respects to his family in the gallery today. Your husband, father, brother, grandfather and friend was a great man. His footprints are all over the electorate I have the honour to represent. As the Leader of the Opposition said, this state owes a debt of gratitude to him and to you for sharing him with us. Rest in peace, Mike Ahern.


 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (9.58 am): I rise to speak to the condolence motion before the House for the former Queensland premier, founder and patron of the Queensland Community Foundation, the Hon. Mike Ahern AO. For many, Mr Ahern will be remembered as a political figure. He held numerous portfolios, most notably health and the environment. As we have heard today, and we know, he was a man of great integrity who steered Queensland through a time of political crisis, but he was much more than that: he was a great statesman who put people ahead of politics. Nowhere is this more evident than in his legacy at the Queensland Community Foundation. It is a legacy that will continue to impact Queensland for generations to come and will honour his memory as it makes changes at grassroots to build a brighter future for Queenslanders to come.

In 1997 Mr Ahern was instrumental in the founding of the QCF, a perpetual charitable trust which was launched with 12 subfunds and just \$300,000. Today his vision has produced 25 subfunds, one of which is the Bayside Community Fund, which is an electorate-based fund dedicated to supporting the Lytton community. This legacy of Mike's, the QCF, has \$121 million in funds, which is carefully managed under founding sponsor QIC and supported by founding funding sponsor Anglo American. More than \$35 million has been distributed to charitable organisations since its inception, with an expected \$5 million being distributed in 2024.

Mike's goal was to create a model for philanthropy that would last for all time. In 2020, when QCF reached \$100 million in trust, Mike was delighted to join the celebrations, despite some health concerns, and was still as full of enthusiasm as ever for his hopes for the fund to alleviate poverty, advance education and support Queenslanders in need.

In 2023 QCF is set to distribute an estimated \$5 million to Queensland non-profits. Since its inception, as I have said, QCF will have distributed just under \$40 million to Queensland charities all across the state. Mike, I am told, was incredibly proud to see the financial rewards of this philanthropic model supporting medical research through the recent pandemic and, of course, the bushfire crisis, just as he envisaged.

Mike was much loved by the community, as could be seen at the recent event for the launch of the QCF funding round at Government House. He was adored not only by the board but also by the staff of the QCF and many of the subfunds that were in attendance that day. Thank you for sharing Mike with us. He was a great human being and we are all the better for having him in our life. Queensland is better for it. Thank you for the lasting legacy you have left, Mike. Vale, Mike Ahern.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.01 am): As we have heard today, Mike Ahern was a man of integrity. As the opposition leader described, Mike himself said that he was a parliamentarian foremost before a politician. That said, Mike believed fundamentally in the party political system in Queensland. His enthusiasm for meetings was described by the Leader of the Opposition—meeting with our party members and our membership—and is well-known and continued well after he left parliament. I know that Mike's enthusiasm for attending party meetings and events carries through to all of the LNP members today, who particularly love the frank and strong advice that our wonderful members give us from time to time, no doubt as they did when Mike attended all those meetings.

It is hard to fathom how big the electorate of Landsborough was. If you go back to the original map of the 1949 redistribution you see that the electorate of Landsborough included Nambour, Landsborough, Caboolture, Woodford and right out to Kilcoy and Somerset. I mention this because I know that some of my own colleagues who represent regional and rural Queensland always whinge about how hard it is to get around their electorate. Some members even have to have little planes to fly around. The Sunshine Coast also had big electorates once upon a time. It was just as hard for people elected on the Sunshine Coast, like Mike Ahern, to get around their electorate because it was so big.

As we saw, after the redistribution in 1958 the boundaries started squeezing in more towards the coast. The redistribution of 1971 included Maroochy, Landsborough and down to Bribie Island. Then, of course, after Mike's election in 1968 there was a redistribution in 1977. It then included Caloundra, Landsborough and Maroochy. Then in the 1986 redistribution it was further contained into the coastal strip and in 1991 the redistribution saw the electorate include Noosa, Nicklin, Mooloolah and Caloundra. I had the pleasure of representing such a large portion in Kawana that Mike represented in the old Caloundra city days, in the old Landsborough shire council days, right up to the Mooloolah River and down to Caloundra, Meridan Plains, Little Mountain, Aroona and Currimundi.

We have seen the great changes. I was talking to Mike's daughter Sharon earlier. She would often drive through the electorate up Nicklin Way—named after Mike's good friend the former premier Nicklin—and over the Ahern Bridge in Currimundi. Mike would reflect on the times when he was a member of parliament for so long for that area and the developments. There was legislation that went through the parliament that dealt with canal estates and he talked about how to get the balance right and what was happening. Mike participated in that debate in 1979. Sharon was telling me that Mike would often reflect on the decisions he had to make back then and the briefings he received by the shire council and also the state ministry about how they were going to proceed with the development that is Kawana Waters at this time.

Many people may not know that Kawana Waters, from Battery Hill north, was used in the war and there are unexploded ordnances including at the newly created Bokarina Beach, which has beautiful houses on it. However, I am assured that all the unexploded ordnances have gone. They did not find any in the excavation—they found a couple! Sharon was telling me that Mike would often refer to the developments coming out of the ground and say that they used to be the firing range with all the unexploded ordnances and the challenges they had to deal with in getting development in what was swamp land through the Kawana estate right through to where the Kawana Waters State College is now, the developments and the building of the canal estates. In fact, the year before Mike was elected in 1968 the Kawana Waters estate was approved. Sir Frank Nicklin was cutting the ribbon of the Kawana Waters estate and the rest is history. The Kawana as we know it today is the result of decisions made way back in the early sixties.

When Mike represented my electorate you could get a three-bedroom house for \$9,700—I think that was on the canal, too—which was still a lot of money back then. You only had to pay a \$50 deposit and you could get a piece of land for \$1,980. As I said, a bridge further south of the Kawana Waters estate over Lake Currimundi on Nicklin Way that had been opened in January 1964 was later named the Ahern Bridge in Currimundi after premier Mike Ahern and his family. He reformed the committee system; he advocated for changing it. He introduced domestic violence legislation into the parliament. His parliamentary record is clear and has been well articulated today.

I want to share a story of a constituent of mine, Joy Sandham. Joy, on hearing the news of Mike's passing, sent me an email. She said—

Hi Jarrod.

...

Finally, I note on the news just now that Mike Ahern has passed away. In the 1980's he was our State member. I met Mike on a number of occasions and really liked him. I found him very approachable. In 1982—

Incidentally, when I was born—

we moved to the Sunshine Coast as we didn't want to have to send our children to boarding school. We built the first house in Bokarina on the corner of Wyanda Drive and Bluebird Parade. Then when we found out that the Council intended building an Ocean Outfall at Bokarina for all the sewerage—I was involved with the group who tried to stop it from happening. After several months collecting signatures at shopping centres etc. Mike Ahern presented our petition in parliament. At the time, I believe it was one of the biggest petitions ever presented in Queensland.

Unfortunately, Joy says the ocean outfall eventually did go ahead. Mike spoke about this petition when he presented it. Where the Ahern family are sitting in the gallery today, one Joy Sandham also sat at that time. Mike mentioned her. He stated—

On behalf of my constituents, some of whom are in the gallery today, I presented a petition to the Parliament this morning. I did so with pleasure. As their representative, I exercised their democratic right to present a petition to the Parliament.

He then went on to talk about the Landsborough shire council. Joy's experience of Mike was that he was a man of integrity who represented his constituents well, was able to meet onsite and presented the petition which contained about 8½ thousand signatures.

The group that they had established way back in 1987, when the petition was presented to parliament, was called CRAAP-PROOF, standing for Concerned Residents Acting against Pollution and People Resisting Ocean Out Fall. That was a long acronym for the time and we have come up with some beauties recently. They tell me that they were sitting in the gallery and they all had their T-shirts on and security told them to cover up. Some 40 years later, nothing has changed; when people come into the gallery with political T-shirts on they are asked to cover up. She also said—

In 1987 I lobbied him to get traffic lights at the Wyanda Drive/Nicklin Way intersection. Bokarina Primary School opened in January 1987 and 90% of the children had to cross the Nicklin Way to get to school. My younger daughter was one of them. There were no traffic lights at any of those Nicklin Way intersections.

He wasn't the Premier at the time, however, he met me at the intersection at 8am one school day. I asked him if he would like to have his children crossing the road without lights and he replied, that he wouldn't like to have to cross that busy road. Diane was 9 at the time and she asked him if he was the boss of Queensland. He laughed and said No—

not at that stage—


We got the lights—

on Nicklin Way. Joy has dug out newspaper article cuttings from the time. One states that 'the estimated ultimate population in the Caloundra-Kawana area is 155,000 persons'. The Sunshine Coast population has absolutely ballooned in that time.

Some former colleagues in this House wanted to be associated with my remarks, including Mark McArdle, the former member for Caloundra, who attended the state funeral for Mike Ahern. He reflected on how wonderfully the children spoke at Mike's funeral and how blessed we are as a society to have not only Mike but also his wonderful family, whom we met at the state funeral. Mark would reflect on Mike's time in Caloundra. He lived in and loved Caloundra, including the beach walks and teaching his children how to deal with problems like waves coming towards you—'dive through it or under it, beat it and you'll come out into the clean air'. He was a humble man who never went out of his way to seek the spotlight—not dissimilar to the current member for Kawana, I suspect!

Those comments were echoed by former member Lawrence Springborg. Lawrence Springborg wished to be associated with these remarks, as did Joan Sheldon, former member for Caloundra and former deputy premier of this great state. Joan advised me that she loved Mike and that he did a great job as the local representative. She was sorry to see him pass. Andrea, Joan wishes me to pass on her apologies that she was unable to attend the funeral for her own health reasons. She loved catching up with Mike at past members functions. She said that he was compassionate and understanding.

Thank you, Mike, for a life of service to community. Thank you, Mike, for your advocacy of Caloundra and Kawana. I thank Andrea and all of her family members for allowing Mike to sacrifice his special time for the good of Queensland and all of its people.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (10.11 am): It is an honour to rise today to support this condolence motion with regard to the former Queensland premier the Hon. Mike Ahern AO. Often what occupies our minds in this place is what happens after politics, what life is like after politics. For some it comes sooner rather than later, but eventually it comes to us all. I know that it must have occupied Mike's mind because, in identifying a need for a model for philanthropy that would last for all of time, the Hon. Mike Ahern established, as the member for Lytton acknowledged, the Queensland Community Foundation in 1997 as a perpetual charitable trust. It was truly bold, but Mike Ahern hatched a cunning plan. I do not know whether the member for Caloundra softened him up or not, but he approached me, as the then assistant secretary of the Queensland Council of Unions, because he wanted to make sure that he had full representation on the board of governors. It was with great honour that I accepted that representation very early in the piece, and that is where I got to know him very well.

The foundation was launched, as the member for Lytton said, with 12 subfunds and only \$300,000. Mike had a vision, but his cunning plan was to put it under the trusteeship of the Public Trustee—the biggest will writers in Queensland. He wanted to not only spread philanthropy to those entrepreneurs who were able to give because they had much but also enable the average person, in making a will, to bequeath funds to a dedicated fund. As we know, the subfunds in the Queensland Community Foundation have grown exponentially. For example, there is a Queensland Teachers' Union Trust subfund. If a teacher wishes to give money to the advancement of education, they can do so in that particular named fund. It was a fantastic plan that I think demonstrated his intellect and his brilliance. He thought up a model enabling philanthropy to be extended to anybody in Queensland. The board of governors, currently chaired by the Hon. Margaret McMurdo, worked very diligently to make sure his vision came to pass. I believe that before his passing Mike was patron of the QCF. He was greatly missed at the 2024 QCF grant round launched at Government House by the Governor on 21 September this year. He was spoken of very fondly.

The fund being under the auspice and trusteeship of the Public Trustee meant there were no administration or government fees. Mike was absolutely determined that that be the case. He wanted to ensure that when an average person, entrepreneur or whoever donated or bequeathed money to the QCF every single dollar went to the charities and organisations that were the beneficiary. That is a truly honourable position to take. He achieved many things in this state, including that. It is wonderful to see.

It was an honour to serve on the very early board of governors as assistant secretary of the Queensland Council of Unions and as secretary. Mike had an amazing way of bringing everybody together to focus on the outcome and to ensure that whatever we did day to day was for the betterment of the average Queenslanders to whom these funds were supposed to go. It was an honour to serve. He set up the fund as a trust deed for income to be applied for the relief of poverty. I think about \$35 million has been raised for that purpose, for the advancement of education—we have heard that Mike had a particular interest in and passion for education; I know that many of us in this House do—and for any purpose that is beneficial to the community. I recall that he was very proud that about 30 per cent of the funds were going to medical research, for the betterment of the health and wellbeing of ordinary Queenslanders. He led and inspired philanthropy across generations in Queensland. It was an absolute honour to get to know him.

We have heard remarks that Mike Ahern was a truly honourable and gentle man, and indeed he was. He was so respectful on every occasion and he had great social justice values. Anyone who walks around with those kinds of values is a very decent human being, and that is exactly what Mike Ahern was. His intellect and brilliance for the betterment of humankind were used to great advantage with the establishment of the Queensland Community Fund. It was an honour to serve with him. I know that he will be missed by all of his family and friends and by many of us in the House. I offer my sincere condolences to all of his family and friends. It was an honour to know you, Mike Ahern. Vale, Mike Ahern.



Ms SIMPSON (Maroochydore—LNP) (10.17 am): I wish to pass my sincerest condolences to the family of the late Mike Ahern, former premier of Queensland and former member for Landsborough. Mike once represented the town of Maroochydore and all of my electorate south of the Maroochy River. In the days when there were only two state electorates on the Sunshine Coast, Landsborough and Cooroora—the latter represented by my late father, Gordon, from 1974.

Others have expounded upon Mike Ahern's profound legacy in this state, but I will add comments about his local legacy and speak to how he was also a very devoted father and family man. I was only a child and a teenager when he was leaving his imprint upon this part of the Sunshine Coast; however, when I was a university student and he was the minister for industry, small business and technology, he kindly gave me an interview for a journalism assignment which I so greatly appreciated—even though, as it was for a university assignment, it would never see the light of day. Despite the fact that he was a busy man, he was kind and helpful. That was also the nature of how he looked after our community.

The Sunshine Coast was an emerging tourism destination with investments being made in world-class accommodation, while our national parks were also being recognised and expanded. As we know today, the tension between population growth and preserving our natural assets is never easy, but the past had some significant milestones of conservation, and those involved in trying to maintain the environment came from the left and right of the political spectrum.

Our area has certainly grown much since Mike's time and his involvement laying the foundations for so much across our community. He played a part in the lead-up to the establishment of the Cooloolool national park which was gazetted in 1975, an area my father represented from December 1974, and they were both involved in the move to remove sandmining and mining leases in some very sensitive areas. Mike was the local MP for the electorate of Landsborough when the waterways of the Pumicestone Passage were gazetted as a marine park in 1986. Kathleen McArthur, the renowned wildflower painter and conservationist and one of the founders of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland, lived in Caloundra and was a leader in the fight to preserve the wallum lands and particularly for the conservation of Cooloolool. She was a passionate advocate and Mike engaged with Kathleen as her local member about this and other environmental issues, particularly during the times when pressures were being brought to bear on the local landscape.

Mike Ahern has a legacy of a loving family, a community he diligently served and a state he led with purpose. To Andrea, all the children and the extended family, I pass on my sincerest condolences. Vale, Mike Ahern.



Mr MICKELBERG (Buderim—LNP) (10.21 am): I want to start by offering my sincere condolences to the family of Mike Ahern on behalf of the Sunshine Coast communities that I represent. I wish the entire Ahern family courage and peace during this most difficult of times. When a 25-year-old Mike Ahern was elected to the parliament in 1968, he represented what is now the Buderim electorate as a part of the Landsborough electorate, as the deputy leader of the LNP, the member for Kawana, spoke about, until it was redistributed in 1985. As a number of members have already mentioned, he had a distinguished career as a minister and premier and I could speak at length about that, but in my contribution today I want to focus on Mr Ahern's time representing what is now the Buderim electorate.


Although I did not have the opportunity to meet Mike Ahern, in preparing for this motion I spoke to some longstanding Buderim residents who lived in our community when Mr Ahern was the state member and the universal feedback was that Mike Ahern was an active local member, a man of integrity and a man who did the utmost for our community. They spoke of his frequent visits to the Buderim Ginger Factory, which has since moved and is now a Woolworths but at the time was the centrepiece of the Buderim community. While I learnt more about Mike Ahern's life I realised I would have enjoyed getting to know Mike Ahern given our paths to this place and the fact that, like Mike Ahern, my family is from the Mary Valley and our family farm is just a stone's throw away from Conondale where Mike was raised. Like Mike, I, too, studied ag science at UQ, so despite our age differences and our life experiences we had similar paths to this place in many regards.

In 1970, just two years after his election, Mr Ahern spoke about the need for a stronger police presence on the Sunshine Coast, as the member for Glass House noted. At the time we only had four police officers working at the Maroochydore station, and that included the area of Buderim and Kawana as well. Interestingly, they were three extra officers staffed there over Christmas to help with the troubles

that came from the influx of tourists. Mr Ahern noted at the time that he did not think 'the rate of growth on the Sunshine Coast area is understood by administrators and that the rate of growth was likely to accelerate in the future'. He certainly did not miss the mark there. When he made those comments, our Sunshine Coast community had a population of about 7,000 and now it is close to 400,000 and we are managing many of the same issues today.

As the member for Glass House noted, Mr Ahern fought for more police on the Sunshine Coast, and we did get that outcome and we thank him for that. His legacy of better roads and of government services to support the growing community of the Sunshine Coast has been essential in protecting the way of life that people on the Sunshine Coast cherish and that many people have moved to the Sunshine Coast to enjoy. Alongside the improvements to infrastructure and government services, the marks of Mike Ahern's commitment to our community are scattered across what is now the Buderim electorate. A couple of years ago after the birth of my youngest child, Lachy, at the Buderim Private Hospital I escaped from the maternity ward for a break of changing dirty nappies and in exploring the hospital I found a stone at the front of the Buderim Private Hospital dedicated by Mr Ahern to mark the start of construction in 1979. That hospital is a pivotal part of our community. Many young families have had their children born at the Buderim Private Hospital—it is the hospital where three of my children were born—and it is an example of the way that Mike Ahern's work to support the growing Sunshine Coast community lives on.

Mike Ahern's life of service to the people of the Sunshine Coast and to all Queenslanders is one that his family should be very proud of—a life well lived. Vale, Mike Ahern.

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to briefly add my voice to the words that have been spoken today and pay tribute to the life and contribution of the late Hon. Mike Ahern AO. I was pleased to host Andrea and family this morning in the Lucinda Bar. It has been covered by many, but his contribution and legacy regarding the Queensland Community Foundation is enormous, as are some of his other achievements. Most of them have been spoken about, but as a former treasurer myself he transformed the Queensland Development Authority to become the Queensland Treasury Corporation, which is also a landmark result for Queensland.

The former premier and member for Landsborough was consistently approachable and supportive of the history of our state and the Queensland parliament and this is marked by, as one example, the donation of his personal copy of the landmark Fitzgerald report to the State Archives which is now commemorated through a display at the parliamentary precinct. We were very fortunate to be joined at the unveiling ceremony by the former premier at that time. He did speak, and he did remind me that his knees were not what they used to be! I want to put on record my condolences to Andrea and the family and I acknowledge that that example of his generosity is just one small illustration of the character and of the man Mike Ahern. Members, I will now ask you to agree with this motion by standing in silence for one minute.

Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, question time will commence at approximately 11.12 am this morning.

PETITIONS

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

Edmonton, Youth Detention Centre

1,534 petitioners, requesting the House to consult with the local community and residents to find a more appropriate site than Edmonton to locate a youth detention centre [\[1632\]](#) [\[1633\]](#).

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

Deongwar State Forest, Logging

1,316 petitioners, requesting the House to end the logging of Deongwar State Forest and transition it to the conservation estate [\[1634\]](#).

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games (Hon. Palaszczuk)—

[1635](#) Response from the Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games (Hon. Palaszczuk), to an ePetition (3913-23) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 855 petitioners, requesting the House to provide local councils and governments access to the state's online petition system

Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services (Hon. Bailey)—

[1636](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (3953-23) presented by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(3), from 175 petitioners, requesting the House to retain the wooden seating benches at Yeerongpilly Railway Station

[1637](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (3956-23) presented by the member for Nanango, Mrs Frecklington, and an ePetition (3920-23) sponsored by the member for Nanango, Mrs Frecklington, from 43 and 229 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to undertake a range of measures to address road safety concerns at the intersection of Buaraba Creek Road and Gatton-Esk Road

[1638](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3927-23) sponsored by the member for Clayfield, Mr Nicholls, from 226 petitioners, requesting the House to upgrade the car parking and accessibility facilities at Albion and Woolloowin railway stations

[1639](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3918-23) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 635 petitioners, requesting the House to deliver a transport bridge connecting the Roma Street Priority Development Area across the rail lines and ICB to Victoria Park

Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women (Hon. Fentiman)—

[1640](#) Response from the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women (Hon. Fentiman), to an ePetition (3926-23) sponsored by the member for Burdekin, Mr Last, from 677 petitioners, requesting the House to install a CT scanner at the Ayr Hospital

Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (Hon. Linard)—

[1641](#) Response from the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (Hon. Linard), to an ePetition (3909-23) sponsored by the member for Hill, Mr Knuth, from 165 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the Stage 2 expansion of the Atherton Forest Mountain Bike Park

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Manufacturing




Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (10.28 am): We are delivering the largest cost-of-living package of any government in the country in response to global and national cost-of-living pressures. Every household is receiving rebates on their electricity bills of at least \$550 this financial year. Pensioners are receiving \$1,072 and rebates are open for energy efficient appliances. We are providing rebates for small business of \$650 on their electricity bills and grants of up to \$12,500 to cut energy costs, and today I can announce even more support. Our government understands that energy is critical to competitiveness in manufacturing and we recognise the importance of manufacturing for secure full-time jobs in our regions. The Australian Industry Group has asked for support for our manufacturers in Queensland to be more globally competitive on energy, and our government is listening.

Our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan will provide renewable and affordable power that will set up manufacturing in our regions for the next century, but delivering that plan takes time. That is why I am pleased to announce today immediate support for Queensland manufacturing businesses with matched grant funding of up to \$25,000 for upgrades that improve energy efficiency. Well done, Minister! That is great news.

This is backed by \$7.1 million in funding over two rounds. Projects could include converting gas or fuel processes to electric; replacing existing dryers with heat pump dryers; replacing non-LED lights with LEDs; or upgrading motors. To be eligible, projects must be able to demonstrate a direct reduction in energy use or carbon emissions by at least 10 per cent. The application guidelines are now available online, with applications opening later this month. Through our \$101 million Made in Queensland

program we have already supported 136 manufacturing projects, supporting over 9,500 jobs and \$190 million of private investment. Our government will always back Queensland manufacturers because it means good, long-term, secure jobs.

Townsville, Community Cabinet

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (10.30 am): From the cape to Coolangatta, from Birdsville to Bundaberg, Queenslanders know that we are a government that shows up and listens. Soon our cabinet will be travelling to Townsville for the eighth regional community cabinet. This is an opportunity for listening. On Sunday, 29 October we will be hosting a community forum event. This is a time for people to have a say on the issues that matter to them. I want to encourage Townsville locals to get involved—mums and dads, business owners, community leaders, young professionals and students. There is an online portal available from today for those interested to register for a meeting. Ministers, assistant ministers and the heads of government departments will be available. Meetings will be around 15 minutes to ensure we are speaking with as many people as possible. Applications will close on Sunday, 22 October.


Local knowledge about the priorities and challenges in Townsville allows us to implement better, community-driven solutions. It is what helps us to create jobs and invest in the services that matter. Over the past year alone, 6,700 jobs have been created in Townsville. The unemployment rate is the lowest in Queensland at 2.7 per cent, down from 11 per cent when the Townsville nickel refinery closed. Now, trade through the port is set to triple as our government delivers a \$251 million channel-widening upgrade. The \$5 billion CopperString 2032 project will unlock hundreds of billions in investment for the region. We are delivering better health services through an expanded Townsville University Hospital, employing more doctors, nurses and allied health professionals.

I have established an Office of the Premier in Townsville that my ministers can utilise as well, and we will also establish a critical minerals office to demonstrate our commitment to delivering for the people of North Queensland. Townsville will continue to grow from strength to strength—powered by its people. If you would like to come along to help build a better Queensland, please register online.

Mr Harper: And Riverway Drive!


Ms PALASZCZUK: We will be talking about Riverway Drive, there is no doubt about that.

Mangoes

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (10.32 am): October is here, which means that Queensland's mango season has arrived. That is welcome news for Queensland's mango producers and mango lovers near and far. While they taste good, our mangoes also make a delicious contribution to Queensland's economy. Queensland's mango industry supports 4,000 jobs and was valued at \$78 million last financial year. In that time, Queensland farmers produced 29,722 tonnes of fresh mangoes. About 3,000 tonnes of those were exported directly to our friends in China, South Korea, the United States, New Zealand and Japan, putting Queensland's fresh produce on the world stage. The iconic North Queensland-bred R2E2 mango accounts for up to 70 per cent of all mangoes exported from Australia. That is good for jobs on the farm, at our ports and in manufacturing and distribution.

Last week the first mango tray was auctioned off for charity at the Brisbane Markets, kickstarting what will be a great season. This year that all-important first box of mangoes sold for \$40,000. To all Queenslanders I say: pick up a fresh mango at your local fruit shop or supermarket. Get behind our farmers and make this mango season the best yet.

Renewable Energy, Projects

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumbidgee—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure) (10.34 am): Over the past year, Queensland has led the nation in the construction of new renewable energy projects. Delivery of our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan is forging ahead, securing our energy future and delivering good Queensland jobs. Early works have started on the CopperString 2032 project, which will form part of a new backbone of high-voltage transmission infrastructure.

Exploratory works have also started on an even bigger project that will pump clean, green energy into our new SuperGrid. Geotechnical exploratory drilling has commenced for the Borumba Pumped Hydro Energy Storage project. Located near Imbil, south-west of Gympie, the Borumba pumped hydro project will be part of the Southern Queensland Renewable Energy Zones. The project, being developed by Queensland Hydro, involves the construction of a new upper reservoir as well as a new dam wall that will replace the existing Borumba Dam wall and increase Lake Borumba's storage capacity from 46 to 224 gigalitres. The project will have the capacity to generate up to 2,000 megawatts of electricity for up to 24 hours at a time—dispatchable energy on tap for a clean energy future.


The Borumba pumped hydro project is a cornerstone of our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. Today I can advise the House that the Coordinator-General has declared the Borumba Pumped Hydro Energy Storage project a coordinated project. The declaration means that a rigorous impact assessment process can now begin. It will streamline and coordinate the whole-of-government assessment including Australian, Queensland and local government environmental, social and economic matters. Queenslanders will have the opportunity to comment during public consultation as part of the environmental impact statement process. The geotechnical drilling currently underway will also help inform the EIS process.

A coordinated project declaration is a major milestone for one of Queensland's most significant renewable energy projects. When complete, Borumba hydro will complement the Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro Project—one of the largest pumped hydro schemes in the world, helping to meet Queensland's energy needs and build a cleaner future. Together, they will provide the long-duration energy storage needed to achieve our renewable energy targets of 70 per cent by 2032 and 80 per cent by 2035. It is our investments in renewable energy opportunities like pumped hydro that will lead Queensland's transition to a low-carbon economy and provide Queenslanders with the new skills and jobs of the future.

Mr SPEAKER: Before the next statement, I would like to alert members to the fact that the Mayor of Alice Springs, Matt Paterson, is in the public gallery today.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Critical Minerals

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (10.37 am): Queensland's abundant mineral wealth means that our state has a natural advantage when it comes to those critical minerals that will drive the global energy revolution. Copper, cobalt, metallurgical coal, vanadium and other minerals all have a vital role to play in building low-emission energy generation and transmission. But Queensland can do so much more than extract these minerals for our global trading partners. Through advanced manufacturing, we can use our ingenuity and expertise to turn these minerals into high-value products that are in hot demand around the world.

This is one of the drivers behind our government's \$100 million Queensland Critical Minerals and Battery Technology Fund. Recently I had the opportunity, along with the Minister for Manufacturing and member for Gladstone, to visit a Gladstone company that is the first to receive an investment from that fund. Alpha HPA takes alumina from Rio Tinto's refinery and turns it into high-purity alumina. Now, thanks to an investment from the Queensland Investment Corporation through the Critical Minerals and Battery Development Fund, Alpha HPA will purchase electric furnaces that can convert high-purity alumina into sapphire glass. While members may not have heard of sapphire glass, almost all of us will be carrying some sapphire glass with us. Sapphire glass is the hardened coating used on the lenses of smartphone cameras and the faces of smartwatches. From refined alumina to sapphire glass, the value of the finished product rises 1,000 times. What a great example of adding value to Queensland minerals, supporting highly skilled, secure manufacturing jobs along the way. Alpha HPA will undertake this entire process using 100 per cent renewable energy.

Our government is already delivering our \$245 million investment in our Critical Minerals Strategy. Now, with this \$100 million Critical Minerals and Battery Technology Fund, we will foster new businesses in these developing industries that might otherwise be lost overseas. As our renewable energy revolution takes hold, our government is supporting more jobs in the low-emission, high-value industries of our future.

Workplace Safety



Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (10.39 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to protecting workers because we all have a right to come home safe and healthy at the end of every working day. October is Safe Work Month and the spotlight is firmly on safety and wellbeing in the workplace. Right across Queensland my department is hosting events, including free support sessions on the Gold Coast and at Toowoomba, Townsville, Cairns, Rockhampton and Mackay. There is also an online speaker series featuring safety advocates such as Maroons legend Kevin Walters and Supercars presenter Riana Crehan, whose dad was seriously injured in a workplace accident.

Tragically, in the past financial year 38 workers died at work and members will be aware that in recent weeks five Queensland workers have lost their lives in the workplace. My sincere condolences go to their families and friends. Behind these numbers are individuals. Each of them was a person who left behind grieving families, loved ones and friends whose lives have been turned upside down. That is why the Palaszczuk government has passed nation-leading laws when it comes to protecting Queensland workers. We will not hesitate to take action, up to and including prosecution, against the employers and businesses that violate these laws and put their workers in danger. Recently I met with my regulator and key stakeholders, including unions, and made my expectations very clear: Queenslanders should be safe at work and employers should be doing everything in their power to make that happen.

However, we will never rest on our laurels and if there is more that we can do for Queensland workers then we absolutely will. That is why we have accepted all 31 recommendations from the independent review into our workplace health and safety laws and I will be introducing legislation later this year. Recently we also appointed a new Work Health and Safety Board and are in the process of appointing members to several industry sector standing committees.

This week is Mental Health Week, which is a timely reminder that safety at work is not just about preventing physical injuries; it includes psychosocial risk management too. Earlier this year our nation-leading code of practice came into effect, which I was proud to launch with Commonwealth gold medallist, small business owner and Queensland Mental Health Ambassador Hayley Lewis. Hayley is doing wonderful work to promote the benefits of mentally healthy workplaces. Next Friday, 20 October, I am looking forward to sharing the stage with her as we announce the winners of this year's Work Well Awards. Members, let me remind you that we sell our labour, not our health. Remember: work safe, home safe.

Rockhampton Hospital, Patient Complaint



Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (10.41 am): Late yesterday the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service informed me of a complaint that they had received from a young woman. In early August a young woman presented in the Rockhampton ED, requesting a forensic examination following an alleged rape. It is clear that she did not receive the timely, compassionate, trauma informed care that she was entitled to and expected. The hospital and health service has apologised to the young woman and I would like to also unreservedly apologise to her for the ongoing impact that this incident has had on her. I understand the health service has been providing support to the young woman and her family while they work through the complaint. I have also asked the HHS to extend my offer to meet with the young woman and her family to discuss her experience, if she wishes to do so.


I can confirm that, as a result of that complaint, a number of improved processes have been put in place at the Rockhampton Hospital, including ensuring that social workers are present from the time of presentation and ensuring continuity of care by a specialised nurse and medical officer. As of today, across the Central Queensland HHS there are now 19 available staff who are trained to administer forensic examinations with new rape kits, including nine in Rockhampton. Training for clinicians is ongoing over the coming months to ensure that even more clinicians are qualified. A highly trained nurse practitioner is now coordinating the service and collaborates regularly with the Queensland Police Service to ensure that the services provide supportive care to victim-survivors. Staff at the Rockhampton Hospital also have 24/7 support from the Clinical Forensic Medicine Unit in Brisbane.

I would also like to update the House that, since several matters concerning forensic examinations were raised earlier this week, at my request the acting director-general met with chief executives from all 16 HHSs to ensure that every woman who presents at an ED requiring a forensic

examination is treated in a timely and trauma informed way, and that occurred yesterday. Every HHS has an adequate supply of new rape kits and over 180 clinicians have undergone the new training. However, as I said on Tuesday, there is still more to do.

I am committed to continuing to improve our responses to women who have experienced sexual assault and rape and we will continue to implement all of the recommendations from the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce. Yesterday, historic legislation, which includes affirmative consent in our Criminal Code, was introduced. Whenever we talk about sexual assault we need to talk about consent, consent education and prevention. I want to thank that young woman for bravely speaking out about her experience. We have heard you and we are acting.

Personal Mobility Devices

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (10.45 am): There is no denying the popularity of e-scooters since they emerged a few years ago. The key to regulating new technology is making sure that shared spaces such as footpaths, bikeways and shared paths are as safe as they can be for everyone. After the Palaszczuk government introduced the first wave of new personal mobility device rules last year, we made it a priority to address additional safety concerns and fix inconsistencies in legislation. Those new laws build on the work that we have done over the past 12 months and ensure consistency for all drivers and riders. We have developed the laws with key stakeholders on our PMD Safety Reference Group, including the Queensland Police Service, local government representatives, PMD user groups, disability advocates, the RACQ and pedestrian and cycling groups.


In particular, the new laws will make it an offence for the rider of a PMD or bike to ride without due care and attention on a road related area such as a footpath, a bike path or a shared path. It is already an offence to ride carelessly on a road, but the new rule will ensure that acts of careless riding that put other path users at risk can now be enforced on all relevant infrastructure. Dangerous personal mobility device riders will not receive an on-the-spot fine if they are riding carelessly; instead, they will have a date with a magistrate.

Queenslanders already know that when they are involved in road crashes they are required to stop, remain at the scene, render medical assistance to any injured person and exchange relevant information such as name and address details. Those obligations did not apply consistently to PMD and bike riders on roads and paths. The new laws will align post-crash obligations for all drivers and riders and will ensure that everyone involved in a crash has the same rights and responsibilities, no matter where the crash occurs or what mode is used.

It is acknowledged that for some vulnerable people the requirement to disclose personal information with other affected people could place them at considerable risk. The new laws will introduce protections for vulnerable people who may not be able to exchange personal information with other people involved in crashes. In those circumstances, the driver or rider can withhold the information but must report the incident to a police officer, including providing their personal information to support further investigation for enforcement or insurance purposes. This will help to protect victims of domestic and family violence and children.

The new laws will continue to improve the safety of all path and road users in Queensland. It represents the next phase of Queensland's nation-leading approach to the safe use of personal mobility devices.

Renewable Energy

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (10.48 am): The Labor government is delivering the energy and climate transition that Queenslanders voted for. We are doing it through 70 per cent renewables by 2032 and a 96 per cent reduction in emissions from the energy system. We are replacing expensive fossil fuels with energy that is cheap, clean and secure—energy from Queensland's mighty sun, wind and waters. Now, with a \$19 billion investment on behalf of Queenslanders, we are well on our way. To provide 24/7 reliable power, Queensland's SuperGrid will need more batteries, firming and storage so we are funding and progressing our two nationally significant pumped hydro schemes: the world's most powerful, the Pioneer-Burdekin near Mackay; and Borumba, west of the Sunshine Coast, which, as announced by the Deputy Premier today, is now supercharged as a coordinated project. The declaration brings whole-of-government coordination to the rigorous assessment of social, economic and environmental matters.

Of course, there is not a day to waste. Not only is hydro proven technology; it is ready to go now. We are looking for companies and tradies from the Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay to be part of this Big Build. Already there are tenders out to build the big workers camps to house the first of up to 2,000 construction workers for this project. Labor's Buy Queensland procurement policy means that local companies and their workforce will be sought to help build and operate these camps and associated services, delivering maximum returns to the local region. The camps will accommodate workers undertaking exploratory works and providing essential geotechnical data to inform the technical design of segments of the powerhouse that will be located underground.

As a major project in the Palaszczuk government's Big Build, it will be delivered under best practice conditions, including quality, safe, healthy and comfortable accommodation for tradies. Queensland Hydro is also working with local councils on permanent road upgrades including upgrades to Bella Creek Road, Yielo Road and parts of Borgan Road. Tender packages are out right now for those civil works and temporary bridge supply. This work will generate jobs. It will grow economic investment, boosting the region. Not only will it help secure a future for our kids; it will leave behind a better planet for generations to come.

Community Safety



Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.50 am): When it comes to supporting community safety, the government continues to adopt a multifaceted approach: making record investments in police—introducing some of the toughest laws in the nation—but also introducing innovative programs that support people in their daily lives. The engine immobiliser trial is progressing extremely well in the three communities identified by the Queensland Police Service as the appropriate trial sites. So far, over 11,000 vehicle owners in Cairns, Townsville and Mount Isa have obtained vouchers to have a secondary engine immobiliser fitted to their vehicles. It is encouraging also that we are hearing from industry representatives and from police that they cannot identify a Queensland example of a vehicle fitted with a secondary immobiliser being stolen. Queensland police are also supporting the rollout of the technology by engaging in community expos, like the one in Townsville over the weekend, to provide information about how local residents can obtain the voucher.

The secondary immobiliser technology is sophisticated technology. The essence is that even if someone steals the car keys to a vehicle they still cannot start it without disengaging the secondary engine immobiliser. This trial could have very significant implications for our nation. Our ambition is that the trial will provide us with the evidence to take to the federal government and prosecute the case for a requirement that all vehicles coming into Australia be required under the Australian Design Rules to have a secondary immobiliser fitted.

Another very significant government supported initiative that is proving to be very effective is Operation Victor Unison. The government provided the Queensland Police Service with additional funding so that, right across the state, police have the resources to conduct extreme high-visibility police patrols. The extra patrols as part of Operation Victor Unison are over and above normal calls for service and everyday policing operations. Officers are engaging with young people in public spaces, patrolling businesses and residential areas, conducting bail checks, interacting with the community, undertaking wandering operations and taking enforcement action against those committing offences. Police are also deploying mobile police beats in communities across Queensland where officers base themselves and engage with the community.

The Queensland Police Service has advised me that so far under Operation Victor Unison they have conducted nearly 100,000 extreme high-visibility community patrol activities. More than 4,000 adult offenders have been charged with nearly 7,000 offences and more than 2,000 young offenders have been charged with more than 4,000 offences as a result of these Operation Victor Unison enforcement activities. The boots-on-the-ground operation is providing more opportunities for police to engage with the community. It is also disrupting and preventing crime, engaging with young people and providing the supports at-risk youths need to avoid or break the cycle of offending. Community safety is paramount, and I wish to commend the Queensland Police Service for its dedicated efforts in respect of the engine immobiliser trial and its relentless efforts as part of Operation Victor Unison.

Housing, Modular Homes



Hon. MAJ SCANLON (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing) (10.54 am): When it comes to delivering our big social housing build, this government is prepared to think outside the box. I am pleased to update the House that the newest batch of modular homes are being built and sent on their

way to all corners of our state. Twenty-nine prefabricated homes are being pieced together on the factory floor in Toowoomba. Last week, nine completed homes were trucked to remote communities in Roma, Longreach and Cunnamulla. This week, more are destined for delivery to Hughenden in the electorate of Traeger. Over the next two months, more will roll out to Maryborough, Walkervale, Gladstone, Ipswich, Cunnamulla and Logan. These homes take a mere fraction of the time to build and connect to essential services, compared to the time it takes to construct a new home from the ground up.

We are partnering with builders across the state to provide more than 100 social and government employee homes by the end of the year. We are also building our own, thanks to our QBuild team at Eagle Farm with another team of builders soon to come online in Cairns. It is just one of the ways this government is tackling national housing pressures to help regional, rural and remote areas of the state where sometimes it can be challenging to get trades. Not only do we have shovels in the ground on hundreds of new homes; we are also buying units, townhouses, hotels and former retirement villages and delivering prefabricated homes to help deliver 14,100 social and affordable homes to help Queenslanders in need.

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Sector



Hon. ML FURNER (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (10.56 am): Queensland is truly one of the world's great agricultural powerhouses, and the latest revised AgTrends data proves this. Queensland's agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector has reached a historic high in 2022-23 and is now worth a record \$24.44 billion, up from \$23.44 billion forecast for this period. The Hinchinbrook, Mackay, Burdekin and Douglas regions all recorded 25 per cent gross value of production growth or better. This record value of production is supporting the entire agribusiness supply chain.

In 2022-23 the value of the supply chain is forecast at a record \$33.76 billion, a 7.6 per cent increase from the prior year. Looking ahead to 2023-24, production is forecast to remain high at \$23.67 billion, supported by recent La Nina conditions, which have contributed to good soil moisture reserves along with high water storage levels, and strong prices across many of our key commodities. Sugar cane GVP is expected to rise by \$525 million to \$2.075 billion compared to last year, an increase of 33 per cent on last year and 41 per cent higher than the five-year average. Supporting primary production, sugarcane processing is forecast to rise by 30 per cent to \$1.2 billion.

Fisheries and aquaculture are also expected to grow in value in 2023-24 by 4.9 per cent compared to 2022-23, up from \$508 million to \$533 million, reflecting higher production volumes for some species such as prawns and price increases offsetting lower volumes of other cultured species. Over the medium term, aquaculture is expected to continue growing.

In other good news, cattle and calves were valued at \$6.61 billion in 2022-23 and forecast at \$6.7 billion in 2023-24, marking a 2.1 per cent increase. Following two bumper years for broadacre crops, the sector is forecast to deliver the third-highest value on record at \$4.7 billion. This is a 16 per cent year-on-year decline, with drier conditions and declining global prices, but a 14.5 per cent increase in value based on the average of the last five years.

Make no mistake: these revised AgTrends figures are great news for Queensland agriculture, forestry and fisheries. That is good news for Queensland jobs and Queensland's economy and great news for Queensland's regional communities.

I thank the Premier for delivering her ministerial statement on mangoes. Certainly, it was great to be there to see the Brisbane Markets mango auction take place. The \$40,000 from the auction of the tray of mangoes along with other items resulted in \$58,000 for Red Kite and the Lady Musgrave Trust, a great contribution to those not-for-profit groups.

Resources Industries, Safety



Hon. SJ STEWART (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (10.59 am): We all know how important the resources industry is to our great state's economy, but safety must always be front and centre of everything in the industry. Safety in the resources industry is everyone's responsibility. With National Safe Work Month running during October, resources workers throughout Queensland will take part in biannual sector-wide safety resets. The safety resets will include workers in coal, minerals and quarrying along with the petroleum, gas and explosives industries.

I am advised that as of this week more than 1,000 workers across more than 70 sites have taken part in their safety resets. The focus of this year's safety reset is to empower and support workers to recognise unsafe situations, stop work and report the issue. We want people to take this on board through a simple phrase: see, stop, report. Safety resets provide an important opportunity for every worker to take stock and see what practices must be improved to ensure the workplace is safe.

During the last round of safety resets for the resources industry I visited a number of sites to address workers right across the state, and I look forward to doing the same this year. We must remain vigilant, even when operations are running smoothly, because complacency can lead to injury. Safety is my No. 1 priority as the Minister for Resources, and it must be the same for every single stakeholder and every single worker involved in the sector. Safety in the resources industry is everyone's responsibility, and as a government we will continue to work with the independent health and safety regulator, Resources Safety & Health Queensland, worker representatives and the industry to make sure workers are kept safe.

At the end of the day, the most important thing to come out of any Queensland worksite is our workers. Safety is everyone's responsibility—from the cleaners all the way through to our SSEs onsite. Everyone—everyone—has to look after themselves and their mates when it comes to safety. This year's safety reset program is vital to supporting a positive safety culture. I want to see sites take up this opportunity to ensure their workers' safety is absolutely front of mind. Every site taking part in this program must report their findings back to RSHQ, which is important to help identify any potential barriers when it comes to safety. Put simply, our No. 1 priority is the health and safety of workers and their right to return home safely after their shift.

Bushfire Preparedness



Hon. LM LINARD (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (11.02 am): As many are aware and have seen in recent weeks, the 2023-24 bushfire season has commenced. Since the start of the season on 1 August, 128 bushfires have occurred on national parks and state forests. Current calculations indicate that more than 218,000 hectares of parks and forests have been burned in bushfires. Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service rangers have responded, in partnership with their colleagues from Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and other partners. There are currently 18 active bushfires in our national parks and forests, all of which are within containment lines and are not considered to be immediate threats. One park, Carnarvon National Park, is currently partially closed because of bushfire activity.

The Department of Environment and Science is one of the largest land managers in Queensland, responsible for managing just over 13 million hectares of public parks and forests, or approximately 7½ per cent of Queensland. It has primary responsibility for managing fire on Queensland's parks and forests, as detailed in the Queensland Bushfire Plan. Fire management activities undertaken by the department are focused first and foremost on the protection of human life, as they are for all departments involved in bushfires and other emergency management. Fire management activities are also focused on reducing the risk of negative bushfire impacts on critical infrastructure, communities and park and forest values. This important mitigation work continues to increase in importance as a result of our changing climate.

It was pleasing to see the department's expertise in fire management recognised recently with five rangers deployed to assist with the Canadian wildfire emergency. The bushfires in Canada this year have been unprecedented in scale and impact, and we thank these Queensland rangers for their willingness to assist and their courage in doing so. Rangers work year-round to undertake prescribed burns and other hazard mitigation activities. For the majority of 2022-23 the La Nina weather pattern dominated, meaning conditions for burn operations were often unsuitable or resulted in less area burned. However, with effective planning and a change in weather patterns late in the season, the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service continued to prioritise prescribed burning and other bushfire risk mitigation works in preparation for this bushfire period. I am pleased to advise that the QPWS not only met the planned burn target but exceeded it by 29,000 hectares. Between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023 the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service completed 535 planned burns, totalling over 666,000 hectares. It also undertook bushfire reduction treatments totalling 960 hectares in protection zones where parks with highly flammable vegetation border urban communities.

In addition to direct hazard mitigation works, the department's broader fire management program includes: management and maintenance of an extensive road and fire line network; surveillance activities, including a fire camera network, satellite hotspot monitoring, and dedicated ground patrols

during elevated risk periods; communication and education with visitors and occupiers of parks and forests to ensure they are informed and safe from fire risks; maintaining a fleet of light and medium attack fire appliances; partnerships within Queensland's bushfire management groups, First Nations peoples, neighbours, stakeholders and adjacent communities; and, finally, maintaining training and experience for a workforce ready to fulfil the spectrum of roles from fire crew to incident leadership. This important work undertaken by the department in mitigating bushfire risk and responding to bushfires will be done in partnership with First Nations peoples consistent with all management activities on parks and forests in important recognition of their deep and enduring knowledge in managing country across Queensland.

Throughout the 2023 bushfire season the department will continue to work closely with, and support, our colleagues in the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and Rural Fire Service to keep Queensland communities safe.

YOUTH JUSTICE REFORM SELECT COMMITTEE

Order of Appointment



Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Acting Leader of the House) (11.06 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That—

1. a select committee, known as the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee, be established to examine:
 - (a) ongoing reforms to the youth justice system; and
 - (b) support for victims of crime.
2. in undertaking the inquiry, the committee consider:
 - (a) the prevention of entry and diversion of youth offenders from the justice system with specific consideration of risk and protective factors that reduce crime;
 - (b) effective ways to stop recidivism and protect the community from offending and the opportunity for community controlled organisations with specific reference to the role of First Nations peoples to provide support solutions and services;
 - (c) the efficacy of:
 - (i) justice programs including on-country programs, education, health and housing services;
 - (ii) reducing people carrying weapons;
 - (iii) evidence-based early intervention and prevention programs;
 - (iv) reducing the numbers in custody on remand;
 - (v) alternatives to detention;
 - (vi) detention and other consequences of offending;
 - (vii) the most suitable infrastructure used for custody, detention or residential components necessary to reduce crime; and
 - (d) systems and processes to provide immediate and ongoing support for victims of crime.
3. the committee:
 - (a) has the power to call for persons, documents and other things;
 - (b) may present reports to the Legislative Assembly as it determines; and
 - (c) ceases at the dissolution of this parliament.
4. standing order 203 does not apply and a question before the committee is decided by a majority of the votes of the members present and voting, plus one member.
5. the committee consists of seven members.

Mr SPEAKER: The question is: That the motion be agreed to.

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker—

Mr SPEAKER: Those of that opinion say 'aye'.

Honourable members: Aye.

Mr SPEAKER: Those against 'no'. I think the ayes have it.


Motion agreed to.

Mr SPEAKER: Is there a matter you need to raise?

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker, I had an amendment to move to the motion.

Mr SPEAKER: I have put the question.

Membership

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Acting Leader of the House) (11.08 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the following members are appointed to the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee:


- Ms Bolton—Chairperson
- Ms Bush—Deputy Chairperson
- Mr Harper
- Mrs Gerber
- Mr McDonald
- Mr Purdie
- Mr Tantari.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Membership


 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Acting Leader of the House) (11.09 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the member for Noosa be discharged from the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee and the member for Mirani be appointed to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Acting Leader of the House) (11.09 am), by leave, without notice: I move—


That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 24 October 2023.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner, Report


 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (11.10 am): As chair of the PCCC, I lay upon the table of the House the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner's report titled *Report of the work and activities of the Crime and Corruption Commission under chapter 11 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*, dated September 2023. The committee received the report on 6 September 2023 and, as required, I am tabling the report within 14 sitting days of receipt.

Tabled paper: Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner: Report of the work and activities of the Crime and Corruption Commission under chapter 11 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, dated September 2023 [[1642](#)].

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, question time will conclude today at 12.10 pm.

Sexual Assault Services

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (11.10 am): My question is to the Minister for Health. The minister said that new rape kits and training would be rolled out by July. Since the opposition raised issues with the rollout of the new rape kits, has the minister sought to find out how many complaints have been made by rape victims about their treatment? If so, how many have been made?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for the question. As I said this morning, all HHSs now have adequate supplies of rape kits and that began in July. Training also began in July and—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms FENTIMAN: No, the training is ongoing. The training will take many months. It is a full day, face-to-face training session for clinicians and it is ongoing. As at 26 September, 185 clinicians have undergone the training and many more are due to do the training over the coming months. I want to say again that we are absolutely committed to implementing all of the recommendations from the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce. Can I say again that the very reason this government called for a Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce was that we recognised there was much more to do to provide support to victim-survivors. Only yesterday we introduced historic legislation—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members to my left, I have given guidance to the House previously. The member, as I hear her response, is being responsive to the question as asked. I will hear the answer. I hope you wish to do so also.

Ms FENTIMAN: Only yesterday we introduced historic legislation into this House that is implementing some of those key recommendations from the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce including affirmative consent. As I said this morning, you cannot talk about sexual assault and rape without talking about prevention, and that has to be about consent education and consent. I am absolutely committed, as is this government, about providing a—

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance, 118(b). The question was—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members. I will hear the point of order.

Mr POWELL: The question was: how many complaints have been made?

Mr SPEAKER: There was some preamble to the question, which I believe the minister is responding to. However, Minister, I ask you to try to get to the direct part of the question, as requested.

Ms FENTIMAN: Thank you, Speaker. As I said earlier today, the acting director-general convened a meeting of all chief executives yesterday. One complaint has been brought to my attention and I have made several comments about that complaint in the House this morning. If there are more, of course we will act. I want to say to all victim-survivors: we believe you, we hear you and we are acting. We are absolutely committed to making sure women have a timely and trauma informed response when they present at an ED for a forensic examination.

Sexual Assault Services

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Minister for Health. When issues were raised about the rollout of rape kits, the minister criticised the opposition because she had not been made aware of the complaints. Yesterday afternoon, the mother of one victim contacted the opposition saying they had made a complaint to Queensland Health almost two months ago and have sought the opposition's help to get systemic changes to ensure what happened to her daughter does not happen again. Despite the minister's department knowing about the complaint for almost two months, can the minister explain how she did not know?

Ms FENTIMAN: As I have said, I was made aware of the complaint yesterday by the HHS. I do want to say that I actually was not criticising the opposition in this House. What I did ask is, if the opposition are aware of any specific complaints could they let me know so I can urgently and thoroughly investigate them. I wrote to the Leader of the Opposition following question time on Tuesday and urged him to provide me with any particulars he could about any instances of sexual assault at hospitals. I note that the Leader of the Opposition responded and did not provide any details on which I could provide—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Ms FENTIMAN: I think the member for Kawana understands that, when we are talking about investigating health complaints, I do not need anyone's specific name, but the hospital at which an incident occurred and perhaps the date could be very helpful in actually investigating these complaints. I table the letter from the Leader of the Opposition in which he did not provide any further specifics.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 10 October 2023, from the Leader of the Opposition and member for Broadwater, Mr David Crisafulli MP, to the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women, Hon. Shannon Fentiman, regarding training and provision of sexual assault kits to Queensland Hospitals [\[1643\]](#).

I say again: if any complaints are made by women who did not get a timely and compassionate response, we will absolutely act. I say to victim-survivors: a lot of work has happened over the past few months but there is clearly more to do and we are committed to doing it.

Mental Health

Mr KELLY: My question is to the Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Can the Premier outline the government's commitment to mental health funding in Queensland, and is the Premier aware of any alternative policies?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Greenslopes for the question. As we know, this week is Mental Health Week. It is a time when we can stop and check in and ask if people are going okay. Its theme this year is 'Awareness, Belonging, Connection'. I encourage members to promote Mental Health Week through their communities. It is a big issue and it has a big impact on a lot of people. That is why our government has the mental health levy and why we are rolling out more supports across Queensland—to make sure people can get the care they need.

This leads me to a timely reminder to talk about the good work that is happening at Jacaranda Place. Many members of this House would remember that we built Jacaranda Place. It is aimed at assisting young people, especially those aged between 13 to 18 years although young people up to 21 can go there if they are referred and they think it is adequate. I am advised that 64 young people were admitted to Jacaranda Place in 2020-21 and 51 young people were admitted to Jacaranda Place in 2021-22. The Jacaranda Place Adolescent Unit offers an intensive subacute inpatient service for young people from across Queensland. The length of stay in the adolescent unit can vary depending on the individual needs but can range from a couple of weeks to up to six months. It is a very proud legacy of this government—one that I was personally committed to, as were the member for Stafford, the former minister for health and the current Minister for Health. It is providing a good service and it is changing the lives of young people.

During Mental Health Week, we should also reflect on the time when the LNP were in government and they closed a similar service called the Barrett adolescent service. It is also timely that during this Mental Health Week we reflect on the three young lives that were lost as a result of the closure of the Barrett Adolescent Centre.

On this side of the House we understand that there are people across our state with complex needs, and we will be responsive to the best of our capabilities. That does not include cuts to health funding. It does not include closing centres, member for Nanango, which resulted in, as we saw through the commission of inquiry, three young people losing their lives. I had met a couple of those. The government at the time was urged not to close the centre. We will never forget, and today we remember those three young people who—

(Time expired)

Sexual Assault Services

Ms CAMM: My question is to the Minister for Health. The mother of a rape victim says her daughter was told no forensic examiner was available and there was no device available. No examination was conducted and her daughter left the hospital feeling like she had not been believed. If this is happening, why did the health minister tell this House on Tuesday that every clinician across Queensland has now undertaken the training and the kits are available at hospitals?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for the question. I have apologised to this young woman and, having undergone an incredibly distressing, traumatic event, she absolutely deserved a far more compassionate and trauma informed response when she presented at the Rockhampton Hospital. As I also said this morning, as a result of this young woman's complaint, a number of procedures have now changed at the Rockhampton Hospital. I want to clarify for the member that there was a clinician available who began an examination: however, clearly there was not an appropriate and compassionate response. That needs to change. That absolutely needs to change in every hospital. What I did say is that all clinicians will be trained and—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members to my left.

Ms FENTIMAN:—a number of clinicians have now undergone the training for the new kits.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock! Members to my left, the minister is answering the question. You may not like the answer, but she is answering the question.

Ms FENTIMAN: All clinicians will be required to undertake this very extensive training. I also say, for the benefit of the House, that there are already a number of clinicians who have been trained in the previous testing kits who are very well qualified to undertake forensic examination. There is clearly more to do. I do want to thank the team sitting under the Chief Medical Officer who have been doing a lot of work with our clinicians on this training. They have also set up a 24/7 clinical hotline so that if any clinicians have questions about the new rape kits that they are working with, they can call a senior team of clinicians 24/7.

Again, I want to say that this young woman's experience was unacceptable and I unreservedly apologise. I have offered to sit down with her and her family, if they wish to do so, so I can hear firsthand about her experience so that we can continue to improve the system to ensure victim-survivors are at the centre.

Infrastructure

Ms RICHARDS: My question is of the Deputy Premier. Could the Deputy Premier advise the House how the Palaszczuk government is supporting local governments to deliver essential infrastructure, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Redlands for her question. She represents a unique and beautiful part of our state, both on the mainland there at the Redlands and also the beautiful Southern Moreton Bay Islands. I know that delivering services and infrastructure for such a diverse community can be challenging for all levels of government. Many in those island communities are vulnerable, so we have to put extra effort in to making sure they have access to the services and infrastructure that they need. That is why the Redlands Satellite Hospital is such a game changer for delivering health services to those folk. It is why we based the satellite hospital at the ferry terminal because, until then, so many people had to catch the ferry from the island to the terminal and then find a way to get themselves from the terminal to Redlands Hospital or further afield. Now they can get off the ferry and access those health services right there at the ferry terminal.

The services at the satellite hospital are based around analysis of the health service needs for those island communities—things like minor injuries, dialysis for people who have to travel several times a week, similarly chemotherapy, medical imaging, outpatient services and allied health services. There are so many occasions of care that can be delivered right there at that transport hub for those who live on those islands. We expect to treat around 1,000 people a week at that satellite hospital. It is a credit to the advocacy of the member for Redlands who suggested that that would indeed be the best place to deliver satellite health services.

Unfortunately, though, that transport hub is currently at capacity because the car park is full. The Redland City Council runs the car park at the ferry terminal. Often that means people have to park some distance away and walk. Now that the satellite hospital is up and running, the member for Redlands tells me that the No. 1 priority for those communities is to get the car park expanded. Unfortunately, the city council do not intend to expand the car park until 2027, which is just too long for those communities to wait. That is why I wrote to the council and offered to reallocate \$4.5 million of Queensland government funding to allow them to bring forward that car park expansion, but, unfortunately, the council has since written back to me declining that offer to use state government funds to expand the car park, despite that being the No. 1 concern of those communities. Campaigning alongside the member for Redlands, they are petitioning the council—

Mr Crisafulli: We work best when we work together.

Dr MILES: We offered to work together. We offered them our money to build the car park and they still declined.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 8 September 2023, from the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure, Hon. Dr Steven Miles, to the Mayor, Redland City Council, Ms Karen Williams, regarding funding provided to Redland City Council [1645].

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 18 September 2023, from the Mayor, Redland City Council, Ms Karen Williams, to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure, Hon. Dr Steven Miles, regarding funding provided to Redland City Council [1644].

(Time expired)

Rockhampton Hospital, Patient Complaint

Mrs GERBER: My question is to the Minister for Health. The health minister said an apology and support had been provided to the victim. The opposition has just been advised that that apology came as a text, sent by the hospital at 9.31 this morning—just moments before the health minister stood in this House. It also advises that the health minister called the hospital this morning after seeing media reports. Can the minister explain how what she said in the House this morning differs so greatly from the accounts and experience of the hospital staff and the victim?

Ms FENTIMAN: I understand that the chief executive had been trying to get in contact with the young woman to apologise when she was made aware of the complaint late last night. I was made aware of the complaint late last night, and today I have unreservedly apologised as well.

Manufacturing

Mr WALKER: My question is of the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. Will the Treasurer update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is implementing its commitment to building Queensland's manufacturing capacity and is the Treasurer aware of any other approaches?

Mr DICK: As the member for Mundingburra knows, and all Queenslanders know, we make it great in the Sunshine State. We are absolutely dedicated as a government to supporting our manufacturers across Queensland, wherever they might be. In the great manufacturing city of Townsville—we have some great manufacturing companies across the length and breadth of Queensland—we are backing in manufacturers.

It is why today I talked about Alpha HPA that is taking raw alumina and increasing its value 1,000 times to produce a product that is needed and in demand around the world. It is why today our government has announced additional support for Queensland manufacturing businesses with matched grants of up to \$25,000 for upgrades that improve energy efficiency, backed in by \$7.1 million over two rounds. That is our plan for Queensland. In stark contrast, what has the LNP put forward? A secret plan for secret cuts. That is the clear distinction. That is what Queenslanders know.

Manufactured slogans and manufactured outrage by the LNP, I can tell you, is not cutting it with the base. The Liberal Party's base is left wondering if there was anything for which the parliamentary party was prepared to fight. Let me say that again: the Liberal Party's base is left wondering if there was anything for which the parliamentary party was prepared to fight. That is what the base thinks. They are not my words; they are the words of the new LNP candidate for Oodgeroo, Amanda Stoker.

For a long time now Amanda Stoker has been sending a clear message to the Leader of the Opposition. She said—

The Liberal Party just seems to have lost its connection with what it means to be Liberal. They followed whatever the polls said they should do.

She went on—

It's meaningless to chase values that aren't your own, or to propose policies that don't come from your foundational beliefs.

I pretty much disagree with every single foundational belief and policy of Amanda Stoker, but I will give her this due: she is at least willing to stand behind the courage of her convictions. That is in complete contrast to the Leader of the Opposition. Let's see what he says and does with Amanda Stoker. He says, 'Amanda, we've got to cut the Big Build, we'll kill progressive coal royalties and we will break the back of nurses and nurses' entitlements, but just don't say anything until the election.' That is their plan. Let's watch and see what the Leader of the Opposition does with the candidate for Oodgeroo and their secret plan for cuts.

Sexual Assault Services

Ms BATES: My question is to the health minister. I note the minister's apology today. Will the minister also apologise for her failure to roll out the system of new rape kits and training by July, as promised, which she now acknowledges has caused distress for victims of rape?

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for McConnel.

Ms Grace interjected.

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

Ms FENTIMAN: New rape kits only arrived around July and were distributed to HHSs. All HHSs have an adequate supply of rape kits and training. Very detailed, full-day, face-to-face training is underway and hundreds of clinicians have now been trained.

Ms Bates interjected.

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

Voice to Parliament

Ms LUI: My question is of the Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts. Can the minister provide an example of positive outcomes achieved for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples when the government listens to First Nations voices, and are there any alternative views?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for Cook for her question and her continued support for a Voice to Parliament. The Palaszczuk government knows that listening to the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on matters that relate to them makes for policies and programs that can change lives. When we listened to the voices of Torres Strait Islander people we saw for the first time in Australia L-O-R-E become L-A-W with the passing of the Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa Torres Strait Islander traditional child-rearing practice. That has since seen 22 cultural recognition orders made, which means that families can now ensure their cultural lived experience can be reflected in their legal identity.

When we listened to the voices of the Butchulla people we saw the truth spoken back into the land once known as Fraser Island and returned it to original name of K'gari. When we listened to the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander traditional owners we doubled the number of land and sea rangers, ensuring that cultural practices related to land management could benefit all Queenslanders.

When we listened to the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people we embarked on a Path to Treaty in this state. I want to pause to acknowledge the member for Broadwater, the Leader of the Opposition, and all the members of the LNP, the members of the Greens party and the Independent member for Noosa for their support in the passing of that legislation. To have the Path to Treaty and truth-telling in this state passed with bipartisan support was truly a historic moment in this parliament.

Of course, listening to the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should not be a unique feature of a particular government of the day. It should be a permanent feature of our democracy, which is why so many people are supporting a Voice to Parliament at the federal referendum. You would think that an LNP opposition that supported truth and treaty in this state would also support a voice, but we have seen nothing but division from that side. In fact, the member for Surfers Paradise, the supposed spokesperson for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships, has spent his time berating the only person who has stood up to support a Voice to Parliament, the member for Bonney.

Worse than that is what has been coming out of the Greens political party. With only weeks to go to the referendum, Max Chandler-Mather from the Greens political party decided he would conduct training sessions looking at how they might win more seats rather than getting out and supporting the yes campaign. I have written to him and I spoke to him asking him to reconsider that approach, but they did not do that. They went on and did not put their support for the yes campaign out there.

(Time expired)

Rockhampton Hospital, Patient Complaint

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question is to the health minister. The minister has said that an apology has been made by the HHS to the victim. Was the minister aware that this apology was only made via text message, and does the minister accept a sufficient apology has been made?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I believe the first part of the question has already been raised in the House, but the second part has not. I ask if you could please address that component.

Ms FENTIMAN: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the member for the question. Today I have unreservedly apologised in this House to this young woman and her family.

First Nations School Students

Mr SULLIVAN: 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 First Nations students and schools, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for the question. I know that he is a very strong advocate for First Nations students. We often speak about what we can do to make sure our education system is providing equity and excellence for our First Nations students no matter where they are. Our Equity and Excellence education strategy sets out a vision for a high-performing, high-expectations education system that helps realise the potential of every student and ensures no-one is left behind. I welcome all of these wonderful students who are in the gallery today. Welcome to Parliament House.

Within the strategy, outcomes for First Nations students are embedded across every priority including our priority focus on educational achievement, wellbeing and engagement, and culture and inclusion. On the last point, culture and inclusion, I am often reminded of the comment from Cheryl Buchanan, the co-chair with Sallyanne Atkinson of the Path to Treaty independent interim body about how critical language, culture and identity are. That is why we are embarking upon a program of expanding culture and language inclusion in our schools.

Already 44 of our schools are teaching Indigenous languages in their schools, and it was wonderful to be in Aurukun. I know that the member for Bulimba and the minister is a champion for that community. There were aunties as elders in the classroom with teachers teaching the unique Wik Waya language, and the children were so engaged in both their language and the English language. It was a similar story in Mossman. That program was co-designed with the elders in that community delivering the Kuku Yalanji language. As I said, the elders take pride in attending those classes, with the principal, Randall Smith, reporting that the language program has increased student and parent engagement and enrolment numbers, and there have been dramatic changes in relationships and respect within the school community and the broader Mossman community.

We are out there consulting with First Nations elders. We want to listen to them. That is what the yes vote is all about. We want to find out what we can do to establish what First Nations students want and teach their culture and their language. We always encourage our students that if they do not know, they should find out. Find out what they need. Find out what they are voting for. If they do not know, that is not an excuse. Vote 'yes' in the upcoming referendum and let's listen to our First Nations peoples.

Infrastructure Projects

Mr BLEIJIE: My question is to the Premier. There are 90 Queensland infrastructure projects valued at over \$14 billion on the federal Labor government's chopping block. The federal infrastructure minister has said—

This review will allow all levels of government time to consider the projects that are actual priorities ... and deliverability in the current climate.

Has the Queensland government declared its 'actual' priority list for the federal Labor government and, if so, will the Premier publicly release it today?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. All of the infrastructure projects that we have are a priority for Queensland, because they cover the length and breadth of this state. To the member for Kawana's point: we will always stand up and fight for our fair share when it comes to infrastructure funding. Our infrastructure funding in Queensland is more than what the federal government commits to for the whole nation—so put it in perspective, member for Kawana. We know that those opposite will cut. We saw—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. There are plenty of interjections coming from my left. Unfortunately, there are also plenty of interjections coming from my right. They will now cease or I will start naming members.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Not only did they cut road projects when they were in office, but they cut all of the RoadTek staff. They left as well—they were sacked.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: Was there any apology from those opposite for the sacking of those workers? In fact, when I meet with western mayors they tell me they are proud of the fact that we have kept the funding going out there and have restored the savage cuts made by those opposite. We will always continue with our projects—whether it is upgrading the Bruce Highway or the M1, building the second M1 or finishing Cross River Rail. There was no help from the LNP prime ministers—not one cent. There was not one cent for Cross River Rail. We had to go it alone. They all forget about that! There are hundreds, if not thousands, of projects that are keeping people in work right across this state.

An opposition member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Go and talk to your shadow transport minister: he wants to prune the infrastructure cuts.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Nanango—

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Premier, please resume your seat. The members for Miller and Nanango are warned for quarrelling across the chamber. Premier, you have 38 seconds remaining.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We had the member for Nanango driving up and down the Bruce Highway. Then, when it came to the crunch, there was hardly any money there—zero. We will continue with our infrastructure projects and our health build and the satellite hospitals. I am looking directly at the member for Currumbin. The Tugun Satellite Hospital will be opening soon. Are you going to come to the opening?

Mrs Gerber interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will invite you to the opening. There we go; come and see our great satellite hospital. It is a part of the billions of dollars of infrastructure funding across the state.

Community Safety

Mr HUNT: My question is of the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services. Will the minister update the House on the investments that this government is making to support community safety, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr RYAN: I thank the member for the question. Since this is my first opportunity to speak since the condolence motion this morning, I commend the member for Caloundra for one of the most extraordinary condolence motion speeches that I have ever heard. Well done, member. You are not only a credit to yourself, but you also honoured Mike Ahern, who was an outstanding Queenslanders. I highlight the outstanding work of the member for Caloundra. People tell me when I go around the Sunshine Coast that they think that the member for Caloundra is probably the best member for Caloundra in the history of this parliament. I can speak with some authority on that because my parents live in the member for Caloundra's electorate. I can give a guarantee to the member for Caloundra that he will have at least two votes every election because my parents think that he is doing an outstanding job. When you advocate for projects and initiatives, you deliver results.

The very day after the Bell's Creek Arterial Road opened, we have the land and we are turning the sod on two critical community safety projects in the member for Caloundra's electorate in Caloundra South. Construction is underway on a brand new police station worth over \$13 million and a brand new fire station worth over \$8 million, because the member for Caloundra has advocated for infrastructure and services for his area, and he is delivering. Of course, it is right across the Caloundra electorate that he is delivering. There have been investments in the Coastguard—I know that he is a big supporter of the Coastguard. We are supporting them with additional resources and funding and we are also supporting Surf Life Saving Queensland, which has its rotary air base in the member's electorate as well as a number of clubs. Again, there has been record funding for those initiatives.

I was thinking about the contribution that other members for Caloundra may have made. There was a contribution recently in the *Courier-Mail* by a former member for Caloundra, former deputy premier Joan Sheldon. She said that the LNP has traditionally baulked at the concept of quotas to bring in more women, arguing that everyone should be elected on their merit. Sheldon is not convinced saying, 'When you look at some of the fellas in there, you'd wonder how they got in if merit was the

criteria.' We know the member for Caloundra has merit, but you look along there and you know that Joan Sheldon is speaking with a bit of authority. You look across there and you wonder why they are scared of strong women. They come in and knock them off in a preselection, because they do not have much merit themselves. Joan Sheldon could not speak a truer word.

Crocodile Management

Mr DAMETTO: My question is to the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for Multicultural Affairs. Crocodiles are a problem at the TYTO Wetlands in Ingham, with 27 crocodile sighting in September alone. TYTO is a man-made water body constructed as a birdwatching attraction and a place for children and visitors to enjoy. High crocodile and human interactions will eventuate in injury or death without departmental intervention. Will the minister back rezoning this area as an active removal zone?

Ms LINARD: I thank the member for the question. We are committed to keeping locals and visitors to croc country safe. Our wildlife officers in the TYTO Wetlands are aware of regular sightings of crocodiles and, of course, every sighting that is reported is investigated. Importantly, I am advised that there is signage to ensure locals and visitors to the area are aware that it is croc country.

The Queensland Crocodile Management Plan is the overarching statewide plan that manages estuarine crocodiles. I understand that TYTO Wetlands is a general management zone, zone E, which means that any problematic crocodiles exhibiting dangerous behaviour are removed. I understand that the Hinchinbrook local council recently made a submission to my department about having that changed to a targeted management zone—category C—which means that any large crocodiles are removed. We are currently reviewing the plan, as I am sure the member is aware. My department will provide advice, based on science and risk, as to whether that zoning should be changed. I will keep the member aware of the outcome of that review, as I do for all members who are in croc country.

I also draw the member's attention to the additional funding that was in the recent budget—over \$4 million over the next three years. The reason I raise that—I saw your response, member—is it is an important education and behavioural change campaign which is about working with the community and visitors. I know that locals are very aware of these issues, but it is about ensuring how, for visitors to the areas, we can best work with people and communities in croc country. Some significant work has been done in the agency around the development and commercialisation of devices to detect and deter estuarine crocodiles in these locations. It is impressive that it has come from people in our department. Multibeam sonar technology and artificial intelligence is being used to detect where those animals are, and to deter them approaching. As the review of these zones continues—as I said, any outcomes or recommendations that the department give to me will be based on science and risk assessments—I will continue to keep the member in the loop.

Agriculture Industry

Mr SMITH: My question is of the farmers' friend, the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member. I will ask you to not editorialise people's correct titles in the chamber.

Mr SMITH: Will the minister please highlight the work the Palaszczuk government is doing for rural Queensland and outline whether there are any alternatives?

Mr FURNER: I thank the member for Bundaberg for his question and commend him on his tireless efforts for not only all of Bundaberg but also its surrounds in terms of the agriculture investments and the commodities that he supports. Recently I travelled to Longreach with the Premier—

Mr Head interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Callide.

Mr FURNER: Recently I travelled to Longreach with the Premier and had the opportunity to see the—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Bundaberg and Leader of the Opposition.

Mr FURNER: Thank goodness the adults are in charge in this place! As I said, I recently travelled to Longreach with the Premier to see the opening of six brand new houses in the wonderful city of Longreach. While we were there we looked at the Palaszczuk government's investment into cluster

fencing. Sadly, almost every LNP member opposite is completely silent on this issue. Conversely, the former wild dog and drought commissioner, the late Vaughan Johnson, said at the time that he was very pleased to be part of this. Mr Johnson told waiting media that rural Queensland is sick of being second-class citizens. We on this side of the House will never treat our rural friends, our farmers and our primary producers as second-class citizens, like those opposite do. All of this investment has made a great deal of difference to the member for Gregory's electorate as well as the Queensland sheep and goat industry—

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

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

Mr FURNER:—yet the LNP, with the turn tail from Townsville, made no room on the front bench for the member for Gregory. I was also recently in Rockhampton—also with the Premier—the beef capital of Australia, where I am referred to as the 'minister for beef'. At the Bush Summit I was highlighting this government's achievements in delivering for rural Queensland, as we always do on this side of the chamber—all because we as a government know that when we deliver for rural and regional Queensland we are delivering for all of Queensland, and industry is thankful for that. The National Party likes to pretend it is the party of the farmer, but that is a slogan with no substance whatsoever.

Mr Head interjected.

Mr FURNER: At this year's Ekka the National Party was lost in the economic rationalism of the Liberals, who prefer cuts over cattle, sacking over sheep, selling over strawberry sundaes. Everyone I spoke to was pleased with this government's record when it comes to agriculture—

Mr Head interjected.

Mr FURNER:—and that is why producers know the value of what this government does—

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Callide!

Mr FURNER:—and will continue to do. As a party at the Ekka, the LNP was lost in the woods, lost in—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Callide, your interjections were designed to disrupt the minister. I was not going to interrupt him as you were, but you are warned under the standing orders.

Inner-West Brisbane, Primary Schools

Mr BERKMAN: My question is to the Minister for Education. It has been over three years since the minister announced funding for a much needed new inner-west primary school, and local schools like Toowong and Indooroopilly are still struggling with overcrowding. What progress has the department made on acquiring land for a new school and when will the community be consulted on a revised proposal?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for the question. I want to say that it has been really great working with the member in relation to this issue. I know that recently he wrote to me, and we are discussing a number of possible sites. The department is doing extensive work. I think I received the letter about 6 October—just last week—and I have referred that to my department to investigate further. The inner west is obviously a very densely populated area. We had a site. We discussed this with the member and with the community and quite clearly we made a decision that it was not a suitable site for us to continue with, which was a bit sad. There was flooding that occurred in that area. Once that occurred we made the call, after listening to the community and to the local member, that that was not the appropriate way to go forward.

The member will be interested to know that today I can announce that there is a new way, because we want to tease out possibilities—and I know that we have been liaising in relation to that—with a register of interests process to identify options for a future primary school in the inner west. It is a new way that we can look at this with a register of interests about how we might be able to deliver something in the inner city that is a little bit different to normal. It will be open on Monday, 16 October. The department has been working on this and we are asking for those registers of interests to come through until 27 November. The ROI process will invite developers and investors to come forward, register their interest and work with us to deliver a schooling solution for the inner west. This could include purchasing land only—as I think in relation to the member's letter—or even repurposing existing buildings for educational purposes. We would like to hear alternative solutions.

In relation to the other part of the question, community consultation will be undertaken on any new school proposed, including on any proposed master plan and school design. We have been a bit lucky post COVID. The numbers that were anticipated for student growth did not occur in the area. However, we have not sat on our laurels. The budget this year includes \$22 million for enhancements to schools in the inner-west network. Planning is currently underway for Indooroopilly State School to receive a new admin learning building and for additional classrooms at Toowong State School, so we are in-filling those schools. There are some catchment boundary changes for 2024 to take pressure off some of the schools. They are flagged for Chapel Hill, Kenmore and Fig Tree Pocket state schools. We have negotiated these boundaries. They will reduce the pressure on Indooroopilly while we undertake this register of interests during October and November so that we can deliver a fantastic new school in the area. It is getting more difficult than ever in inner-city seats, but I thank the member for the question.

Seniors

Ms PEASE: My question is of the Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Seniors and Disability Services. Can the minister please inform the House of the Palaszczuk government's plans for Seniors Month and senior expos for the rest of the year, and how is the government listening to what really matters to older Queenslanders?

Mr CRAWFORD: I thank the member for Lytton for the question because the member for Lytton knows that October is Seniors Month. The Palaszczuk government and our partner, the Council on the Ageing, last week hosted the South-East Queensland Seniors Forum at the Brisbane convention centre with some 750 people in person and online featuring a keynote address by demographer Bernard Salt. In Bernard's usual on-stage performing style, he delivered a thought-provoking insight into what ageing will look like in Queensland over the next generation or two.

On average, we are living up to 20 years longer than we did in the 1950s. In the 1950s Australians retired at 65 and dropped dead four years later, at 69. For those members in the House who are currently in their 60s, do not panic, because Queenslanders now have an extra two decades to enjoy the benefits of the Palaszczuk government's support for seniors because that stat is growing out about living well into your 80s. Bernard also spoke of a period in our Australian life cycle that he now calls 'the sweet spot of the great contentment'. It typically kicks off after the empty-nesters period and runs from 65 to 78 when the stresses of work recede, the kids are partnered and leave home at 35, the grandkids arrive and there is enough super to travel in the LandCruiser and full off-road caravan and also your health issues are manageable. Over the balance of the rest of the 2020s we will see the baby boomers pass through the period of the great contentment. However, in this time of life, some seniors will face challenges like failing health, family breakdown, the death of a lifelong partner and financial worries. This is why the Palaszczuk government is determined to make sure older Queenslanders are aware of all of the benefits available to seniors to offset the cost of living.

By the end of this year we will have conducted over 50 seniors pop-ups and expos in this term alone from Thursday Island to the Gold Coast, and I thank MPs from all sides of this House who have participated in those. Yesterday my office spoke to a very appreciative 75-year-old lady in Cairns who is enjoying the benefits of us helping seniors secure their home grant. As a Seniors Card holder and pensioner, not only is she getting her rates and her rego benefits and her \$1,072 off her electricity bill, but she sleeps safe and sound because she got a \$5,000 grant to upgrade her home with deadlocks, security screens and lighting. While the opposition is busily concealing its cut, sack, sell, pruning—whatever we want to call it—plans, our government is getting on with the job of delivering more concessions, more rebates and more assistance and discounts to help older Queenslanders offset—

(Time expired)

Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services

Ms SIMPSON: My question is to the Premier. The police minister said his office was given private information about contact between an opposition MP and the police by the Premier's department. Nearly a month ago the Premier said she would get some advice on how the minister was given this information. What has the Premier uncovered?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am happy to look—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. The Premier is trying to respond to the question. I would like to hear the answer.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am happy to look into the matter and ask the director-general to get back to the member directly.

Critical Minerals

Mrs GILBERT: My question is to the Minister for Resources. Will the minister advise the House how the government is supporting the critical minerals sector and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr STEWART: I thank the member for Mackay for her question—she knows how important the resources sector is—and for the great work that she did on Tuesday night bringing together the Whitsunday, Isaac and Mackay regional councils. They spoke openly about how important the resources sector is. At the World Mining Congress hosted in Queensland this year the Premier announced our Critical Minerals Strategy that had several objectives, including expanding opportunities to process and manufacture critical minerals right here in Queensland. As we know, if we do not manufacture our future, someone else will.

That is why we are supporting our manufacturers by investing in their future. Just last month the Treasurer announced that \$30 million of the announced \$100 million Queensland Critical Minerals and Battery Technology Fund would be invested with Alpha HPA. This company is based in Gladstone.

Mr Butcher: Hear, hear! A good Gladstone company.

Mr STEWART: I take that interjection. It is a great company that is based in Gladstone. This funding will help support the manufacture of sapphire glass. That is exactly what the Palaszczuk government delivers for Queenslanders. Our plan for the Queensland resources sector is not just about extracting bauxite in places such as Weipa to ship to other countries for processing, but to take that product to places like Gladstone to process and produce an end product. So rather than pit to port, we are looking at pit to product. Already there are huge value chains from Weipa to Gladstone and this investment in Alpha HPA takes Queensland manufacturing potential to the next level. The process of transforming high-purity alumina into sapphire glass increases its value 1,000 per cent. If we can harness the market power of manufacturing our resources here in Queensland, it is Queenslanders who will benefit in the form of good jobs and more jobs in regional centres such as Mackay.

The LNP's only contribution to the economic debate has been to hide their position on our progressive coal royalties. Just like Alpha HPA will be cutting sapphire glass in Gladstone thanks to the Palaszczuk government, what are the LNP opposition planning to cut if they are not going to back our progressive coal royalties? The member for Thuringowa and the member for Mundingburra know how important the CopperString 2032 project is to help make small and large resources projects in the North West Minerals Province of Townsville viable. That will be cut under the LNP. They will also cut our Collaborative Exploration Initiative, the program that awards grants to businesses exploring for our critical minerals. Will they cut the Critical Minerals and Battery Technology Fund that has provided critical funding to Alpha HPA to develop sapphire glass product in Queensland? Member for Burdekin, will they be cutting the Moranbah Hospital? He must be shaking in his boots around that one. We have seen their track record. We know what they will do.

Callide Power Station

Mr WEIR: My question is to the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement. Will the minister guarantee that both Callide unit C3 and unit C4 generators will be fully operational by the revised return-to-service dates of January 2024 for C3 and May 2024 for C4, both with just over 50 per cent capacity?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for the question because energy security is something that we take incredibly seriously on this side of the House. That is why we have backed Queenslanders time and time again to keep their energy assets in public hands. I am in constant contact with the leadership of all of our energy companies, whether it is Powerlink delivering the transmission across the state, including delivering CopperString 2032; whether it is Energy Queensland distributing power to the homes and businesses across this state; whether it is CS Energy, Stanwell, CleanCo and now newly delivered Queensland Hydro that is building some of the largest infrastructure this nation has ever seen.

When it comes to the Callide Power Station I have risen in this place many times to extend, on behalf of this side of the House, our full confidence in the men and women who operate that power station. Every time the shadow spokesperson for energy rises in this place what he is saying is that he does not have confidence in the men and women who run that power station. Those opposite have such little confidence in the men and women of regional Queensland that they wanted to give away their jobs to the highest bidder. They do not believe in the men and women who operate the Callide Power Station. I can tell the member for Condamine, and I can advise every member on that side of the House, that on this side of the House they have our full confidence. We have provided them every single dollar that they have asked for to maintain our power stations and our infrastructure network across the state.

When it comes to the dates of return to service, I have full confidence, and I will put it on record every single day of the week, that that workforce out there will deliver on their commitments. I have full confidence in that; absolute confidence in their ability to get that power station back up and running. It is a real pity that the opposition in this state cannot bring themselves to back the working men and women of this state. We have heard the member for Burnett say health workers should have lower wages. We have heard the shadow public works minister, backed by the Leader of the Opposition, call for lower wages for construction workers. On this side of the House we will back good, decent, secure jobs. We will always make sure that Queenslanders' energy assets remain in public ownership. That is the fundamental difference between those opposite and those on this side of the House: we will back that workforce. We will always keep Queenslanders' assets in Queenslanders' hands.

Wet Tropics, Yellow Crazy Ants

Mr HEALY: My question is to the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for Multicultural Affairs. Can the minister please update the House on the efforts to eradicate yellow crazy ants from the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and is the minister aware of any alternative approach?

Ms LINARD: I thank the member for the question. I know that the member for Cairns, along with yourself, Mr Speaker, and the member for Barron River know how important this issue is and are very passionate about the response. The Wet Tropics World Heritage Area is a region of spectacular scenery, one of the largest areas of rainforest wilderness in this country. It is an area that both the Queensland and the Australian governments are strongly committed to protecting from threats, including yellow crazy ants. Yellow crazy ants, as the local members know but many others may not know, are one of the world's most invasive species. Their extremely aggressive nature makes them a significant threat not only to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, but to our community and also the region's economy as a whole. When these ants spread and invade our ecosystems they have a devastating impact, killing and displacing our native wildlife and wreaking havoc on their habitat.

I am pleased to advise the House that yellow crazy ants have been successfully eradicated from two sites in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area south of Cairns. The two sites in Mount Peter and Wrights Creek have a total area of around 48 hectares—that is the equivalent of almost 70 soccer fields—that includes sugarcane fields and hillside forest. The sites were identified in 2017 and 2018 and have gone through long-term treatment and intensive surveys, including periodic surveillance by highly-trained odour detection dogs before being declared as eradicated.

The successful eradication has been made possible thanks to \$24 million in joint state and Commonwealth government funding for the Wet Tropics Management Authority's Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program. Importantly, the authority has not done that alone. They have established strong partnerships and collaboration with stakeholders and received considerable support from the local community, industry, local business and traditional owners. Recently I was pleased to join federal environment minister Tanya Plibersek to meet with those who worked on the project. It is such a pleasure to have a Commonwealth government that we can work with to achieve those outcomes. Through their passion and hard work in the Wet Tropics, soon we expect to see additional sites declared as eradicated.

While we have a track record of taking action to protect our environment, what we do not know is what those opposite are planning for our environment. We do know that the LNP government were absolute environmental vandals last time and the best predictor of future performance is past performance. They absolutely and systematically revoked every environmental protection in this state and we know they will do it again.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House



Mr POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (12.10 pm): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. In a response to a question from the member for Whitsunday, I believe the health minister has misrepresented her statements made in the House on Tuesday and, in so doing, has misled the House. I will be writing to you on this matter.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Manager of Opposition Business.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Member for Sandgate



Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (12.11 pm): With your indulgence, Mr Speaker, 17 years to the day after delivering my first speech in this place, I rise to advise the House and my community of Sandgate that I will not be seeking preselection as a candidate for the October 2024 election. Serving this House and the people of Queensland has been the greatest honour of my life and I continue to enjoy the privilege it allows me. I have come to this decision not because I no longer want to serve or because I am tired of that privilege but in order to repay the person who has sacrificed the most to allow me to pursue this passion.

For long enough my wife, Megan, has put my pursuit of my political life and this parliamentary and ministerial service ahead of things she may have wanted to do. After October next year it will be her turn to make the calls. I am pleased to say that Megan has willingly supported me and been a partner in decisions but, ultimately, I made them and she and her life and the lives of our children, who are also with us in the gallery, were affected by them. The time has come for us to make decisions without my duty being the final determinant.

With the support of the Premier I will continue to serve as minister through to the end of the term. I am committed to and enthusiastic about the coming year's work as a minister and local member of parliament. That work spans the continued focus on the return of tourists from across the globe, the encouragement of our growing innovation ecosystem and supporting the transformative power of sport and recreation in the lives of individuals and their communities. The next 12 months will be an important period for informing and preparing not only a successful Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games but also the broader impact and legacy of this huge opportunity for our state. Having had the privilege of being part of this mission from the bid stage, I am deeply committed to contributing to the success of Brisbane 2032 over the coming year from this position and in any way that is useful beyond that.

The great Australian Labor Party is one of the important passions of my life. Announcing my intention now allows the party to conduct a preselection to ensure that the electors of Sandgate will have the opportunity to support the continuation of Labor representation, which is something that is very important to me. I hope to be succeeded by a young woman who will bring a new and diverse perspective, bringing a fresh Queensland and Sandgate story to the parliament.

This is not a valedictory speech, merely an opportunity to be transparent with the House and my electorate. Therefore, I will not use this opportunity to thank all those who are owed my appreciation. It is a very long list. However, I will thank my colleagues in this House for their continued support. I especially want to thank the Premier for her commitment to the people of Queensland and her personal support in this decision.

The government enjoys outstanding leadership. I am confident in the Premier's and my ministerial colleagues' continued stewardship of Queensland. In the tradition of Labor since 1989, we are about modernising Queensland—modernising to reflect our community's diversity, to provide a better platform to take every advantage of a broadening economy and take our rightful place as a progressive, globally connected jurisdiction. Only this Premier and Labor will continue that task faithfully.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Sandgate. I am sure all members of the House wish you well in your future endeavours.

TRANSPORT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction



Hon. MC BAILEY (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (12.15 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority Act 2016, the Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012, the Maritime Safety Queensland Act 2002, the Motor Dealers and Chattel Auctioneers Act 2014, the Sustainable Ports Development Act 2015, the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994, the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Road Rules) Regulation 2009, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2021, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Standards and Safety) Regulation 2021, the Transport Planning and Coordination Act 1994, the Transport Planning and Coordination Regulation 2017 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Transport and Resources Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 [\[1646\]](#).

Tabled paper: Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, explanatory notes [\[1647\]](#).

Tabled paper: Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[1648\]](#).

I am pleased to introduce the Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 to the House today. This bill amends various transport and other acts and facilitates the transition of certain regulatory services from the Department of Transport and Main Roads to the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator. The bill also includes amendments to improve road safety, including the safe use of personal mobility devices such as electric scooters, and to approve administrative and legislative processes generally.

Operational provisions of the heavy vehicle national law commenced in 2014. At that time, the regulator relied on states and territories to deliver most of its frontline heavy vehicle regulatory services under a service-level agreement with each jurisdiction, commencing in 2017 with South Australia. All other participating national jurisdictions have transitioned services to the regulator as part of its National Services Transition program. Queensland will be the final national law jurisdiction to transition services to the regulator.

The bill proposes amendments to facilitate the transition of regulatory services to the regulator and the transfer of up to 135 full-time-equivalent Transport and Main Roads employees to support transitioning services. The transition of services to the regulator is a significant milestone for heavy vehicle regulation in Queensland and a welcome final step for the heavy vehicle industry nationally. Transport and Main Roads employees will be able to choose to remain with the department or transition to the regulator.

For those staff deciding to move to the regulator, the bill will complement the Commonwealth Fair Work Act provisions to preserve their benefits, entitlements, remuneration, superannuation and all forms of leave. The bill allows for the creation of ministerial transfer schedules that identify TMR employees and vehicles transferring to the regulator. These transfer schedules will also identify Queensland Public Sector Act directives that will apply to transferring staff, ensuring that the rights of transferring staff are protected.

Post transition, the regulator will assume responsibility for the direct delivery of heavy vehicle regulatory services. A new formalised agreement is being developed between TMR and the regulator to replace the existing service-level agreement, establishing roles and responsibilities for each agency. One element of the new agreement will see the regulator assuming responsibility for delivering Queensland's programmed vehicle inspection scheme on behalf of TMR. This scheme delivers the regular scheduled inspections required to ensure roadworthiness prior to renewal of heavy vehicle registration. The transition of heavy vehicle regulatory services will allow the regulator to assume full responsibility for its role as the national regulator for heavy vehicles, leading to greater national consistency in the regulation.

On the subject of road safety, the bill introduces amendments that will manage safe interactions between vehicles and other vulnerable users. In particular, the bill expands the application of careless riding offences to bicycle and personal mobility device riders on road related areas. In addition, all drivers involved in a crash on a road related area such as a footpath will now be required to stop and render medical assistance to another injured person if required. The bill also ensures that personal mobility device riders such as riders of e-scooters are required to stop and provide their details in the event of a crash. The bill also introduces protections for vulnerable people who may not be able to

exchange personal information at the scene of a crash. For example, this will help to protect victims of domestic and family violence and children. This protection applies to any person who feels that exchanging their personal information may expose them to harm and allows for them to report the crash to police instead. The expansion of these rules to road related areas addresses ongoing safety issues with use of vehicles on footpaths and bike paths. These amendments form part of the next phase of Queensland's nation-leading approach to the safe use of personal mobility devices.

Safety is always a top priority for the Palaszczuk government; however, we need to manage safety in the context of rapidly changing technology and passenger transport service models. Since 2017 the personalised transport industry, specifically taxi and booked hire services, has been regulated by a safety duty framework. This framework is flexible, risk based and reduces red tape. It provides specific safety duties and ensures accountability for people involved in providing personalised transport services. Other road-based public passenger services such as buses are currently regulated by more prescriptive safety requirements. The bill creates a consistent safety duty framework that applies to road-based public passenger services. The new regulatory framework will be flexible to manage current and emerging safety risks and scalable so industry is able to tailor its safety treatments according to risk analysis. The safety duty framework will apply to people who influence the safety of road-based public passenger services. They are defined in the bill as 'duty holders' and include operators, drivers, booking service providers and personalised transport service licence holders.

The framework will not apply to volunteer associations or their volunteers as currently defined in work health and safety legislation. Duty holders will have an obligation to ensure safety including by, firstly, identifying hazards and eliminating safety risks as far as is reasonably practicable. Where a risk cannot be eliminated, the obligation will be to minimise the risk as far as reasonably practicable. The emphasis is on industry being proactive and practical in identifying and responding to safety risks. This framework builds upon the personalised transport services safety duty framework. It is also consistent, where possible, with existing industry obligations under work health and safety and heavy vehicle national laws. The bill also requires operators and booking service providers to have a safety management plan. A safety management plan aims to promote effective risk identification and mitigation as a result of exposure to a hazard. The plan may be similar to and reference any plan they have in place under the work health and safety or heavy vehicle national laws.

The bill will also introduce consistent audit and directions frameworks for road-based public passenger services. The bill also allows a six-month transition period to ensure industry has time to implement the new safety duty framework. These amendments support the government priorities embedded in Creating Better Connections for Queenslanders, the 10-year plan for passenger transport in Queensland, by maintaining a strong safety focus on passenger transport regulation.

This bill will also enable greater consistency of process in terms of nominating another driver for a tolling debt. Queensland's electronic tolling framework means that those who do not have an account with a toll collection provider need to arrange payment for any tolls incurred. To ensure people pay their tolls, the legislation provides an enforcement mechanism. The legislation enables the operator of a toll road or a local government tollway to issue a demand notice to the registered operator. Noncompliance with the demand notice without a reasonable excuse is an offence. Compliance with a demand notice involves either paying the debt or nominating another driver who will then receive a new demand notice. Legislation requires this to be done by completing a statutory declaration in the approved form. Statutory declarations are no longer required to be in the approved form under most of Queensland's other transport legislation. Standard statutory declarations, which are those made under the Oaths Act 1867, are permitted. The bill amends the tolling provisions to provide that a standard statutory declaration is an accepted method to deal with a demand notice.

The bill provides for online nominations as an accepted method of dealing with a tolling demand notice. I am advised that a trial of the online nomination facility has been well received, with over three-quarters of all nominations made using it. These simplifying and modernising amendments will provide greater consistency and less burden to motorists. The bill will also seek to update references to the relevant advertising standards entity in provisions that support cancellation of vehicle registration for the use of sexually explicit, discriminatory or offensive advertising on vehicles. The bill also makes other minor technical amendments that clarify requirements, improve operational processes, reduce legislative burden and updates legislation to a contemporary state.

In conclusion, this is a practical and forward-looking bill designed to advance heavy vehicle regulation and to improve road safety and government related processes. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. MC BAILEY (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (12.26 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to Transport and Resources Committee


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Transport and Resources Committee.

CRIMINAL CODE (SERIOUS VILIFICATION AND HATE CRIMES) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 11 October (see p. 2981), on motion of Ms Linard—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (12.26 pm): I rise in support of the Criminal Code (Serious Vilification and Hate Crimes) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. I want to begin by acknowledging the many multicultural Queenslanders who have been involved in advocating for and developing these reforms. In particular, I want to acknowledge Christine Castley and Rita Jabri-Markwell who were co-chairs of the Cohesive Communities Coalition. In the lead-up to the 2020 election, the Palaszczuk government committed to referring an options paper on hate crimes and vilification to a parliamentary committee for review. The legislation we are debating today is a direct result of that work.

We know there are too many members of our diverse communities who continue to experience the devastating impacts of hatred and bias. Throughout committee inquiries, round tables and meetings, and direct advocacy, we have heard countless stories from people who have experienced racism and bigotry firsthand—from Muslim women having their hijabs grabbed at to people being called terrorists and having horrible slurs yelled at them in the street. We know that it is not just individuals harmed by this abhorrent behaviour; it is entire communities. Queenslanders were rightly shocked last year when we saw a pig's head being left at an Arundel mosque and Nazi propaganda distributed in Brisbane suburbs.

It is important to note that these laws will not just protect our multicultural communities; they will also protect LGBTIQ+ Queenslanders. Across the country, and indeed around the world, we have seen a troubling rise in homophobic and transphobic rhetoric over the past 12 months. We have heard stories of being catcalled, having bottles and eggs thrown at them and being told that they are predators just because of who they are and who they love. Hatred and bigotry in all their forms must be called out and stamped out at every opportunity. This bill is an opportunity for all of us to commit to that.

Throughout the development of this bill in my former role as attorney-general, I was proud to host a number of round tables and meetings with multicultural community representatives. In October last year the police minister and I hosted a round table with the Cohesive Communities Coalition to hear directly from impacted communities and to ensure we delivered on the reforms that were needed. At this meeting we heard some heartbreaking stories about people's experiences with racism, bias and vilification, but we also heard hope from community members about the promise of a kinder Queensland under these new laws. Importantly, we got direct feedback about what people want these laws to achieve. We heard that people want laws that make it easier to prosecute hate crimes and reliable data on those prosecutions. We heard that people want laws that reflect community expectations and call out hate crimes for what they are, and we heard that people want laws that will keep them safe. I also met with members of the multicultural community in my electorate to discuss these reforms earlier this year. We discussed the vital need for people to feel safe and protected in their communities. I want to thank everyone who shared their story throughout this process, and I want them to know that the Palaszczuk government stands with them.

The reforms in this bill will give Queensland some of the strongest vilification and hate crime laws in the country. The bill implements four recommendation from the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee's inquiry into serious vilification and hate crimes. These changes will make it easier to prosecute vilification, introduce stronger offences for hate crimes and introduce harsher penalties. Currently under the Anti-Discrimination Act consent is provided by the Attorney-General or DPP to launch vilification proceedings. The bill removes that requirement while also moving the offence to the Criminal Code and increasing the maximum penalty to better reflect the seriousness of these offences.

The bill also introduces a circumstance of aggravation to the offences of going armed so as to cause fear, threatening violence, disturbing religious worship, common assault, assault occasioning bodily harm, threats, unlawful stalking, intimidation, harassment or abuse, and wilful damage. Having a circumstance of aggravation means that someone can be charged with a more serious offence, and this ensures that data can be collected so that these reprehensible crimes are called out for what they are. The bill also adds a circumstance of aggravation to the summary offence of public nuisance, which means that people will be charged with street-based harassment who might not otherwise meet the threshold for criminal offences. It can also be expected that someone displaying a Nazi salute might be captured by the public nuisance offence; however, as with all prosecutions, it depends on the circumstances.

The bill will also prohibit the public display of hate symbols, including those relating to Nazi and ISIS ideologies. Importantly, the proposed framework allows the minister to proscribe relevant symbols rather than enshrining this in legislation. This means that, as ideologies spread and symbols change to evade laws, our laws can respond quickly. There are also excuses under this offence, including in relation to religious purposes. This recognises that the swastika, which closely resembles the Nazi hooked cross, carries significant meaning in religions such as Hinduism and Buddhism.

The bill also ensures that the definitions of gender identity, race, sexuality and sex characteristics reflect modern society and are in line across the statute books. This includes consistency with definitions amended by the recently passed Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill. In addition, the legislation makes amendments to allow telecommunication warrants to be issued under federal legislation so that police can more easily establish who is responsible for online offending.

We know that there is more to do to protect our diverse communities from bias and vilification. This bill implements four of the 17 recommendations from the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee's inquiry into serious vilification and hate crimes. Of these, 13 are for government and four are directed to the Queensland Police Service. The remaining nine recommendations will be implemented through other reforms currently underway. The government has committed to enacting a range of reforms as part of implementing the Queensland Human Rights Commission's *Building belonging* report. This includes aligning protected characteristics for discrimination and vilification and lowering the threshold for the civil offence of inciting violence.

I again want to acknowledge the tireless work of Christine Castley and Rita Jabri-Markwell as co-chairs of the Cohesive Communities Coalition. Their options paper laid the groundwork for this legislation and they have been key players in developing these changes. I also want to acknowledge the Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service, the Multicultural Queensland Advisory Committee and all of the other stakeholders who engaged in this process. In addition, I would like to thank the Australian Medical Association Queensland, which has lent its support to this bill. Health workers are often called on to care for and treat people in the immediate aftermath of alleged hate crimes, whether that is for psychological or physical injuries, and I want to acknowledge their important role.

I am proud to be part of a government that is delivering these important reforms, and I am proud to have played a part in this process. These laws are an important step forward for Queensland and our diverse communities in particular. I hope that the work currently underway across government will create a safer, kinder Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr MINNIKIN (Chatsworth—LNP) (12.34 pm): I, too, would like to contribute to the Criminal Code (Serious Vilification and Hate Crimes) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. Symbols are indeed powerful. Some symbols are possibly more powerful than others. In my 11½ years in this chamber, one of the greatest privileges I ever had was to have a gentleman who sadly passed away last year, Mr George Stein, accompany me here for lunch several years ago. Then he watched in the public gallery as I delivered a speech. I used words to the effect that he was the embodiment of all that is good in mankind while staring down a dark time in history which displayed the absolute worst examples of

mankind. George was a Holocaust survivor. The symbol he had a vexed relationship with all of his life—ever since those six numbers were tattooed into his wrist—was one that he at times attempted to scratch out; at other times he wanted to use that symbol to make sure the Holocaust was never forgotten.

Symbols mean things, and they can mean things in a positive way or, sadly, they can bring out the worst in humanity. The tattooing of Holocaust victims is probably one of the most shocking examples of all, but there have been others. As was mentioned before by the minister, we heard about a pig's head being thrown in front of a mosque on the south side of Brisbane. We are also aware of the symbol that was displayed—of all symbols, the Nazi flag—hanging within view of the Jewish synagogue here in the CBD. I believe it was last year. In relation to symbols, when people say that people should just simply get on with things, I reject that wholesale. Symbols carry with them intent and meaning, which is why I am very proud to be making a quick contribution to this particular bill.

I am aware that the explanatory notes provide that the objectives of the Criminal Code (Serious Vilification and Hate Crimes) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 are due to recommendations 7, 8, 9 and 16 of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee's report. Recommendation 7 was that the Queensland government investigate the viability of removing the requirement for the written consent of a Crown Law officer before commencing a prosecution for serious racial, religious, sexuality or gender identity vilification under section 131A. Recommendation 8 was that the Queensland government introduce a statutory aggravation regarding hate and serious vilification in the Criminal Code Act 1899 and the Summary Offences Act 2005. Recommendation 9 was that the Queensland government relocate section 131A—the offence of serious racial, religious, sexuality or gender identity vilification—from the Anti-Discrimination Act into the Criminal Code. Recommendation 16 was that the Queensland government establish a criminal offence that prohibits the display of hate symbols including those—but not excluding others—relating to Nazi and ISIS ideology, with considered exceptions.

At the end of the day, we all know of the horrific events that are taking place in the Middle East at the moment. With your indulgence, Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to reflect and congratulate members on both sides of the chamber who, only a matter of a few nights ago, attended a Parliamentary Friends of Israel function that was held in this chamber. It was extremely gratifying that this particular event was well attended by government ministers, opposition members and the crossbench as well.

I believe that, because of the time we are living in, this bill is as timely as it could ever be. Whilst I am very proud to be the shadow minister for transport and main roads and customer service, I look back fondly at the time I was honoured to be the shadow minister for multicultural affairs a few years ago. It gave me the greatest gift of being able to be warmly received by members of the community with whom I may not have had as much interaction. Every single one of them—regardless of which of the three great monotheistic faiths they belonged to—were looking for something like this to be enshrined. I take this opportunity to simply say that I am very proud to be able to make a very small contribution today. Even though the irrepressible George Stein passed on in about May last year, he would be looking down on this chamber today and he would be absolutely beaming with pride at this legislation that is going through.


In this great state we have one of the great democracies in the western world. In fact I think I used lines to this effect the other night when I was the MC of that parliamentary friends group, and I am so proud to repeat it for the House today. I said that it was a wonderful thing that only a matter of hours earlier we were in here going for it hammer and tongs on both sides of the chamber, yet there we were a few hours later coming together as one group of politicians celebrating the best of humanity.

Bills like this are incredibly important. To the people who have been subject to taunts and physical aggression et cetera, this bill matters. This is not tokenistic. This is not a bill that is simply a tick-a-box routine. This is a bill that absolutely matters. If we are to continue to live in what I believe from the bottom of my heart is one of the greatest states and nations on the planet, we need to make sure we are never blindsided and we never take our foot off the brake when it comes to making sure that people are able to express their freedom of association, freedom of religion and freedom of lawful assembly and gathering. This bill will go a long way to dealing with symbols of hate. It may only be interwoven cloth with certain colours, dyes and pigments, but when those dyes and pigments and that interwoven fabric come together to form a symbol of hate, a symbol of vitriol, a symbol of darkness, we need legislation like this.

I acknowledge that members on both sides of the chamber engage in their communities, and some of them are probably far more multicultural than others just because of their demographic make-up. The one thing I take pride in is the fact that, while being a member of parliament for the last

11½ years, I have seen at times the best in humanity on display. It is bills like this that will ensure for many years to come that Queenslanders can go about their way of life, free and unimpinged from what has been occurring in some cases.

I would like to finish my contribution by saying that I have many friends who come from pretty much every country in the world. I am particularly fond of a sporting code called football. Without trying to be controversial in any way, shape or form, it is the world game and because of that I have friends from, you name it, all across the globe. The one thing they all share in common is simply a love of their family, their society and, yes, their beloved football. In a modern society such as Queensland, we do not have any place for the images we have seen on our screens in our living rooms over the last four or five nights or find that acceptable in any way, shape or form. The intent of this bill is to make sure that, whenever people are out in the great state of Queensland, they can be free from having interwoven cloth with pigments and dyes in their face knowing it is there for one reason: to cause hurt, to cause pain, to cause grief. It gives me a great deal of pride to make a contribution on this bill in this chamber today.

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (12.44 pm): I rise to speak on the Criminal Code (Serious Vilification and Hate Crimes) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. In doing so, I want to thank the Palaszczuk Labor government for having the strength to introduce this legislation into the House—some of the strongest in the country. This legislation will have a profound effect and will send a signal to our communities, wherever they may be located around our state, that consequences will be imposed on those who choose to seriously vilify or incite hate against individuals or groups of individuals in our state. In report 22 of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, the committee chair, the member for Toohey, stated—

While each of us have a moral responsibility to ensure that our conduct is appropriate, and to ensure that we teach our children to behaviour properly towards others, the unfortunate reality in our society is that there will be some people who will traverse the bounds of proper behaviour. For those persons, a deterrent sanction is needed.

We know the words of the member for Toohey are always profound, but in this instance they are more so given the growing prevalence of new tools to spread hate amongst our community at the click of a button. Once again, I will use the words of the member for Toohey, who said—

Social media is a powerful communication tool in modern society. While it is frequently used for good, it has also unfortunately provided a platform for those who seek to do harm to others, very often without fear or real threat of consequences. Heartless, foolish, unintelligent, damaging content can be posted by cowards, who cloak themselves in the anonymity of the internet, knowing that they will likely never be held accountable for what they say, or the damage that they do.

In the multicultural landscape of Queensland, we have become a melting pot of diverse cultures, languages and traditions but, while diversity often enriches our society, it can also create space for fear, division and hate. The world is increasingly interconnected. Whilst this brings incredible opportunities for understanding and collaboration, it also emboldens the capacity of individuals to project harm through speech and symbolism.

Vilification and hate speech are not just about offending or insulting individuals. They incite contempt and prejudice against certain people based on their race, religion, sexuality and any other characteristic. The effects of vilification are insidious and cause harm throughout our community. Hate speech targets not only individuals but entire groups which, left unchallenged, can undermine social cohesion, fracture relationships and inspire physical violence. It fuels the spread of stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination, putting the targets at risk of social isolation and exclusion.

The issues we are speaking about today in this bill address the concerns that are not only troubling our society but threatening its social fabric. It is the issue of the propagation of hate speech, the spread of vilification and the ever-growing presence of hateful symbols. Can you imagine, as a target of vilification, what it must be like to be confronted by the normalisation of hate speech? Imagine turning on your TV or going onto a social media channel and finding hate speech being normalised or even celebrated. Would you feel safe in such a society seeing your streets littered with symbols that have historically been associated with hate, discrimination or even genocide?

The consequences of hate speech and vilification are not just psychological. These actions affect our community, not only by perpetrating harm against targeted groups but by cultivating an environment of fear, hostility and division. They erode the mutual trust and respect which serve as the foundation of a healthy, functioning society. When a group is subject to serious vilification or hate speech, it can marginalise them from the rest of society. Over time these groups feel alienated, treated as 'other' or 'less than', leading to decreased participation in social, economic and political life. The victims are left feeling unwelcome in their own community and the perpetrators are emboldened to continue their hateful rhetoric, creating a vicious cycle.

The broader society is also affected. In a climate of hate and fear, people start to view their fellow citizens not as neighbours but as potential enemies. Society becomes polarised and every disagreement escalates into an 'us versus them' confrontation. Community cohesion is undermined, replaced by deep divisions and animosity.

I understand this. I come from an ethnic minority group. I have seen in my past how debilitating race hate can be, as it was to me and my family, and the effect of allowing perpetrators the freedom to discriminate and, yes, hate you, simply because you are not from the majority—simply because you look a little different, you eat different food, you talk a different language, you express your sexual preference in your own way, you see the world through different eyes—and, the strangest thing of all, you tolerate their discrimination and their hate as normal.

I want at this stage to acknowledge the member for Jordan's contribution a little earlier in this House—her experience growing up. I know how hard it was for her to talk about the vilification and the hate that we wore as children, even discrimination in its subtle forms. My experience was similar, be it a little earlier in the mid-sixties and through the seventies—abuse and name-calling repeated every day. As some of the many hundreds and thousands who suffered through those times are still suffering today, we endured and we forgave to become stronger, and today we are here in this House, with this bill, to call out our past experiences for what they were—hate speech.

Why, then, are we seeing such an increase in hate speech, vilification and the proliferation of hate symbols? It is because they are often not criminalised. The perpetrators are not held accountable for their actions and they continue unchecked. Many perpetrators think that in our country, built on the backs of the working class and migrants, they have a right to say whatever they please because we are a free country. I, for one, respect the rights of individuals to freely advocate for their beliefs. I have always lived by the adage that you can do whatever you like in your life as long as it does not hurt others. Your freedoms are yours to keep, not use to destroy and ridicule others.

It is important to remember that freedom of speech is not an absolute right—something the member for Hinchinbrook may want to reflect on and consider, given his background. Freedom of speech comes with responsibilities. Freedom of speech should never be an unlicensed weapon to harm others, to spread hate or to incite violence. It should not be used as a tool to dehumanise or marginalise others based on their race, religion, gender, sexuality or other characteristics. We should be clear here: criminalising hate speech and hate symbols is not about policing thought; it is about preventing harm. When individuals cannot sleep at night out of fear, when they avoid public spaces and social interactions because they do not feel safe, we have a social and moral responsibility to act.


The law—this bill—serves as the minimum standard of behaviour in our society. When we criminalise hate speech and symbols, we demonstrate as a society that we value respect and dignity over hatred and division. We show that we will not be silent in the face of intolerance. While legislation plays a crucial role, it alone is not sufficient. We need also education—education that fosters understanding, empathy and acceptance, education that allows us to celebrate diversity rather than fear it. As Nelson Mandela once said—

No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.

Serious vilification and hate speech pose significant harm to our Queensland community. By criminalising hate speech and symbols, we not only prevent harm but also actively promote a society that is fair, inclusive and respectful.

I want to again thank the Palaszczuk Labor government for introducing this legislation. I want to thank the committee members—ably led by, can I say, a blood brother, the most honourable and most compassionate member for Toohey—who gave their considered time and effort to review this legislation, and the committee secretariat for their enduring work.

Sometimes in this place we get a little lost with what we do here—that is my observation, having only been here a short time—and sometimes there are debates that may at the time seem a little innocuous, but with the passing of time this bill will be seen as profoundly making a difference to our social cohesion. I believe that this is one of those occasions. As a migrant son who has lived through some of the challenges of our country's past, this is without doubt a momentous step in ensuring that the Queensland community is seen in the eyes of world as a place of acceptance and unity—that we stand together against hate, that we love our multicultural mosaic of different cultures and that we are one people with a shared future. As a multicultural person, I want to thank the opposition speakers for their support in saying 'no' to hate and vilification, and I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (12.54 pm): I rise to give my contribution to the debate on the Criminal Code (Serious Vilification and Hate Crimes) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. While I understand the reasons behind the bill and believe it has been put forward with good intentions, I also passionately believe in freedom of speech. Our grandfathers and great-grandfathers fought and died for our freedoms, and when we start to weaken this right we are heading down a path of control and dictatorship. Of course, we all despise the fringe dwellers of our society and the radical views of those on the ultra extreme right and left, but, as the submission from the Queensland Council of Civil Liberties points out about freedom of speech—

The test of whether you support freedom of speech is not whether you support it for those with whom you agree, but whether you support it for those with whom you most disagree.

This is a fundamental right in our modern, free society, which is full of different views, ideals and beliefs, but our true test is supporting the rights of those we disagree with. This is what the bill attacks, regardless of whether it is well intentioned.

In South Africa, the Springboks Rugby symbol and colours were considered a symbol of hatred and white supremacy. To heal the wounds, the great Nelson Mandela, after being jailed for 27 years for challenging the white minority-led apartheid system, had to first acknowledge and address the widespread pain and division apartheid had wrought. Black South Africans wanted to destroy any symbol of the apartheid regime and high on the list was the Springbok symbol, which had been the Rugby Union team's mascot and the sport's emblem of apartheid's National Party since 1906. However, instead, Mandela sought a conciliatory strategy that would allow Afrikaners to keep their treasured emblem as a means to an end, which was bringing the nation together. Then, in 1995, the Springboks won the Rugby World Cup wearing the springbok symbol and colours, which united black and white people across the nation. This is a stark example of the symbol of hatred being tolerated and, in fact, embraced, forgiven and used to unite people with vastly different beliefs and views.

Not many people these days can tolerate hearing an opposing view or a controversial theory from others that is inconsistent with their own. Instead, we try to pass the buck by legislating and hiding behind it to oppose any views different to our own. This week's event at the Opera House should be a clear warning against this type of legislation. To the Palestinians, the Jewish symbol incites hatred in their people. However, for the Jewish people, it is a symbol of national pride, hope and inspiration. My point is: are we to outlaw the Star of David because one group of people see it as offensive and contend it incites hatred?


In this day and age of the constantly outraged, it is very easy to take the easy road and try to legislate and erode our freedom of speech and expression, rather than trust Queenslanders to think for themselves and show tolerance and acceptance of the views of others. The KAP will be opposing this bill as it is a threat to our freedom of speech and expression.

Debate, on motion of Mr Knuth, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 12.58 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Kawana Electorate, Desalination Plant

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): I rise to speak about the desalination debacle that has unfolded in Queensland in the last few days, particularly the anxiety it has created in the electorate of Kawana. We woke up this week to newspaper reports that the Premier had decided that she was going to build a desalination plant in Queensland—a desalination plant whose location was not disclosed; a desalination plant that was going to cost between \$4 billion and \$8 billion. They are about \$4 billion out; it is somewhere around there. There was no plan, no funding and no location, or so we thought. Then when the Premier was asked at a press conference about the desalination plant, she flippantly said, 'It might be Kawana.' Out of the blue, she just flippantly said at the press conference 'Kawana'.


Then when the water minister was asked about the location of this proposed desalination plant, he said, 'Some people are talking Kawana, some people are talking Bribie Island, but we are not talking about that.' That was despite the fact his boss, the Premier, was standing two feet away from him and said Kawana was looking like a location for a desalination plant. I cannot underestimate the anxiety this has caused in my community with not knowing where this desalination plant is proposed to be situated

by this Premier. Which beach in Kawana will it be on? Will it be on Kawana Beach, Wurtulla, Buddina, Warana, Currimundi, or will it be on the Caloundra beach? Is the member for Caloundra's electorate going to have this desalination plant?

The beaches of Kawana have the endangered loggerhead turtles nesting along the coastline. For the Premier to simply come out and say, 'A desalination plant is likely going to be built at Kawana,' without any community consultation with my electorate, has caused the Kawana people a great deal of anxiety. They do not know what the Premier means. Does the Premier mean it is going to go in Kawana? Who knows, because when the water minister was asked this week whether it was going in at Bribie Island, he did not rule it out. Is the member for Pumicestone's electorate going to get the desalination plant, or are my residents in Kawana going to get the desalination plant allegedly proposed by the Premier—a project they say could cost up to \$8 billion.

The Premier has caused unnecessary angst in my community because they have announced a plan that is not really a plan. It is just an announcement. It reminds me of when the Premier came up with the Gabba cost of a billion dollars because she had to make a media announcement. They needed a water announcement because in nine years the Palaszczuk Labor government has not done anything in water security in Queensland. Now all of a sudden Kawana might be the location of a proposed desalination plant. It has caused great anxiety in my community. I call on the Premier to apologise. I thank the shadow water minister, Deb Frecklington, for caring about my electorate more than the Premier does.

Social and Affordable Housing

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (2.03 pm): I rise to welcome the latest social and affordable housing project in my beautiful electorate of Stafford. I recently welcomed the Minister for Housing to visit and turn the sod on the latest project in Chermside. It is delivering another 92 social and affordable homes. It will be constructed in Chermside under the partnership between Brisbane Housing Company and QIC, funded through the Queensland government's signature \$2 billion Housing Investment Fund.

This project will deliver 46 new social housing units and 46 affordable housing units. Demolition has already begun on site. It is coming along well. Negotiations were completed in relation to the four existing older homes that will now be replaced by 92 homes. It is close to transport, great local schools, hospital and medical services as well as Westfield Chermside for the services, retail and job opportunities all of that provides. It is a great location for these sorts of projects.

This is in addition to the recent developments across the north side, including new projects in Lutwyche and Windsor which are already tenanted; two new build projects well underway in Alderley; a great new building completed and tenanted in Kedron; and another build already underway in another part of Chermside, in addition to the site referred to earlier. I welcome this fantastic investment in our northern suburbs. I am proud to be part of a government that invests in social and affordable housing and I am proud to represent a community that embraces that investment. We are a stronger community for it.

What are the priorities of those opposite? The new project is actually directly opposite the Prince Charles Hospital. We know what the LNP aspire to when it comes to our hospital staff. They sacked 1,400 health workers in Metro North HHS alone, including more than 700 nurses. That is what they aspire to. Compare that to the \$360 million investment we are putting into the Prince Charles Hospital, delivering 94 new beds, a new acute services facility and an expansion of both adult and paediatric EDs. When it comes to leadership and law reform, those opposite aspire to go back to the future. They have learnt nothing.

The chaos and extremism of the member for Kawana in government led to his own party instigating what they themselves dubbed 'operation boring' to try to keep him away from cameras for six months. I accept that was a daunting challenge for the LNP, yet those opposite have now promoted him. That is what they aspire to.

When it comes to housing, again, they want to relive the terrible record from when they were in government. The Leader of the Opposition has appointed the very member in his shadow cabinet who was the disastrous minister in their government, leaving a legacy of fewer social houses than when he started, threatening grandmas to take in a stranger and not allowing tenants to go on holidays to visit kids when they had had a baby or needed care. That is their legacy and that is what they aspire to. We build and they cut and the community knows it.

Capricornia Correctional Centre, Grass Fire



Mr LAST (Burdekin—LNP) (2.06 pm): On 14 September 2023 a fire destroyed approximately 3,000 acres of land affecting multiple landholders adjacent to the Capricornia Correctional Centre located 20 kilometres north of Rockhampton. Of particular concern is information I have received from multiple services that this fire allegedly started because of grass slashing being conducted on property under the control of the Capricornia Correctional Centre. At the time of the fire I am informed there was a high fire danger warning in place. As many people would be aware, slashing during a high fire danger period should be avoided due to the serious risk of starting a fire. This fire spread quickly and caused catastrophic damage to nearby properties. Vital stockfeed has been destroyed, trees are down and fences are down. It was only through sheer luck that livestock were not lost in substantial numbers. In many cases property owners are now forced to feed livestock and will be doing so until it rains. Otherwise they will have to agist them off property or be forced to sell them at a potential loss.

One would think the Palaszczuk Labor government would do whatever it could to support property owners who suffered severe damage caused by a fire which started on government land. Are the Premier and the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services aware of this issue? As at today, QCS have refused to accept liability. I am led to believe there may be some government assessors floating around. In fact, they may be there today. What is this government actually doing to address the needs of the property owners right now in their time of need? The government should be doing whatever it can do to support property owners affected by this fire, and they should be coordinating the response to this event.

Furthermore, it was reported that there were no evacuations from the correctional centre. However, I am now told that there may have been evacuations. Why don't we know? This Labor government is more concerned about trying to manage negative media than being up-front and honest with the people of Queensland. It has been nearly a month since the fire and it would be reasonable to expect the exact cause would have been established by investigators. Minister Ryan has some serious questions to answer. Will the minister commit to publicly releasing the cause of the fire? Will the minister commit to having the commissioner of corrections contact affected landholders and maybe—just maybe—offer an apology and an assurance they will get the financial and physical assistance they need to get their properties and their livelihood back on track? Will the minister assure systems are in place to prevent this from happening again? Affected landowners need government assistance now—not just when the government is ready—and they need answers today.

Ipswich West Electorate, School Infrastructure



Mr MADDEN (Ipswich West—ALP) (2.09 pm): I rise to outline the incredible state school infrastructure program currently being delivered in my electorate of Ipswich West. It began with the replacement of utility blocks at Haigslea, Mount Marrow, Marburg and Ashwell state schools. Utility blocks are prefabricated and contain male and female toilets, showers and even laundries. In most cases, there are also associated enhancement programs that include landscaping, construction of shaded walkways and verandahs—all disability friendly. At Ipswich State High School in Brassall, a \$30.9 million, 10-learning-space building program contract was awarded to Badge Pty Ltd. Work began in 2022 and is expected to be completed in November 2024.


At Ipswich State High School, Novar Group recently completed a \$1.1 million contract to refurbish C block, while planning has begun on a new \$18.5 million school hall, expected to be completed by June 2026. These are just the most recent items in a production line of building programs at Ipswich State High School since I was first elected in 2015. We have seen the delivery of a new performing arts centre; classrooms for students with a disability; a synthetic soccer pitch; and facilities for young mothers that allow them to bring their children to school with them.

The state government's state school infrastructure program has been equally amazing in the west of my electorate. At Rosewood State High School, work has begun on a \$10.6 million building—delivered by Hutchinson Builders—to be completed in June 2024. This project will include a six-classroom learning space, upgrades to the existing school bus bays and construction of a new car-parking area. Hutchinson Builders are also the contractors on a building program at nearby Walloon State School. The \$5.2 million contract will deliver additional classrooms, while a \$300,000 contract will deliver a school infrastructure enhancement program.

Funding has also been provided to a number of state schools in my electorate. This includes air conditioning for all of my state schools. At Ipswich North State School, \$300,000 was provided to refurbish block B learning spaces, and \$250,000 was provided to resurface playing courts and the

outdoor learning area. At Karalee State School, \$200,000 was provided for a more efficient and larger septic system, while at Tivoli State School, \$350,000 has been provided to upgrade B block. I would like to thank Minister Grace Grace for her hard work in fighting for funding for this amazing state school infrastructure program that will greatly benefit the students and staff at Ipswich West state schools.

McDonald, Mr JN, AM

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (2.12 pm): I welcome my brother, Mayor Geoff McDonald, to the gallery today and our family watching from home. In preparing for today, I wondered what Dad would say if he had the opportunity. He would not talk about his success in athletics; he would not talk about his success in coaching, playing or administering Rugby League. He never spoke of his success; he celebrated the achievements and success of others. He would say thank you to Steve Hadden for his tribute for Rugby League and Damon Phillips for his tribute for RASQ. He would say thank you to Geoff and me for our contributions regarding family, athletics, business and community. I table these tributes in full.

Tabled paper: Bundle of tributes to Mr John Norman McDonald AM [\[1649\]](#).

Dad would say thank you to Ree, Lisa and Geoff for their work in preparing a tribute booklet. I table a copy of this excellent publication.

Tabled paper: Order of service for Mr John Norman McDonald AM [\[1650\]](#).

Dad would say thank you to all for the tributes and wishes that have helped us to grieve.

I want to place on record my personal thanks to all of the members, on both sides of this House, for their thoughts and wishes at the loss of my father. He was a true champion—a champion of Queensland and Australia but a true champion of regional Queensland and the development of Rugby League across this state. He would be grateful for the tributes. The ARL Commissioner, Peter V'landys, said—

John McDonald was one of the greatest leaders ever to grace the game of Rugby League ... He was also one of the game's absolute gentlemen and he will be remembered for many decades to come for his immense contribution to grassroots and elite Rugby League.

He would say thanks to 'King' Wally Lewis, who after the celebration of life said—


It was a privilege to know 'Cracker' and an even greater honour to have him guide me in my early days in representative footy. Suddenly I knew the meaning and value of being confident and how to adjust if I wasn't. He played a major role in teaching me how to remain cool, calm and collected in pressure situations and this input proved helpful in many tight games and will never be forgotten.

From the first date Mum said, 'He was so nice. He was the nicest person I'd ever known. He was always a gentleman and always respected my and my mother's wishes.' Dad would say that he loved and he has been loved. He would say thank you to Mum, 'his Joanie', for her love on their lifelong journey and her devotion to their shared goals. Mum and Dad had negotiated the trials and tribulations of life. They had been successful in many ways. They were wonderful hosts, both humble and unassuming. It is their example that has taught us wonderful qualities and a work ethic but, importantly, to enjoy life along the way. Dad would be grateful for all of the well wishes. He would say thank you.

John 'Cracker' McDonald—a kind, strong gentleman with a great sense of humour and love of life—was a great bloke to be around and an even better man to have on your side. We will miss you, mate. Rest in peace.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Music Industry

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (2.15 pm): I rise today, with my Parliamentary Friends of Music hat on, to talk about our most recent event and to congratulate QMusic on the fabulous success of Bigsound 2023. On 24 August, a Thursday evening, the Parliamentary Friends of the Music Industry, co-sponsored by the member for Bonney and me, held our third event since formation, in partnership with QMusic and the Queensland Hotels Association. It has been fantastic to see engagement increasing between industry and members of parliament from right across Queensland with each event. That is exactly what we are here for.

I want to thank the QMusic board members, CEO Kris Stewart and all of the members, industry players and musicians who were present, including the performing artists. I think we all enjoyed Darren Hanlon and Clea and her band—more proof of the world-class talent Queensland has to offer. I thank

our event sponsors: returning sponsors the Queensland Hotels Association—a special mention to chief executive Bernie Hogan—and Brick Lane Brewing; and our new sponsor, Trentham Estate Wines. The team in my office has a new favourite prosecco, which they wanted me to mention. We also had representatives from Arts Queensland join us on the night for the awarding of the prestigious Grant McLennan Fellowship. A huge congratulations goes to the winner, Kate Herrington from Full Moon Flower Band. She is off to New York as a result of that win. I went along to Bigsound and watched her perform again. She is absolutely amazing.

I am proud to be a part of a government that supports QMusic and a number of live music industry events. QMusic's encouragement and showcasing of emerging artists is absolutely empowering—not to mention the work they put into the production of one of Australia's and the world's most iconic festivals, Bigsound. It is second to none; it is fantastic. The concept is brilliant: combining conference activities with live music concerts, bringing together industry leaders and artists and offering networking opportunities and effectively creating a live music training ground. Since my first attendance last year, representing our government as sponsors, I have been hooked.

I have heard a fair bit of music; I have represented everyone. I attended Friends of Live Music recently as well. I also went to the Australian Women in Music Awards with the member for Macalister. It was fantastic. For a long time, women have not been recognised in the music industry. An amazing person called Vicki Gordon has started these awards. It was fantastic to be in the presence of artists like Little Pattie, Sarah McLeod, Dami Im, Kate Ceberano, Vanessa Amorosi, Vika and Linda, Becky Cole and Katie Noonan, just to name a few. If members want to watch it, it is available on iView. It is really worth looking at. I also mention Caloundra Music Festival. You cannot ever have enough live music.

Mr Purdie: Hear, hear!

Mr KING: The member for Ninderry will agree. I met a hero of mine there—Barry Morgan from Barry Morgan's World of Organs and *Spicks and Specks* fame. He is a legend. Go and check out some live music. You should all do it.

Ipswich Environment Advocacy



Mr O'CONNOR (Bonney—LNP) (2.18 pm): For the second sitting week in a row, I rise to raise the disgusting stench that the people of Ipswich have been putting up with for far too long. They have had enough, and the members of IRATE and Stop The Stink have continued to advocate, and the community forum last week showed the strength of their advocacy. I would especially like to commend Geoff Yarham for his outstanding work on this issue.

The Mayor of Ipswich, Teresa Harding, has also stepped up to take on the issue, even spending around \$8 million in legal fees to take on some of the operators on behalf of the people of Ipswich. Mayor Harding asked for three things at the community forum. She asked for more urgent action from the environment department—the strongest response within its powers—to hold noncompliant waste operators to account, because we have seen some of these companies run rings around the government. She asked for a clear time line for when Cleanaway's cell 3B is closing, as per the member for Bundamba's announcement in August 2022, and for a public health inquiry to investigate the potential impact this is having on the people of Ipswich. The opposition has also stepped up and a couple of weeks ago I, the deputy leader and the shadow health minister stood alongside the mayor and brave locals Tracey and Michelle to call for the immediate establishment of a public health inquiry. We were joined by a very special guest at our press conference—the former Labor member for Bundamba Jo-Ann Miller. Here is some of what this former Labor MP had to say. She said—

What you will see is me advocating on behalf of (advocacy groups) Stop the Stink and IRATE, and our local residents, who still contact me daily because they can't get any answers out of their state MPs.


She went on to say—

You can't organise a barbecue in these areas on the weekend because you don't know whether it's going to be stinking that much you will have to cancel and be locked inside.

This week it has been reported that the environment department is now handing out canisters to schools and day care centres to monitor their air quality. It is bewildering to me that the environment department thinks it is worth offering these canisters to monitor the air quality of local kids but the health department does not think it is worth holding a public health inquiry. Surely it is at least worth looking into in this way. Why not set up an inquiry to make sure there are no health impacts from this stench? It would reassure residents to know that potential health impacts are being fully assessed and if

anything is found it will make it clear the action that is needed to fix this issue. The people of Ipswich deserve better. They have supported the Labor Party time and time again. They deserve to be properly represented. They deserve to have people stand up for them.

Mental Health Week, Remote Communities

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (2.21 pm): This week is Queensland Mental Health Week. This year's theme is awareness, belonging and connection. I want to take the opportunity to speak to this important topic and bring light to some of the challenges that impact people's health and mental wellbeing in the most remote parts of Far North Queensland. According to the World Health Organization—


Mental health is a state of mental well-being that enables people to cope with the stresses of life, realise their abilities, learn well and work well, and contribute to their community. It is an integral component of health and well-being that underpins our individual and collective abilities to make decisions, build relationships and shape the world we live in.

I look after some of the most remote communities in the state. Living in remote communities comes with many challenges—challenges that deeply embed into people's lifestyle. When we talk about mental health in remote communities, it is important to also consider the environmental and social factors underpinning mental health.

Cost of living is a huge challenge for my communities. Issues affecting the mental health and wellbeing of people in communities ranges from housing to affordable transport, accessibility in and out of community, food and essential goods, jobs and many more. Many communities live and breathe their circumstances. Everything you have to rely on to survive day in and day out can become overwhelming, which can trigger feelings of isolation and loneliness. I am proud of the Palaszczuk government's investment into my electorate to help communities cope with some of the cost-of-living pressures. The Local Fare Scheme is giving people access to affordable travel. I can personally vouch for this because a few weeks ago I took a trip home to Yam Island to attend my grandmother's funeral. Due to flight availability, commercial and charter, the total cost of my trip was \$3,388 and something I cannot imagine for people living in my community—the reason why I will always fight hard for affordable travel for my community.

There is a \$64 million freight subsidy which, I am proud to say, we will be rolling out in early 2024. This means a 5.2 per cent subsidy into the pockets of consumers at cash registers in the Torres Strait, Cape York and the gulf region. Communities in my electorate are benefiting off the electricity rebate which the government is rolling out. I have had many conversations with constituents telling me what a difference it is making to their lifestyles. There is also the investment that is going into the PDR. We are seeing communities becoming more connected and it is really important for communities to keep connected so that people can stay in contact with family, access services and share their cultural traditions and lifestyle. I am proud of our Palaszczuk government investment into communities, I am proud that we are looking after people's mental health and wellbeing, and I am proud to represent the community of Cook.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Tax Policy


 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (2.24 pm): One of the distinguishing features of this term of the Palaszczuk government has been the chaotic formulation and implementation of tax policy. There has been the breach of the solemn promise not to introduce or increase taxes, but the consequences for households and business of the chaotic nature of the Treasurer's tax policy approach poses an even more serious risk to Queensland's living standards. The Treasurer has been a triple threat to our economy: surprise coal royalty hikes that have damaged our international reputation for being a safe place to invest; a renters tax that has damaged our national investment reputation and driven up rents in the middle of a housing crisis; and now the patients tax that will drive up emergency department presentations, drive down bulk-billing rates and make it more expensive to see the doctor in the middle of a health crisis across Queensland.

We first asked questions during question time last November about this issue. The Treasurer said that there had been no change and that he would not be acting because it would not be proper to do so. Well, look what has happened since then. We have had 78 complex clauses over 29 pages of two editions of a complex Queensland Revenue Office ruling. We have seen a backdown and a backflip from the Treasurer. We have seen admissions during estimates that the Treasurer has not worked with Queensland Health to determine the impact of the patients tax on ambulance call-out rates at a time of record ramping, bulk-billing rates or access of residential aged-care facilities to their visiting GP.

At the end of this chaos the Treasurer's plan is that medical practices must pay his patients tax or restructure their business model to factor in ongoing higher administrative costs. If practices adopt the latter approach, there remains a myriad unanswered and worrying questions. Are doctors at risk of triggering anti-avoidance provisions if they move to a direct payment model? How will grouping provisions work in practice? How do practices and doctors administer the direct payment model with concerns around bank accounts and the roles played by the administrative entity and the practice entity? These are concerns that are shared by general practices across the state, including my colleague and general practitioner Dr Rowan in the seat of Moggill. Rather than fix the problem that he created, the Treasurer has only made it more complicated and more expensive, regardless of which option general practitioners take. Doctors are healers, not bookkeepers, but the only question that ultimately mattered throughout this chaotic process is straightforward: under the Treasurer's tax, will Queenslanders end up paying more to see the doctor? The answer is in and the answer is yes.

(Time expired)

Cairns Convention Centre


 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (2.27 pm): I am very pleased to announce that the Palaszczuk Labor government's \$176 million commitment to expand the Cairns Convention Centre has been completed. I want to acknowledge the work of the Queensland government and the commitment in particular of the Minister for Public Works for his advocacy. It is an absolute asset. It is owned by the people of Queensland through the Queensland government and it will be a legacy for years to come. This is a world-class facility and it will remain a significant economic driver for our region. As well as that, during its building over a thousand jobs were supported, and the project has well and truly delivered.

We have an additional 10,500 square metres, allowing multiple events to take place concurrently which we could not do in the past; a large undercover tropically planted drop-off entry forecourt; an expanded main entry lobby; a 410-seat plenary lecture space; three 120-seat meeting rooms; a new exhibition space for up to 30 display booths, which are vitally important; and a 500-seat sky terrace with views over Trinity Inlet. We have built a world-class convention and exhibition centre on the doorstep of Queensland's two World Heritage listed arenas—the Great Barrier Reef and the Daintree Rainforest and catchment area. The Cairns Convention Centre is, as I said, owned by us—the people of Queensland—and managed by ASM Global under the local leadership of Janet Hamilton. I want to sincerely thank Janet and her team for their cooperation and communication throughout the delivery of this project.

Refurbishment started in 2020 and careful steps were taken to ensure that anchor tenants like the Cairns Taipans were not displaced or interrupted. Already 2,500 delegates are expected through the doors this year alone—with more than five events, including DestinationQ and the Queensland Tourism Awards during Tourism Week next month. We anticipate more than 35,000 visitations to the Cairns region will be generated by people travelling to attend events at the Cairns Convention Centre generating over \$100 million.

A project of this magnitude was not immune to the challenges of the global pandemic, including supply chain constraints and labour shortages, but I want to make the point that the Palaszczuk Labor government delivered the project within the scope of the budget forecast back in 2016. I also want to make special note and thank the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Hon. Curtis Pitt, who announced funding for this vitally important funding when he was Treasurer. I recognise his very important input into this. Only strong Labor governments could have forecast and delivered this project within budget and I am proud to be part of those collective efforts. This is a key economic driver for our community and something we are all very proud of.

Electricity Supply

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (2.31 pm): The reliability and affordability of Queensland's electricity supply is a major issue affecting Queenslanders. It is something even the Labor aligned Mining and Energy Union has expressed concern about. The Premier and this government continue to be consumed by chaos and crisis and media spin rather than addressing the issues at hand. I have spoken at length about the issues at the Callide Power Station and the effect generators being offline is having on rising electricity prices for Queensland families. The situation at Callide is one that could have been avoided with proper maintenance and that is something that whistleblowers continue to tell me. It is becoming commonplace to see government owned generators offline due to unplanned outages, including key generators offline at Kogan Creek and Millmerran recently. The unreliability of these power plants is causing a serious issue and it is gambling with the security of our supply over the

summer peaks. This unreliability is squarely at the feet of the Premier and her energy minister. Given this government has failed to adequately maintain these government owned power plants, there is less supply into the electricity market. The longer the government avoids the issue, the higher prices Queenslanders will pay through their electricity bills.

We have heard about the El Nino predictions and we know meteorologists are warning of a very hot summer. The stress on Queensland's electricity network over the coming months will be significant. Many energy experts have raised their concerns with me that blackouts are a very real possibility over summer if our electricity network becomes overloaded. It is a serious issue and one that deserves attention rather than the dismissive and evasive answers the Premier and the energy minister continue to offer up.

I read with interest an article in this week's *Financial Review* where former Snowy Hydro CEO Paul Broad warned 'The lights are going to go out in a return to normal conditions after three mild summers.' Mr Broad went on to say that politicians were not listening to the warnings about the risks around supply and the slow rollout of alternatives to baseload power. The Palaszczuk government has made many announcements and set time frames for the delivery of these announcements that they simply cannot achieve.

Over two years later we are still waiting for the Premier to release the Brady report commissioned to investigate the explosion that occurred at the Callide Power Station. I again call on the Premier to be open and transparent with Queensland. This report should be released in full. The minister this morning alleged that I did not support workers and were blaming them. I can assure members that I support the workers. There is one person I blame for this and that is this energy minister.

Mundingburra Electorate, Road Upgrade



Mr WALKER (Mundingburra—ALP) (2.34 pm): I rise to speak about something very exciting, the Stuart Drive upgrade in my electorate of Mundingburra. The duplication of Stuart Drive in Idalia to four lanes is one of my election commitments, and an important one that is well and truly under construction. This is soon to be followed by the start of the second bridge next to the existing Bowen Road bridge, making a total of four lanes crossing Ross River from Bowen Road to Stuart Drive. The bridge is in its final design stage following recent geotechnical works in Ross River and survey works to locate all underground services in Bowen Road and Stuart Drive approaching the existing bridge and community consultation has now been completed.

The duplication of Stuart Drive to four lanes is a \$96 million commitment by the Palaszczuk Labor government to improve traffic movement as well as an investment in active transport to improve the safety of pedestrians and cyclists in and around our schools and the Murray Sporting Complex. The upgrade of Stuart Drive for the local community is extremely important. It not only improves driver safety and traffic movement along the length of this section of road, it also upgrades three important intersections that become gridlocked during peak periods of traffic movement around school student drop-off and collection times, as well as major sporting events over the weekends. The intersection of Mervyn Crossman Drive, Gartrell Drive and Kokoda Street will be upgraded. All three will have traffic lights installed to improve driver and pedestrian safety, which is paramount in an area that not only has a large number of vehicle movements but also has an extremely high number of young people moving in and around the area due to three schools, a retail precinct and a large number of sporting facilities.

The duplication of this section of Stuart Drive to four lanes will also assist in the smooth flow of traffic onto the Townsville Ring Road which will improve travel times for those travelling north and south of the city. The upgrade will also assist those travelling to and from Lavarack Barracks and the Townsville University Hospital which has grown due to recent improvements and will grow even more thanks to a \$530 million investment for more operating theatres, 143 new beds, a state-of-the-art helipad and more. The good news just keeps coming for the people of the seats of Mundingburra and Townsville.

Whitsunday Electorate, Road Upgrade; Sexual Violence Awareness Month



Ms CAMM (Whitsunday—LNP) (2.36 pm): I bring to the attention of the House today a challenging situation that is evolving in my community of Cannonvale in the Whitsundays. We note that the federal Albanese government is undertaking a 90-day review of road projects, in particular across regional Queensland and other parts of the nation, but this road review is having an impact on existing projects. In the last several weeks I have visited over a dozen businesses that have been impacted by the Paluma Road to Tropic Road shared path upgrade project. It is a project that has commenced.

There was \$2.6 million drawn from the Queensland road safety program. I have written to Minister Bailey to seek clarification. This project is the pre-works for the bigger upgrade Proserpine-Shute Harbour Road which is a project of \$31.6 million. It is important to note that neither of these projects are under the federal government's review, yet they have come to a grinding halt.

The initial project was about a shared pathway. Great news for all of our pedestrians: the pathway is finished, but we have a single lane of traffic into and out of Airlie Beach and Cannonvale. We have an exposed road base and we have at the moment significant congestion issues with traffic movements of 26,640 per day. Twenty-eight out of my 32 school buses from Airlie Beach and Cannonvale that transport children to Proserpine are being held up in traffic, which is causing significant delays. Whitsunday Transit, for the benefit of the transport minister, is contracted for public transport in the region and is continually late to meet ferries. This road project has come to a grinding halt. We have seen equipment moved and works completely stop on an intersection upgrade as well as access to driveways and businesses, who were happy to put up with the pain because they knew the long-term benefit was going to be substantial. At the moment it is dangerous and is causing significant disruption to commuter traffic, the tourism industry and public transport. I urge the minister to engage with his department and take up this matter.

I also want to highlight that October is Sexual Violence Awareness Month as well as Mental Health Awareness Month. Yesterday, with the Leader of the Opposition, I met with victim-survivors who shared their story at the launch of the Stronger, Wiser, Survivor art project delivered by QSAN. I congratulate the courage of all of those victim-survivors who come out and share their stories. We believe you and we hear you.

Thuringowa Electorate, Roads



Mr HARPER (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.39 pm): Following on from the last couple of speakers, I too want to talk about roads and what a proud Labor government does to deliver roads in Thuringowa. I am glad that the Minister for Main Roads is in the House at the moment. He is the best main roads minister we have ever had and I will tell members why. In 2015-16, the Hervey Range Road upgrade: we did that. In 2018, Riverway Drive Stage 1: we did that with funding of \$43 million, decreasing congestion and making the road safer. In 2019 I also got funding commitments—the state moved first—of \$40 million for the Townsville Ring Road Stage 5, which has now been completed. It is finished. That was a \$280 million build that created 440 local jobs in our city. That is why we have a 2.7 per cent unemployment rate. It is finished and the punters love it. It is a separated arterial road so there is a decreased risk of road traffic accidents. As a former paramedic—

Mr Healy: Were you?

Mr HARPER: Yes, I was—I attended a number of accidents on that strip when the road was single lanes. It was quite dangerous. That was a great investment in road safety that includes the Beck Drive upgrade. That is welcomed by the Carlyle Gardens crew, as I like to refer to them. Carlyle Gardens is a retirement village of 500 people. They have been kept informed along the way. I thank Georgiou, TMR locally and Steve Malloes, the regional director. They have worked hard to engage with all stakeholders, to finish that job and to improve connection along Beck Drive. There are additional ramps. What did those ramps bring? More investment from private developers! There are 1,500 homes to be built on Beck Drive, which means more jobs for tradies in our city. This is a great investment by the Labor government.

I will continue to deliver roads well into the future with a commitment for Riverway Drive Stage 2—thank you, Minister—worth \$20 million. Early works are to start soon. Ergon is doing some utility work and getting that out of the way. The project has been delayed by the Townsville City Council water pipe. We have helped them put in a new pipeline on the other side of the river to connect the Ross River Dam to the Douglas Water Treatment Plant. Once that pipe is moved, we will be able to get digging on Riverway Drive Stage 2. I am looking forward to that and so are the thousands of people who use the road—25,000 cars a day. That will be stage 2.

And who knows what the future holds. I have just had a meeting with the Treasurer. In future budgets, what do I want? What might I deliver? Could there be—indeed—a Riverway Drive stage 3? You will have to wait see, Thuringowa. Wait until after October next year and I will tell you all about it. We are investing in roads in Thuringowa.

Townsville, Youth Crime



Mr DAMETTO (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (2.42 pm): While the member for Thuringowa and the member for Mundingburra talk about roads, the people of Townsville have asked me to stand in this House and talk about the youth crime problem that is happening in Townsville right now. In Wulguru, a 64-year-old woman was punched and robbed in her own driveway. She now suffers from anxiety and is crippled by fear. No charges have been laid yet. Just last week, youths in a stolen car were hooning around the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre, unfazed by the QPS. In the last seven days around the town, multiple cars have been found burnt, crashed and smashed. A Kirwan man was injured while trying to stop his ute from being stolen off his own driveway. It was later found dumped.

Rocks were allegedly hurled at the windscreen of a stationary police car. Police officers were allegedly stuck in their vehicle while youth offenders attacked the car with golf clubs. The officers were unable to intervene. Townsville youth posted on social media boasts about their exploits, describing 'how it's done', while they cruised around town in a stolen Audi that was linked to two burglaries. There was an attempted carjacking at the Willows Shopping Centre car park. The lady involved was able to save her two-year-old and six-month-old children who were in the backseat because she was able to think quickly.

It is clear that the community has lost faith in the Police Service's ability to render law and order and protect them and their property. That is no fault of the officers on the beat. The blame lies with the authorities and the people who make the internal decisions and policies for the QPS on how they operate.

QPS officers must be empowered to do their job. They must be backed up by strong legislation that puts repeat offenders behind bars once they finally reach the courtroom. The police must be allowed to act from a position of authority and have the ability to protect themselves, citizens and their property if we are to have any hope of reigning in the lawlessness on Townsville's streets. If not, we are only going to see more risky behaviour from people who try to take matters into their own hands. If the police have the authority to pursue and retrieve stolen vehicles in an aggressive and timely manner then everyday people will feel safer in Townsville.

No-one wants to see Queensland turned into a police state but, at the same time, I do not want to live in a state where juvenile offenders feel they have the right to attack a police car with a set of golf clubs. It is little wonder that, when I talk to QPS officers, they tell me that morale seems to be at an all-time low. The state government has a lot of work to do here if they want to turn this around. The police minister has a monumental task if he is to have a chance of turning this around before October next year. It is time to give the police back the powers, and the confidence to use them, to do their job properly, protect Queenslanders and bring this youth crime problem under control in Queensland to keep us safe.

Gladstone Engineering Alliance Major Industry, Energy and Manufacturing Conference




Hon. GJ BUTCHER (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (2.45 pm): I rise to speak about a fantastic event that was held recently in my electorate: the Gladstone Engineering Alliance Major Industry, Energy and Manufacturing Conference. For the past 20 years in Gladstone, GEA has been representing, supporting and certainly promoting the capabilities and interests of not only their members but also the manufacturing sector in the Gladstone region. There is no doubt that Central Queensland is a world recognised industry supply chain hub and, in no small part, that is thanks to the efforts of GEA. We know that when we back local content, we grow our economy and provide good secure jobs for locals.

The conference was a great opportunity to hear about the many projects happening in the Gladstone region. It really is a very exciting time. Some of the projects include: the \$114 million Fortescue Future Industries' Green Energy Manufacturing Centre; Alpha HPA's \$300 million high-purity alumina plant; and, thanks to an investment from the Queensland Critical Minerals and Battery Technology Fund—and I acknowledge the resources minister in the House—Alpha HPA will now be able to grow sapphire glass in Gladstone. The Central Queensland Hydrogen Project is a jointly funded venture between the Albanese and Palaszczuk Labor governments to deliver a record \$117 million investment to fund further developments and there is the \$983 million Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline.

Exciting expansion plans for the Gladstone port include becoming a regional container hub and the development of the Northern Trade Precinct, which has identified the area adjacent to the Gladstone State Development Area as an ideal location for the emerging renewable energy trades. All of this is only possible because the Palaszczuk Labor government backs investment in renewables, has a clear plan for energy and jobs and has kept our assets in public hands.

Let us not forget that in a state election campaign those opposite ran against me a candidate who was not only hammering in 'for sale' signs at Gladstone port's Auckland Point Wharf but also working on the inside as a plant for the LNP to get the Port of Gladstone ready for sale. There is no limit to how low the mob across the chamber will go when it comes to selling our assets. Under the LNP, who knows what would have happened to the Port of Gladstone. Luckily, at that election the people of Gladstone saw right through the LNP and their plans. Since that time, the Palaszczuk Labor government has invested millions of dollars in that income-generating asset, the Gladstone port, including the expansion of the amazing award-winning East Shores Precinct and the current redevelopment of Auckland Hill. This investment continues to flow back to the great people of Gladstone, my city.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Cash for Access


 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (2.48 pm): More and more Queenslanders are just plain sick of this Labor government. It is not just the polls telling us that: across the state there is the palpable sense of discontent in the air. Who is surprised when we have a lazy arrogant government that acts like it has a divine right to walk all over ordinary people? This government has prioritised property developer profits while renters suffer. They have committed billions of dollars to rebuild a stadium while schools and hospitals are underfunded. They have overridden the Human Rights Act and approved new coal and gas as though no-one would notice. They clearly hoped that no-one would notice they backflipped on their promise to stop holding cash-for-access events. They hoped they could obscure that from the public by editing their descriptions in the donation register for the ECQ. The 'Scanlon dinner'—a pretty straightforward admission that the event is about paid access to a minister—becomes the 'QLBR dinner'. Of course, 'QLBR' is the 'Queensland Labor Business Roundtable', which is the fancy name for Labor's annual \$10,000 cash-for-access subscription program.

I have said it before and I will say it again: cash for access is legalised corruption. It creates a two-tier democracy where there is one tier for big corporations and elites who can afford a dinner with the minister and one tier for the rest of Queenslanders. Cash for access means deal after deal for the big banks and property developers who are making homes more expensive in Queensland while the housing crisis gets worse. I do not think you will find a lot of renters at these QLBR dinners. It is little wonder, at that rate, that Labor still supports unlimited rent hikes.

Apparently, Labor got the QLBR idea from the LNP's corporate cash-for-access program. Theirs is a little more expensive, at \$25,000 a year. Perhaps businesses are making a calculation of the odds now: if you are betting on a favourable decision in a year's time, unfortunately you might not be wise to bet on Labor at this point. Labor seems to think it can beat the LNP by becoming them, but Queenslanders are noticing. Queenslanders see politicians flying to red carpet events, profiting off their investment properties in the inner city and cosyng up with billionaires, all while ordinary people are struggling to pay the rent. This is one of the many issues on which the opposition is hardly an opposition at all, because when it comes to cash for access they are absolutely on the same page.

Renters are becoming increasingly aware that the major party politicians and those at their cash-for-access meetings are the reason they are facing another rent increase and choosing between school fees and groceries. They are looking for someone who will actually stand up for them. The Greens have proven that we will. We have done that with the balance of power at the federal level and we will do it if we are in that position after the next state election. We do not have to worry about selling tickets to cash-for-access fundraisers. We do not take corporate donations, because we do not want to represent corporations. We will not let Labor get away with screwing over renters with its dodgy cash-for-access meetings or its new coalmines. Queenslanders are sick of it and we are, too.

Fishing Industry

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (2.51 pm): Everyone in this place knows of the Palaszczuk government's support for fisheries. I have been very clear that I want to see fisheries that are sustainable for our children and our grandchildren—well into the future. This government has supported and will continue to support our recreational, commercial and charter sectors while also

recognising our First Nations peoples. We have a Sustainable Fisheries Strategy to ensure we have a framework that is nation-leading and meets Commonwealth regulatory requirements such as WTO as well as international expectations when we consider wonders such as the Great Barrier Reef. No-one should forget how we got here. We made the creation of a sustainable fisheries strategy a 2015 election commitment.

While the previous LNP government commissioned the report *Taking stock: modernising fisheries management in Queensland* to modernise fisheries management in Queensland, that report was gathering dust until we picked it up. It was left to the Palaszczuk government when it came to office to release this report and undertake a process of public consultation. We established working groups and worked with stakeholders to develop strategies to create more sustainable fisheries. This became our Sustainable Fisheries Strategy, which this government continues to invest in. In fact—


An honourable member: The fishos' friend.

Mr FURNER: I take that interjection. The most recent budget included \$11.7 million over three years to continue the fisheries reform process, including upgrades to compliance systems and fish aggregating devices for pelagic fish. There is also \$22 million over four years to monitor commercial fishing activities at sea to support sustainable fisheries management. At the Ekka I saw the community interest in the QBFP display as well as the pest fish display. There is genuine interest in a sustainable seafood sector that will deliver for all Queenslanders.

Queenslanders know what the LNP did to fisheries—a 28 per cent cut to staff. The LNP refuses to support the science of fisheries, to stop black marketers and to meet our national and international commitments. The LNP refuses to back the hard work our fisheries staff do day in, day out. The contribution from the member for Gympie during the last sitting week highlights that those opposite still have no understanding of how fisheries science along with requirements and expectations from the Commonwealth and the international community impact this state's fisheries sector. You would have to be an oxygen thief not to understand the processes of the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy.

Queenslanders deserve more than what the LNP delivers and more than what the LNP delivered in the past. As much as the LNP thinks Queenslanders are like Dory in *Finding Nemo*, Queenslanders remember. Queenslanders fish and they vote. Only this side of the House will protect and strengthen our fisheries sector, right now and into the future.

Local Government, Gravel Pits

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (2.54 pm): Queensland councils have been meeting for months with the Palaszczuk Labor government about the gravel shortage. Councils cannot get access to existing gravel; nor can they afford to absorb the increased costs associated with carting gravel longer distances. Councils do not need more meetings; they need a solution. They need a timely, cost-effective process for the renewal of quarry sales permits. The Etheridge Shire Council has to negotiate for 201 quarries, whilst the neighbouring shire of Croydon requires negotiations for 160 quarries and the Carpentaria shire requires negotiations for 64 quarries. In the North West Queensland ROC area, which is 11 councils, 686 quarries are impacted. In the Central Queensland RAPAD council area, 236 quarries are impacted. In the South West Queensland ROC area of the six shires in my electorate, 236 quarries are impacted. That is a total of 1,069 gravel pits from which councils cannot access gravel.

Councils are experiencing major cost increases, delays and job losses. All of this results in an overall dislocation of council work programs. They are not alone. The Department of Transport and Main Roads is also impacted by this impasse. We have heard from the minister. He says that he is talking to councils and to the department about the challenges. He does not act; he just talks. He cannot talk his way out this one. His government needs to deliver a solution. Minister, the time for talk is over.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Direct your comments through the chair please, member.

Ms LEAHY: The time for talk is over. It is time to stop the uncertainty for councils and let them get on with the job of the repairing their roads and infrastructure. We know that road users in the outback are five times more likely to die on the roads than metropolitan users, yet we have a Labor government that sits on its hands when it comes to councils accessing gravel to fix the roads. The Labor government is giving councils gravel rash and leaving them in the slow lane.


Not only does this Labor government frustrate councils with their Labor government generated gravel shortage; they do not stand up to their Labor mates in Canberra. Of the 90-day review of the infrastructure projects, 23 of these projects are local government led. Hundreds of millions of dollars worth of road projects are captured by the federal Labor government's 90-day review. This review has

now blown out to a 120-day review. We know what a 90-day review is: it is just code for funding cuts to Queensland. We have not heard much from the Minister for Transport about the billions of dollars of road funding captured in the review, but I have no doubt that if there were an LNP government in Canberra he would have put Twitter into meltdown after 120 days.

Labor does not like local governments. It frustrates them with gravel supplies and rips hundreds of millions of dollars in road funding from them. Local governments and Queenslanders deserve so better than these federal and state Labor governments.

(Time expired)

Morgan, Mr L

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (2.57 pm): Today, with the family's permission, I would like to pay tribute to a remarkable individual—a true Australian, a Queensland and bayside legend: Lionel Morgan. Lionel was a stellar Rugby League player. In fact, he was recognised in 2008 with selection as a member of the Indigenous Rugby League Team of the Century. He had amazing skill and mastered his talent, often during great adversity. This enabled him to achieve his dreams to create opportunities for his family and his beloved community. That is what drove him. Lionel dedicated his life to serving others. It is fitting to acknowledge the profound impact that he had on our community and Rugby League and, indeed, the legacy he has left behind.

Lionel was an outstanding Rugby League player. For many, that is what he will be remembered for; however, there is so much more to this man. Lionel played football just as he lived life, showing his prowess and ability on the field. His actions on the field displayed the sort of person that he was. There is no doubt that Lionel faced terrible harshness; however, he never let that define him. He was always steadfastly focused on his goal and rose above that harshness.

In 1960 Lionel was selected to represent Australia in a test and world Rugby League matches. He was also the first Aboriginal man to do so. This was at a time when Aboriginal people could not vote, nor could they get a passport. They could not get a home loan; they could not buy property. You can imagine that not being able to get a passport would have caused some grief when he was selected to represent Australia, as the matches were all overseas and it is a bit tricky to leave and return to the country without a passport. This did not hold him back. Instead, this made Lionel the man that he was—a dedicated family man and community worker.


From raising funds for the construction of the Wynnum North swimming pool, running the Kianawah swim club, coaching his beloved Wynnum-Manly Seagulls or developing young players, he was determined to provide opportunities and support to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. He was a founding member of the Wynnum Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander co-op and an elder at Murri Court, and he did both of these for many years. It is hard to imagine how many lives Lionel touched—whether it was through the great pleasure he gave through football, his guidance and support through the Murri Court, Winnam Housing or swimming and the kids' school. He was a quiet man with a gentle sense of humour. He had an uncanny ability and desire to bring people together, to bridge divides and instil a sense of unity within our community. It is telling at this moment in history which side of history we should all be on. That is why I encourage everyone to vote yes.

STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

Resumed from 14 September (see p. 2751), on motion of Mr Whiting—

That the House take note of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee Report No. 33, 57th Parliament, *Examination of Auditor-General Report 9: 2021-22—Regulating dam safety*, tabled on 5 December 2022.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (3.01 pm): It is a privilege for me to rise to speak on the committee's report *Examination of Auditor-General Report 9: 2021-22—Regulating dam safety*. Here we are in October 2023. It is disappointing that it is quite a long time since that report was tabled. I note that the committee's recommendations are being implemented. From the outset, one of the things we need to keep in mind is that it is all well and good to address dam safety issues. We do not want anybody in our community to be unsafe when it comes to dam safety. Talking to many of the local governments across Queensland, one of the difficulties I see is the impost this will bring to bear on local governments. It is one thing to have engineering standards, but I was concerned when I was told there was only going to be compliance in this regard out to 2035. I now understand that was all around


inspection regimes and making sure that properly qualified engineers were doing these inspections. That is okay, but in some cases we are seeing dam walls strengthened and widened. I would say that the holding capacity of those dams is being improved quite significantly, but there is no increase in the volume of water that is being allowed to be held and captured by those dams.

In our world, of course, water is a precious commodity. It is going to become even more and more precious. Whilst our focus on dam safety is fine, let us work together with local governments. Some local governments are required to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on improving dam safety when the dam contains no additional water. If engineers focused on a holistic approach, I would argue there is probably a very small or moderate amount of cost involved in upgrading the holding capacity of those dams while ensuring dam safety.

I also recognise that the committee made a recommendation that we see independent audit and risk committees established with different local governments to look at these areas. I know that when I was in local government the independent risk and audit committee we had in Lockyer was a very good committee. You learn a lot from the processes that you go through. As we said in the report, I recognise there are many smaller local governments across the state that may need to come together and maybe use one of their regional organisations of council to have an independent audit risk committee overview that so there is only a small cost to them, because they will learn a lot from it.

One of the concerns the committee also had, and we talked to the department about it, was improvements in cybersecurity and cyber safety. I know that my colleague Michael Hart, the member for Burleigh, was on this committee back in 2012 and there were the same issues back then. We are encouraging all of the providers of dams, whether that be Sunwater, Seqwater or other councils across the state, to make sure they are staying up to date and learning some of the best practice cybersecurity improvements out there. Some of those things can be achieved with very moderate cost—without having to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to upgrade those systems.

The point of this report was the Auditor-General's audit of dam safety. They did say they were quite pleased with a number of areas, but they also want to make sure that a few finer areas were addressed. I think it can be improved somewhat. If we took a holistic approach to dam safety we could get a balance and see an increase in the holding capacity of dams as well as being able to see communities kept safe downstream. That is something that we certainly want to see happen, but it should not be an impost on local government. I would strongly argue it is cost shifting from state government to local government, because many of these dams were built with state and federal money and they should get some assistance to see them delivered.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (3.06 pm): After at least 18 months I eventually get to contribute to the debate in relation to the Auditor-General's report on dam safety. I note that the Queensland Audit Office report identified a major gap in how the department had been monitoring and collecting information in relation to dam safety from dam managers. It was noted that the department had not developed clear guidelines for staff on how to consistently monitor compliance with dam safety conditions. This statement particularly worries me. It states—

The department plans to complete 10 audits per year, so monitoring of compliance with the dam safety conditions may take more than 10 years to cover all 107 dams.

In relation to dam spillways, the QAO report noted the following—

All the dams in Queensland scheduled for upgrade by 2015 were either completed or rescheduled by the department to 2025. The department does not have a formal requirement for owners to provide information on the progress of the upgrades by 2025 and 2035. Without these commitments, the department has no way to monitor owners' progress in achieving the upgrades by the due dates.

We know also that the QAO report noted major issues in relation to capacity to pay being an important issue in assessing the risk of maintenance and upgrade programs. The letter contained in the QAO report from the department dated 30 November 2021 states—

All dams due for upgrade in 2015 were completed on schedule and all dams to be upgraded by 2025 are on schedule.

I find that almost impossible to believe. I will provide the example of one of my own local councils, the mighty Toowoomba Regional Council. According to the schedule, Toowoomba Regional Council must upgrade the spillways at Cressbrook and Cooby dams by 2025. In August last year I wrote to the Toowoomba Regional Council asking for advice about the response by the minister to 2022 budget estimates question on notice No. 7, which asked about funding to help councils address these upgrades and their capacity to meet the 2025 deadline, given the minister had alleged the department had not received any requests from Toowoomba Regional Council for funding support. In response, then mayor Paul Antonio stated that this was incorrect, with the Toowoomba Regional Council in fact making 16—

one six—requests to the government for funding for this project between 2002 and 2022. Now fast-forward to October 2023, I received further correspondence from Mayor Geoff McDonald. Congratulations to the new mayor of Toowoomba Regional Council. In the past I have passed on my condolences to the McDonald family.

The correspondence I received from Mayor Geoff McDonald was seeking my urgent assistance to help identify a funding solution for the Cressbrook Dam upgrades. That is because the new quotes suggest the upgrades will cost Toowoomba Regional Council somewhere between \$250 million and \$300 million. In his correspondence to me, Mayor McDonald said—


Accommodating such a massive expenditure will compromise Council's financial capacity and adversely affect our ability to fund other essential capital works including existing asset replacement and renewals.

He went on to state—

If Council is to bear the full costs of the Dam Safety upgrade, it will result in unavoidable adverse impacts to the Toowoomba Region.

The Labor government is not providing financial support for the dam safety works that it is mandating. That begs the question of what are these regional councils going to do about that. I believe more needs to be uncovered from this report.

Let us remember that this report was dated I think 1 December 2021. We are debating it in this House now, and nothing has changed since then. There has been no extra funding in the budget, irrespective of the fact that the minister knows this is a major issue. There was a paltry sum of I think \$70 million a couple of budgets ago to be spread over all of these dams. As members have seen, I have only had time to give one example of Cressbrook in the Toowoomba Regional Council. More needs to be done. I plead with the minister to actively manage the risk of affordability of significant upgrades and understand what is actually happening and the stress it is causing those dam owners.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (3.11 pm): I rise to speak on the State Development and Regional Industries Committee's report examining the Auditor-General's 2021-22 report *Regulating dam safety*. The Auditor found that the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water was not effectively managing the information it collected or targeting risks to noncompliance. When a government is obsessively focused on media management, on how things look, and is besieged by chaos and crisis, it is not surprising it has haphazard processes and problems with governance and how it conducts business.

When discussing this report, the member for Bundaberg boasted about the millions being spent on fixing Paradise Dam. It is brave to boast about the cost to fix another example of a botched Labor government project. Paradise Dam was built by a Labor government and according to reports corners were cut. While the department advises it has implemented all the QAO recommendations, the Auditor's report is yet further evidence proving this government's incompetent management. The Auditor found—

There are gaps in the way it collects and manages the information it needs, how it targets risks, and how it acts on non-compliance. The department needs to improve its regulatory approach to compliance, monitor dam owner planning and progress in achieving necessary upgrades, and better address non-compliance by owners.

The department does not follow up. Data is not current. It is reluctant to enforce compliance. This has serious implications for those who live downstream of dams, for those who rely on dams for their water security, drinking water, irrigation and industrial use, and for those who are vulnerable to floods. If safety reports are considerably late or not provided, how can you assess whether dams are safe? The Auditor told the committee—

... there are 107 referable dams and an estimated 790,000 people live downstream ... and would be at risk if these dams were to fail.

The Auditor found in 2021 that 720 people were at risk from the Borumba Dam which was last upgraded in 2008 and targeted to be upgraded by 2035.

Dams are substantial pieces of infrastructure which underpin the viability of many regional areas, such as Gympie. They mitigate against floods and provide a reliable and secure water source for domestic, agriculture and industrial use. Gympie is familiar with all these issues. Dams attract controversy in my region. The same Labor government which botched the Paradise Dam planned to build a dam in the Mary Valley. The Traveston Dam fiasco cost Queensland taxpayers half a billion dollars. It was another example of obscenely wasteful projects by Labor governments. It remains an appalling example of Labor's insensitivity, incompetence, callousness and complete disregard for a community and taxpayers' money. The department's response to the QAO recommendations said—


Planning controls ... such as land acquisition and land zoning are challenged by uncertainties that the measures will be permanent.

Premier Beattie flew in, dictated to the community and acquired properties which had been held for generations. It was called 'the biggest bloodbath in the state's history'. Echoing the mood of today, it was another arrogant and out-of-touch premier and a government which ignored the local community and thought media management and appealing to vested interests in the south-east corner was its primary purpose.

This government has proposed a pumped hydro scheme at the Borumba Dam. Locals are justifiably cautious. The government must not ignore community concerns and must not ride roughshod over it. Executive director of water operations and systems, Jarrod Cowley-Grimmond, told the committee that 'generally ... dams take between five and 10 years to upgrade'. For years I have advocated raising the Borumba Dam wall to ensure our region's water security. The project requires significant quantities of water. It must not compromise Gympie's water security. When I have asked about water security, the Minister for Water deflects responsibility to the Gympie Regional Council. Last year I asked about plans to ensure downstream domestic, industrial and agricultural water users will not be adversely impacted by the lack of supply. The minister said that water takes—

... must align with the outcomes, objectives and strategies of the Mary Basin water plan to ensure the sustainable management of water in the plan area and protection of existing water users.

The minister then said that any further information about the proposal and technical assessments are the responsibility of the minister for energy and renewables. It is concerning that the minister seems to have little to do with the purpose of the Borumba Dam.

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (3.16 pm): I rise to speak on the Auditor-General's report on regulating dam safety in Queensland. Overall, the Auditor-General's examination of dam safety in Queensland found that critical elements of a well-functioning regulator were not being performed and that compliance with its regulatory processes were not being consistently enforced. Dams pose a significant risk to those living and working downstream, as well as to the environment and economy, if they are not maintained and operated correctly.

Dams can fail or malfunction, releasing large volumes of water as well as many other substances into our waterways. Although such failures are infrequent, their impacts can be catastrophic, which is why this report deserves to be taken very seriously by the government. The report makes a number of recommendations which the department claims to have actioned and implemented. However, many of those actions appear to be more bureaucratic and process driven than real or targeted measures to improve dam safety practices in Queensland. It is important to remember that a failure in regulatory processes is often symptomatic of much more systemic problems in the underlying program overall. That is why I believe a much more considered response to this report is called for.

I note from the committee's report that the department has since engaged a 'nationally recognised expert' in dam safety to review the department's work processes and practices. The review identified a need for 'greater emphasis on compliance to better support the engineering and other technical expertise' and that 'any reduction in the technical capacity of the dam safety regulator was to be avoided'. This strongly suggests there may be an issue with under-resourcing, particularly in regards to adequate levels of 'engineering and other technical expertise'. The Auditor-General's report hints at the same thing.

I also note the committee's advice that three new positions have been added to the dam safety team: an engineering manager, a principal compliance officer and a senior project officer for information systems. These appear to be managerial positions rather than technical ones. The department should consider recruiting additional flood engineers to ensure there are sufficient flood engineers to carry out dam safety audits and other regulatory activities each year. Formal flood event training programs and simulations for engineers should also be regularly conducted to ensure the flood operations centre is keeping pace with the latest in dam safety best practice.


Another suggestion would be for a technical review committee to be set up—one made up of independent experts in hydrology, meteorology and dam operations. This committee would be tasked with examining all technical work and supervising and reviewing all decisions made at the managerial, administrative and regulatory level. The department should also take note that dam safety operations could be in a 'conflict of interest', because as a government entity it is expected to regulate government owned dams. This is far from ideal and poor 'risk management', especially given the clear conflict of interest that dam owners themselves must have in performing their self-regulatory role.

Another concern is the lack of rain gauges in our waterways. According to the water policy spokesperson for AgForce, the state's current water computer models are based on inadequate data. Mr Bremner stated at the public hearing—

They do not actually go out there and measure the water and say, 'You can have this much water.' It is all based on computer models... Frankly, in Queensland we do not have enough river gauges in any of the systems to make accurate computer model allocations.

An independent assessor should therefore be engaged to look into the cost effectiveness of installing more gauges in our rivers and streams, particularly at high elevations in the relevant catchments.

In closing, I would like to thank the members of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee for their diligence in examining and reporting on the Auditor-General's report. It is an extremely valuable report, and I would like to thank the Auditor-General once again for producing yet another excellent and thorough report. His role in providing the people of Queensland with some much needed transparency and accountability is to be highly commended.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (3.20 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the State Development and Regional Industries Committee report No. 33, *Examination of Auditor-General Report No. 9: 2021-22—Regulating dam safety*. I would like to thank the Queensland Audit Office and the Auditor-General and the committee members from both sides of the House for their work in relation to both the audit report and also the committee report.

Dams are significant infrastructure that provide safe drinking water, irrigation, flood mitigation and energy, and support the extraction of minerals in the state of Queensland. I am advised in the audit report that in Queensland there are 107 referable dams, and an estimated 790,000 people who live downstream would be at risk if these dams were to fail. Dam owners include state owned entities like Seqwater, Sunwater—which own around half of the referable dams—councils, mining companies and pastoral companies. These entities and local governments own 92 in total of these dams. Local governments own 28 of that 92. Some of these dams owned by local governments are 50 years old or even older.

Dams are critical to sustaining communities as we know them because water is absolutely essential. It is very difficult to have a vibrant community if the community does not have good quality water and affordable water as well. In my electorate we often have very salty water because it comes from the Artesian Basin, and it is very difficult to grow a lot of things because of the minerals in that water.

The regulatory framework for dam safety is established in the Water Supply Act. The aim of the regulatory framework is to minimise the risk to the public living and working downstream of dams resulting from dam failure.


The department has approved processes for collecting the information for the legislated safety requirements. However, the audit report found it is not effectively collecting the information on its dam safety upgrade schedule. The schedule, which was set back in 2005, gave owners targets to upgrade dam spillways, based on their capacity to safely release floodwaters. Further, the audit report states the department is not effectively monitoring the progress to ensure all the upgrades will be completed by the upcoming 2025 and/or 2035 deadlines. Eight spillways must be upgraded by 2025 and 30 by 2035, with total costs estimated at \$3.1 billion.

The audit report found the department's dam monitoring system does not effectively monitor compliance with all its safety requirements. The audit report also exposed some serious issues around the department's processes for record keeping, and they go to the heart of the service delivery issues that the LNP opposition has been raising for years. These dam safety upgrades have huge financial impacts for those local governments that do domestic water supply from those dams. Some of these councils have a very small rate base. They cannot raise the funding for the massive upgrades without significant funding from other levels of government. They will struggle to meet the time frames that are specified by the department. Others will have to significantly increase rates or channel all of their funds towards the upgrades. There will be massive financial impacts on consumers if there remains no additional assistance from other levels of government, that being state and federal government.

Local governments want to be good neighbours. They want to work with the communities that are downstream. The reality is the benefit of the works is not necessarily with the community that will have to pay for it. In this case, it is with downstream communities. Further, we need to have a long, hard look at the additional costs that will be placed on local governments for this purpose. The repairs

and safety upgrades are about ensuring communities are safe. However, we also need to consider the reliability and affordability of water supply. Local governments should not have to bear the full cost of the infrastructure upgrades, nor should the water users of Seqwater and Sunwater bear the full costs.

There has to be a balance kept here between safety and the affordability and availability of water which is essential for communities and also sustaining life in those communities.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (3.24 pm): I rise to speak to the State Development and Regional Industries Committee report No. 33, *Examination of Auditor-General Report No. 9: 2021-22—Regulating dam safety*. In the electorate of Condamine, there are three dams either wholly in or nearby, that being Perseverance, Cressbrook and Cooby dams. I think we would all agree that our water storage facilities need to be structurally sound and able to withstand extreme weather events that can and do come after high rainfall events. We have seen a number of these flooding events in recent times.

Two of the dams that supply the City of Toowoomba and surrounds have been identified as needing upgrades to their spillways. These are Cressbrook and Cooby dams. These upgrades are to be completed by 2025, which means works will need to be underway by at least next April. The work at Cressbrook alone will cost \$300 million. This will have a massive impact on the budget of the Toowoomba Regional Council. At the end of this spend, it will not mean one more litre of water will be stored or available for the Toowoomba Regional Council; they will literally be back to where they started. In fact, they could be worse off, as to do this work they need to discharge 20 per cent of the storage at a time when we are told we are entering into an El Nino period. At this stage, I have not heard the cost of Cooby Dam, but it will be significant and will also need the water level to be reduced to undertake the works.

There are significant challenges in conducting these works and also on Toowoomba's short-term water supply, let alone the cost. This will have a long-term impact on the finances of the council if they are left to go it alone with this project. It will mean that most of the programs that council have planned to be undertaken over the next five years will need to be either severely reduced or cancelled. This would mean that the ratepayers who live in the regions, and do not rely on town water, will have their projects cut and will have no benefit from the \$300 million spend. This in turn means that those ratepayers will have to put up with the rough roads, lack of drainage and flood reduction works, among many other projects, because of the financial impact from these works.

Toowoomba Regional Council should not have to shoulder this massive cost alone. In actual fact, if Cressbrook Dam were to spill and go downstream, it would be the town of Toogoolawah that would be impacted, which is in the Somerset Regional Council. Cressbrook is right on the edge of the Toowoomba Regional Council boundary, so it will be another council which will be in danger of being flooded.


I am aware that some conversations have begun with the state government and more detailed ones to follow when a detailed business case has been completed or upgraded. I would encourage the relevant minister to show some understanding of the implications for councils and step up with some funding so the ratepayers are not left with the burden. Both state and federal governments will have to come to the party with this project, especially when there are councils like Toowoomba which have two dam upgrades identified which must be completed by 2025. We need the funding and even perhaps a bit of rescheduling of some of those works. For a region like Toowoomba, given there was \$220 million spent on a quarantine facility that does not get used, we really would like to see some money come into the region for a project like this which is about safety.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (3.29 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Transport and Resources Committee Report No. 28, 57th Parliament, *Examination of Auditor-General Report 18: 2021-22—Enhancing government procurement*, tabled on 16 December 2022.

The report we looked into was the Auditor-General's report 18 of 2021-22 titled *Enhancing government procurement*. I think it is important to point out that the Auditor-General's report did not examine the merits of supply contracts awarded by government departments. Rather, it analysed


expenditure data, reviewed procurement strategies and related documents, and interviewed staff involved in recruitment processes for context. The overall goals of the Auditor-General's review were to interrogate the effectiveness of current procurement processes and identify opportunities for savings, including where departments could be sharing more of their purchasing power resources.

The Auditor-General made five recommendations, which I will outline for the benefit of the House. No. 1 was that Queensland Treasury and Queensland Government Procurement should monitor and report on how departments are collaborating to achieve whole-of-government outcomes including setting targets and putting in place reporting processes for performance at department and whole-of-government levels. No. 2 was that Queensland Treasury and Queensland Government Procurement should engage with departments about costs and benefits of a universal classification system for expenditure. No. 3 was that Queensland Treasury and Queensland Government Procurement should enhance information and data sharing between themselves to support strategic procurement decision-making.

No. 4 was that departments should use existing whole-of-government procurement arrangements and this should be monitored and reported on. We learned that there are 466 such arrangements already in existence that departments can tap into. Finally, recommendation 5 was that Queensland Government Procurement should ensure its most recent data strategy is endorsed and develop a detailed implementation plan about how to achieve its objectives that should be reported against. All five of these recommendations have been agreed to by government, with an implementation time line for the fourth quarter of 2024.

We committed to getting the best value for money for Queensland taxpayers, and the report noted there were some examples of effective collaboration, including a great case study on cross-departmental bulk purchasing of electricity supply. Electricity supply is always exciting to our committee. It is always good to get another perspective on government practices, checking what we are doing well and what we can improve on. That is what these Auditor-General reports do.

Once again, as always, I would like to thank the members of the Transport and Resources Committee for their collaboration on this report as well as our amazing, hardworking secretariat, Jodhi, Zac and Amanda. I also thank all of the witnesses who appeared before us at our briefings. Our committee recommended that the Legislative Assembly note the contents of this report and I commend it to the House.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (3.32 pm): I would like to make a short comment on the examination of Auditor-General's report No. 18 titled *Enhancing government* procurement, tabled in December 2022. I am hoping some of these recommendations are already starting to be put in place because they did highlight some issues we need to be concerned about. Also we need to make sure we get the best performance when it comes to procuring for the Queensland government and Queensland taxpayers.

One of the things I would like to highlight is around strong collaboration. While the report notes some examples of effective collaboration between departments relating to procurement, it states that some departments are not taking advantage of the opportunity to get a better deal for goods and services by working collaboratively. Departments are often hesitant to share their expenditure data with other departments. That is concerning to me because I think we are one Queensland government and we should be sharing as much information as we can from department to department to make sure we get the best deal for Queensland taxpayers. I am hoping that in the time since this was tabled they have started to work on that.

Under 'Effective monitoring and reporting' the report states—

Whole-of-government arrangements have been established with pre-qualified, preferred suppliers and can help speed up the procurement process. To support whole-of-government savings and initiatives, the report notes that better monitoring and reporting is required on departmental achievements in this area.

I think we need that. We absolutely need that to make sure we are getting the best bang for our buck for the Queensland taxpayer. I note that all of the departments are big departments, but we have to make sure we have the best practices in place to get the most effective deals when it comes to procurement across all of our departments. Recommendation 1 states—

Queensland Treasury and Queensland Government Procurement (within the Department of Energy and Public Works) should monitor and report on how departments are collaborating to achieve whole-of-government procurement outcomes

This report recommended that Queensland Treasury and Queensland Government Procurement work together to develop performance measures and targets to monitor whether departments are collaborating on procurement. These should be designed to drive departmental collaboration to achieve

increased efficiency, effectiveness and economy in procurement activity at a whole-of-government level. I absolutely endorse that recommendation. I think we need to make sure we have a better performance—KPIs—and we are collaborating together to make sure we get the best bang for buck. Recommendation 2 states—

Queensland Treasury and Queensland Government Procurement should engage with departments about the costs and benefits (at a whole-of-government level) of moving to a universal classification system for expenditure

They recommended Queensland Treasury and Queensland Government Procurement engage with departments to understand the costs and benefits of moving to a universal and consistent system of classifying expenditure such as the United Nations standard products and service code. The report states—

The introduction of new financial systems offers an opportunity to implement it, but it can also be used with existing financial systems.

Recommendation 3, which is very important, states—

Queensland Treasury and Queensland Government Procurement should enhance information and data sharing, between the 2 departments, to support strategic procurement decision-making


Basically, we have two departments that need to open up their books and make sure they are getting the best bang for the buck of the Queensland taxpayer. The report states—

We recommend Queensland Treasury and Queensland Government Procurement:

- identify opportunities to collaborate and share departmental expenditure data between the 2 agencies, to improve procurement outcomes and budget monitoring across government
- formalise the data sharing arrangement between the 2 agencies

That is not rocket science; that is good government practice. It is good business practice to make sure we have all of the information we need. We have to get away from these siloed departments that do not share information, whether it is the department of energy or any other department across the Queensland government. It is important that you have that lived experience with procurement that is shared with other departments so they do not go down a different road when there is a right road to take. I am hoping this is going to happen. This report was obviously tabled last year. We are now in October, so I am hoping that a lot of this is already underway in the department.

I would like to pay tribute to our public servants. They do a fantastic job. They really do work hard for Queenslanders. I would like to thank our committee—our chair and the committee members—who have done a lot of work this year. I look forward to continuing to work with the committee and the committee secretariat.

 **Mr WALKER** (Mundingburra—ALP) (3.37 pm): I rise to speak to the examination of Auditor-General's report 18 of 2021-22 titled *Enhancing government procurement*, which is report No. 28 of the 57th Parliament of the Transport and Resources Committee tabled in December 2022. I want to first thank the Transport and Resources Committee chair and member for Kurwongbah, Mr Shane King; the deputy chair and member for Gregory, Mr Lachlan Millar MP; the member for Callide, Mr Bryson Head MP; and former committee member and member for Stretton, Mr James Martin MP. He has done a great job whilst serving on our committee and I wish him well with his new committee. I also want to acknowledge Mr Trevor Watts MP, the member for Toowoomba North. I also say a big thank you to the committee staff for their ongoing support and excellent work in supporting us and the whole committee.

The committee's task was to consider the Auditor-General's findings in relation to the report. The committee is satisfied that Queensland Government Procurement, within the Department of Energy and Public Works, and the Queensland Treasury are taking appropriate actions to address the Auditor-General's five recommendations. The committee has recommended that the Legislative Assembly note the contents of the report.

The Auditor-General's report examined government procurement, the process of purchasing goods and services and how more effective processes can deliver better value for money and savings across government. There are five recommendations and I want to go through them, although not in detail. The Auditor-General's recommendation 1 states—

Queensland Treasury and Queensland Government Procurement ... should monitor and report on how departments are collaborating to achieve whole-of-government procurement outcomes

Recommendation 2 states—

Queensland Treasury and Queensland Government Procurement should engage with departments about the costs and benefits (at a whole-of-government level) of moving to a universal classification system for expenditure

Recommendation 3 states—

Queensland Treasury and Queensland Government Procurement should enhance information and data sharing, between the 2 departments, to support strategic procurement decision-making

Recommendation 4 states—


Departments should use existing whole-of-government procurement arrangements (designed to streamline and improve procurement for specific goods or services), and Queensland Government Procurement should monitor and report on this

Lastly, recommendation 5 states—

Queensland Government Procurement should ensure its most recent data strategy is endorsed. It should also develop, and report against, a detailed implementation plan which outlines how its data strategy objectives will be achieved

On pages 9, 10 and 11 of that report, it gives more detail around each of the five recommendations. The Auditor-General's report was tabled on 14 June 2022 and then 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 Queensland Audit Office, the Department of Energy and Public Works and Queensland Treasury.

Products and services change at a very quick pace today. We know, for example, that new products are developed to make work practices more efficient and to provide far better quality outcomes. That is why it is important that government looks at how they do business at a departmental level and that they look at best practice when they are procuring goods and services. Procurement is a big part of government, and a big component of department budgets. We know that all departments excel in achieving the best value for their spending when they are providing services to Queenslanders. I found the process and the report very informative. I am much better informed on the efforts that are being made to make savings and to make the government more efficient when serving the people of Queensland. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (3.41 pm): I would also like to contribute to the debate on this committee report which was an examination of Auditor-General's report No. 18 for 2021-22 titled *Enhancing government procurement*. I start by noting that this committee report was actually tabled in December 2022. Here we are on 12 October 2023—a full 10 months later. It certainly would have been a lot nicer to be able to contribute to this discussion a lot sooner. When the Premier decides to only set a limited number of sitting weeks for the year, we take a little while to get through things. This is what happens when the Premier spends more time on superyachts, on the red carpet or overseas than here in the chamber, as has been reported in newspapers.

I note that the Queensland Audit Office report made five recommendations. The first recommendation states—

Queensland Treasury and Queensland Government Procurement (within the Department of Energy and Public Works) should monitor and report on how departments are collaborating to achieve whole-of-government procurement outcomes

This certainly encourages the government to be more effective with taxpayers' money, because we know that there is a lot spent in Queensland that could be spent a lot better thanks to the failures of the government.

The second recommendation states—

Queensland Treasury and Queensland Government Procurement should engage with departments about the costs and benefits (at a whole-of-government level) of moving to a universal classification system for expenditure

The third recommendation states—

Queensland Treasury and Queensland Government Procurement should enhance information and data sharing, between the 2 departments, to support strategic procurement decision-making

The fourth recommendation states—

Departments should use existing whole-of-government procurement arrangements (designed to streamline and improve procurement for specific goods or services), and Queensland Government Procurement should monitor and report on this

The fifth recommendation states—


Queensland Government Procurement should ensure its most recent data strategy is endorsed. It should also develop, and report against, a detailed implementation plan which outlines how its data strategy objectives will be achieved

As the member for Gregory noted, this report was tabled some time ago. We certainly hope that a lot of these recommendations have been implemented by the government.

One thing that we learned on the committee from the Audit Office report was that there are 23,592 unused telephone devices across 20 government departments—that is a pretty staggering figure. I know that there are a lot of public servants in Queensland, and some of those phones do serve a particular purpose, but—without being able to specify what the devices are—the Audit Office said that they identified at least a half a million dollar a year saving if there were not as many unused devices that the government and taxpayers were paying for.

The Audit Office also said that in 2019 and 2020 the state recorded its first operating deficit in seven years and had to borrow \$4.8 billion more than was originally budgeted. It is certainly not good when governments have to borrow money for operational expenditure. Borrowing money for infrastructure projects and things that will pay dividends in the future is certainly one thing, but borrowing money to cover operational day-to-day costs is not something that we should have to tolerate in Queensland.

Queensland government departments spent a significant amount—approximately \$18.5 billion in 2020-21—on non-frontline activities. That is a lot of money being spent on non-frontline activities. The constituents of Callide know that there is a big lack of frontline activities and frontline services being delivered across the electorate of Callide. I would love to see more of that money being spent on delivering frontline services, rather than people running around and dealing with red tape. We know that the Palaszczuk Labor government loves red tape. It ties up a lot of administration staff in department and it means that they cannot do their job of delivering frontline services in Queensland. They are not taking advantage of the opportunity to get a better deal.

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (3.46 pm): I rise to speak to the Transport and Resources Committee report on Auditor-General report No. 18 of 2021-22 titled *Enhancing government procurement*. I acknowledge the members of the committee and the committee chair, the member for Kurwongbah. Effective government procurement strategies are vital in delivering better value for money and savings across projects in Queensland. Cost pressures from high inflation have had a huge impact on infrastructure and service delivery around the world, including in Australia and, of course, in Queensland. Thus, it is important that we are able to negotiate good contracts with suppliers so that we can save money to deliver cost-of-living relief to Queensland businesses, individuals and households—something that the Palaszczuk government is committed to doing.


The Queensland Audit Office identified a number of areas to enhance government procurement such as getting the right data and analysis, strong collaboration with departments working together and effective monitoring and reporting. In the past, procurement analysis has often been performed with an agency focus, but with so much new and emerging technology, there are plenty of opportunities for the use of data analysis and collaboration across departments to support the effective identification of government-wide savings that do not come at the expense of jobs and massive cuts as we saw from the previous Newman government.

The Queensland government takes expenditure data across several budget sector agencies. Around 27 million unique rows of data are gathered each year and then that data is cleansed and turned into procurement data, removing anything that is not related to procurement. That data is then analysed against categories to gain a good understanding of what we need in procurement contracts. The report was interesting, because it outlined a great example of collaboration where the Department of Energy and Public Works saved taxpayers \$42 million in 2019-20, and a further \$35 million in 2020-21 for electricity contracts. This is another great example of the Palaszczuk government spending public money efficiently, but without looking for savings by cutting people's jobs or cutting services. Prior to the electricity arrangement, the department was buying from spot pricing, which can be quite volatile. Being able to lock in an arrangement with a supplier enabled us to stabilise those prices. Plus, the benefits are not just restricted to up-front deals because there is also better ongoing supply and management.

Other examples of collaboration include Queensland travel arrangements where the department was able to negotiate the return of credits from travel that was cancelled or delayed during COVID and those credits were held over and returned to government departments, so that is another great win for the Queensland public. Further examples include standing-offer arrangements and preferred supplier panels. They are common-use arrangements whereby the department and the owners of those arrangements do the due diligence and up-front checks. This makes it easier for budget sector agencies

to access those suppliers, knowing that due diligence has already been done and that better prices have already been negotiated. Importantly, the quality of service is also clarified and, in the end, that saves time for people on the other side when they are doing the buying.

I note that the departments are in the process of working up memorandums of understanding to formalise data strategies that outline data sharing between agencies, and the recommendation for this data strategy has been verified and endorsed and is now in the process of being implemented. Queensland Treasury is also undertaking a business case to look at upgrading its whole-of-government financial management systems and Queensland Government Procurement will be a key stakeholder in that case to see how its systems can provide an even more efficient and effective outcome for expenditure going forward. A huge benefit to having centralised data collection is that it will provide a consistent framework to be used across departments and the data provides a much more detailed level of spend and enables departments to work together to aggregate demand and potentially negotiate far better deals with suppliers. I am certainly proud that the Palaszczuk government has a Buy Queensland approach and that we are supporting local suppliers and manufacturers and that this strategy ensures Queenslanders are the ones getting secure, well-paid jobs rather than having their jobs shipped overseas or outsourced.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (3.51 pm): I rise to speak on the examination of the Auditor-General's report No. 18, *Enhancing government procurement*. I might come back to the recommendations as others have spoken about them. I just wanted to give a couple of examples, because this is about taxpayers' money. We tax the people of Queensland so that we can provide services and facilities and build infrastructure, and that should be done in an efficient and effective way. However, there are a couple of examples—and I will use some telecommunication examples—where clearly departments are failing. The recommendations are very important so that we can do that more efficiently. To give one example, I quote from the Auditor-General's report on page 11. It states—

For example, in one department the telecommunications expenditure in 2020-21 for mobile and telephone ... was approximately \$9.54 million, and the total number of devices was ... 27,681 ... To calculate a benchmark figure to report and compare against other departments, a rough cost per device is \$345 ...

Data obtained from the department shows that ... 13 per cent of all devices (3,602 devices) were unused.

It was accepted that there might be a reason for that such as that it might be a backup device. The report continues—

Of this total, we estimated that for 40-50 per cent ... there was no legitimate reason for the lack of use. This represents a (rough) savings ... of \$0.5 million ... per annum.

That saving of half a million or so dollars per year would occur if there was better communication between departments and/or if we were only procuring what was needed. Monitoring that and the recommendations to ensure those recommendations are followed is very important. This is another quote from the same page—

From the 20 departments we analysed, we identified 23,592 devices ... from the main supplier—

so there were other suppliers—

that were unused over the 12-month period.

Some 23,592 mobile phones have been bought by government but have not been used in a 12-month period and, as we all know, that technology dates. That is a massive cost to the taxpayer, so making sure that procurement is being done properly is critically important.

Turning now to some of the recommendations, recommendation 2 states—


Queensland Treasury and Queensland Government Procurement should engage with departments about the costs and benefits (at a whole-of-government level) of moving to a universal classification ...

What is the QAO trying to say here? What we are really looking at is being able to effectively procure and compare between departments to make sure we are getting the best deal across government, but there needs to be an improvement in the universal standard description and categorisation of what is being procured, because different departments have been recording it differently. It was recommended—

... that Queensland Treasury and Queensland Government Procurement engage with departments to understand the costs and benefits (at a whole-of-government level) of moving to a universal and consistent system for classifying expenditure (such as the United Nations Standard Products and Services Code).

The introduction of new financial systems offers an opportunity to implement it, but it can also be used with existing financial systems.

What we are trying to say is: when we are buying products across governments and across departments, we should classify and record them in the same way so that that data can be compared and we can look for the most efficient outcomes. This is really important, because this is taxpayers' money. It should be spent carefully and cautiously by government, and departments should be held accountable for overprocurement or not getting the best deal they could, and the best way to do that is to compare themselves to other departments so that the whole of the government can get the benefit.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (3.56 pm): I rise to speak on the examination of the Auditor-General's report No. 18 of 2020-21, *Enhancing government procurement*. Governments should always look at finding better ways to achieve value for money when we are using taxpayers' precious dollars. Projects and services should not be about meeting media management and political pointscore; they are about balancing the needs of communities, industries, preparing for the future, delivering projects within time frames and budgets, delivering the services and projects that are promised and needed and meeting the specifications that have been outlined. They require efficiency, accountability and transparency.

The Auditor-General examined the government's processes and systems for purchasing goods and services and looked at how more effective processes can deliver better value for money and savings across government. The QAO made five recommendations regarding collaboration across departments: creating a universal classification system; reporting processes and enhancing information and data sharing; streamlining processes; and developing an implementation plan outlining how the data strategy will be achieved. The report notes how good quality data can support enhanced savings and states—

Better data allows departments to analyse and understand what suppliers are charging other departments for similar goods and services. They can then use this to drive negotiations with suppliers and allow for more insightful procurement analysis and savings.

The government's commitment to open data and transparency and to information sharing is laughable. It relentlessly avoids sharing data and information with Queenslanders. Let us hope it has a better approach when dealing across departments. In response to the QAO, the Minister for Public Works and Procurement advised that the Auditor's recommendations align with the government's Buy Queensland approach. The minister said—

Buy Queensland has supported over 62,440 Queensland businesses through approximately \$42.24 billion in procurement investment. This includes approximately \$7.93 billion in goods and services supplied to the Queensland government by over 26,850 Queensland regional businesses.

One of those businesses is in my electorate. Drummond and Kindred is a manufacturer of personal protective clothing—the flame retardant overalls—for our rural firefighters. However, it cannot secure a contract to provide clothing for urban firefighters. The Queensland government uses a supplier from Victoria. Ironically, not only is the PPC made by Drummond and Kindred good enough for our rural fires but also has a contract to provide the Victorian government with PPC. When I asked the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services in May about whether the department had considered using Queensland manufactured clothing, the minister said that the government's Buy Queensland approach to procurement puts Queensland jobs as a first priority. I am not sure how that boast of putting Queensland jobs first matches the reality.

In response to my question, the minister said the current supply contract was undertaken in 2010, 13 years ago, and the successful vendor was selected in accordance with the Queensland procurement policies at that time. The minister also said—

I am advised by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) that to determine supply arrangements for uniform, personal protective equipment and equipment items, QFES conduct appropriate procurement processes within the Buy Queensland framework, to ensure a supplier is selected that can fulfil the services' requirements and provide the best overall value.

I note that the QAO found that departments engaged with approximately 22,300 distinct suppliers under the supplies and services financial note in the 2020-21 financial year. As a result, it recommended better monitoring because it found there was no way to see how individual departments used the current 466 whole-of-government arrangements. It also does not report on why some departments are engaging separately with the same suppliers.

Debate, on motion of Mr Perrett, adjourned.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates



Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Acting 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 Economics and Governance Committee report on the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) by 24 November 2023; the State Development and Regional Industries Committee report on the Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill by 24 November 2023; the Transport and Resources Committee report on the Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 24 November 2023; the Community Support and Services Committee report on the Victims of Crime Assistance and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 24 November 2023; and the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee report on the Criminal Law (Coercive Control and Affirmative Consent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 24 November 2023.

PUBLIC RECORDS BILL

Introduction



Hon. LM ENOCH (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (4.01 pm): I present a bill for an act about making, managing and accessing public records and continuing the role of the State Archivist and the Office of State Archives, to repeal the Public Records Act 2002, and to amend this act and the legislation mentioned in schedules 4 and 5 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Community Support and Services Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Public Records Bill 2023 [\[1651\]](#).

Tabled paper: Public Records Bill 2023, explanatory notes [\[1652\]](#).

Tabled paper: Public Records Bill 2023, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[1653\]](#).

Today I present the Public Records Bill 2023. This bill will replace the Public Records Act 2002 with a more modernised record keeping legislative framework. The Palaszczuk government is absolutely committed to ensuring the storage, maintenance, preservation and accessibility of public records reflects the changing nature of record keeping. Currently at Queensland State Archives there are over 3.5 million records that tell many stories of the state's history, spanning 200 years. The Queensland State Archives plays a pivotal role in preserving our collective memory, offering a window into our history as well as a comprehensive record of past events, policies and decisions, providing a deep understanding of how our society has evolved over time.

There have been a lot of changes since the Public Records Act's implementation in 2002, including significant advancements in technology, especially around how we all communicate with each other. In 2002, when the current act was first put in place, the iPhone was still almost five years away, the World Wide Web had been part of the public domain for less than 10 years and Facebook was still a few years away from being a reality. Fast-forward to 2023 and there are so many new ways to communicate, whether it is via social media platforms or the advanced technology we now carry around in our pockets. With further advancements in technology, who knows what the next big thing will be. That is why the Palaszczuk government initiated an independent review of the Public Records Act 2002 to seek to modernise the legislative framework governing the record keeping of some 500 public authorities across Queensland. Under the guidance of retired Supreme Court Justice, the Hon. John Byrne AO, RFD, and supported by a team of experienced subject matter experts, the review was undertaken with the objective of modernising our record keeping framework. In addition, it aimed to integrate the insights and viewpoints of First Nations communities into record related choices and to consider the corresponding roles and authorities required by a modern State Archivist. The evaluation meticulously examined the existing records management structure, comparing it with similar systems in Australia and internationally.

The review's 27 recommendations for both legislative and non-legislative actions made it clear that the act should be modernised to align with contemporary needs. Twenty of the 25 legislative recommendations are addressed in the Public Records Bill 2023. In terms of the remaining five legislative recommendations not addressed in the bill, three recommendations relate to the management of records of local government councillors; another relates to Indigenous data

sovereignty, which will all be addressed following further consultation and collaboration with key stakeholders and reported back to government in two years following proclamation; the other relates to the access decisions of former ministerial records in the custody of Queensland State Archives which has been resolved through use of the existing right to information framework.

The bill adopts a new purpose and set of principles for administering the act, including recognition of the importance of public records for Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The bill also recognises the valuable contribution of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people by providing for representation on the Public Records Review Committee, which gives advice to the minister, and the creation of a new First Nations advisory group to advise the State Archivist. Preserving our historical records is more critical than ever in this digital age where information can be easily lost or become obsolete. This bill will help ensure that our shared heritage is protected for future generations. There is work still to be done to consider the outstanding recommendations, which will be undertaken collaboratively with key stakeholders. The State Archivist will update government two years after the proclamation of the new legislation on the outcomes of work on the outstanding recommendations. The update will also report on the success of the implementation of the bill.

Complete and reliable public records help tell the full story about the actions and decisions made and can be trusted by the organisation and the public. The bill appropriately places a requirement on public authorities to make public records that accurately show the actions or decisions of a public authority, including contextual information. Public records should be accurate, authentic and usable in whatever format they are created. To inform best practice record keeping within agencies, the bill will empower the State Archivist to issue records management standards, which will be developed in consultation with public authorities and will go through a regulation approval process. The simplification of the process for establishing a public authority to take control of the records of another public authority that ceases to exist and where no other public authority will take over its functions is also included in the bill.

The reforms in the bill also improve the protection of permanent public records at risk of loss or damage by requiring public authorities to look after and preserve public records they have responsibility for. Public authorities will continue to be required to give notice to the Archivist of public records in their custody that are older than 25 years or where the public authority knows, or should know, that the records have permanent value and are at risk of loss or damage. In Queensland, records at risk of loss or damage might include those stored in areas prone to flooding or bushfire and encompasses digital records in a business system that is no longer supported. This inclusion ensures the protection of public records that have significance to the state and their availability to the public. The bill also empowers the State Archivist to protect permanent public records at risk of loss or damage by directing the transfer of those records to Queensland State Archives. This bill will give the State Archivist the ability to suspend a disposal authorisation for public records by declaring a protection notice for a class of public records that might be required for a particular purpose, such as a commission of inquiry or other review.

This bill acknowledges the importance of monitoring record-keeping maturity through providing the State Archivist with the power to monitor, audit and report on compliance with the act. Importantly, it includes the ability to issue a notice to public authorities to report on practices, procedures or systems relating to the making or managing of public records or information about public records in their custody.

A pro-disclosure approach is to be adopted for access to records in the custody of Queensland State Archives. Embracing a pro-disclosure approach to public records is fundamental in upholding the values of transparency and accountability in government. Access to public records provides the knowledge needed to make informed decisions. It will also allow historians, researchers and information seekers to access accounts of past events, enriching our understanding of our state's evolution. Public records will be openly accessible unless they contain information that requires further protection through the setting of restricted access periods. Public authorities will now need to provide reasons when refusing access to those public records.

To ensure appropriate consideration of the sensitivity of information within some public records, the bill allows for a regulation to prescribe the circumstances in which the Archivist may refuse access to public records in the custody of the archives. This will only occur if the Archivist is satisfied that access would not be in the public interest or if access would inappropriately reveal culturally sensitive information or personal information.

The bill recognises the important link between public records, information privacy and the right to information. The bill will strengthen the legislative frameworks that govern record keeping and public access to records. It includes amendments to better align with the Right to Information Act 2009 and

the Information Privacy Act 2009, including adopting the definition of 'personal information' rather than referring to 'personal affairs' and incorporating sensitive information within the restricted access period provisions.

I can also advise, following joint work and consultation with the Local Government Association of Queensland and the local government sector, that the recommendation relating to provisions to define local government councillors as public authorities will also be further considered, with the State Archivist reporting back to government in two years following widespread stakeholder engagement. I thank the LGAQ, in particular, for their assistance through this process. Allowing further time to consider the review's operational recommendations will ensure consistency with other information and data initiatives of the Queensland government and will enable alignment with the Path to Treaty.

Proposed reforms about the recognition and participation of First Nations peoples were universally supported. As we take the next steps on the Path to Treaty, archives and records will be more important than ever in telling the shared history of Queensland. The records held at the Queensland State Archives will play a central role in the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry, acting as a primary source as the inquiry examines the enduring effects of colonisation.

In a significant step forward, the bill will adopt principles for administering the act to explicitly acknowledge the importance of public records for First Nations people and the broad value of public records. This will play an integral role in the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry and future treaty negotiations as part of Queensland's Path to Treaty. The bill will also include assurances surrounding ready access to public records for First Nations people in supporting their rights and entitlements in connection with culture and community and in relation to reconciliation.

Indigenous data sovereignty is a global movement that allows First Nations people to assert rights over the collection, ownership and application of data about their communities. For more than 200 years, many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have had every aspect of their lives documented by government, often without their knowledge or permission. As part of the act review process, Rose Barrowcliffe, the state's First Nations Archives Advisor—a role that is the first of its kind—consulted with First Nations stakeholders on Justice Byrne's four recommendations specifically related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and public records. Dr Barrowcliffe's advice reflected feedback from stakeholders that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people need to be involved in decision-making about records that relate to them.

To show the Palaszczuk government's commitment to the principles of Indigenous data sovereignty, we will establish a First Nations advisory group to enshrine Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander decision-making into the management of public records. Creating this body will further embed First Nations perspectives into the State Archives, which is by nature a colonial institution. The Queensland State Archives will undertake further consideration of recommendations related to Indigenous data sovereignty, Indigenous data governance and Indigenous cultural and intellectual property to support a whole-of-government approach in alignment with Path to Treaty.

Public records are vital to increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of community services, providing a foundation for informed decision-making and promoting economic development, innovation and research. The bill recognises the importance of our public records being available to our community now and into the future. It is for this reason that we need an act that will be as robust and effective now as it is for the future. A robust act strikes a crucial balance between transparency and privacy, supports informed decision-making and empowers citizens, researchers and policymakers with reliable and accurate information.

I thank the independent panel members and those who were involved in the consultation processes. In doing so, they have made an important contribution to the future of public record management. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. LM ENOCH (Alger—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (4.13 pm): 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 Community Support and Services Committee

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Community Support and Services Committee.

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

Hon. LM ENOCH (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (4.14 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—


That, under the provisions of standing order 136, the Community Support and Services Committee report to the House on the Public Records Bill by Friday, 24 November 2023.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

INFORMATION PRIVACY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Message from Governor

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (4.14 pm): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): The message from Her Excellency the Governor recommends the Information Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

INFORMATION PRIVACY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2023

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

I, DR JEANNETTE ROSITA YOUNG AC PSM, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intituled—


A Bill for an Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Information Privacy Act 2009, the Ombudsman Act 2001, the Right to Information Act 2009 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes

GOVERNOR

Date: 12 October 2023

Tabled paper: Message, dated 12 October 2023, from Her Excellency the Governor, recommending the Information Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 [\[1654\]](#).

Introduction

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (4.15 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Criminal Code, the Information Privacy Act 2009, the Ombudsman Act 2001, the Right to Information Act 2009 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights on behalf of the Attorney-General. I nominate the Education, Employment and Training Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Information Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 [\[1655\]](#).

Tabled paper: Information Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, explanatory notes [\[1656\]](#).

Tabled paper: Information Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[1657\]](#).

Today, in the absence of the Attorney-General, I present the Information Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. This is the third bill to implement recommendations from Professor Peter Coaldrake's 2022 report *Let the sunshine in: review of culture and accountability in the Queensland public sector* and demonstrates this government's commitment to integrity and transparency. More than the Coaldrake report, this bill is the culmination of many other broad-ranging reports and reviews including: the Crime and Corruption Commission's report titled *Operation Impala: report on misuse of confidential information in the Queensland public sector*, tabled in February 2020; the Crime and Corruption Commission's report titled *Culture and corruption risks in local government*:

lessons from an investigation into Ipswich City Council, tabled in August 2018; the *Strategic review of the Office of the Information Commissioner*, tabled in May 2017; and the *Report on the review of the Right to Information Act 2009 and Information Privacy Act 2009*, tabled in October 2017.

The bill also makes additional clarifications and improvements to information privacy and right to information frameworks, including in response to judicial decisions and consultation with stakeholders. In implementing these reports and recommendations, the bill enhances the protection of personal information held by Queensland government agencies; improves remedies and responses for data breaches and misuse of personal information by Queensland government agencies; and clarifies and improves the operation of Queensland's information privacy and right to information framework.

The government has undertaken significant consultation in developing these reforms, including several rounds of consultation with the public and key stakeholders. In 2022, the government released a public consultation paper seeking feedback on proposed reforms, including the introduction of new privacy principles for Queensland and a mandatory data breach notification scheme. The government also conducted extensive consultation with departments, statutory bodies, local councils, universities and other entities that are currently subject to Queensland's right to information and information privacy frameworks. More recently, government has also conducted targeted consultation on a draft bill. Feedback from this consultation has been instrumental in developing a practical and workable improved framework, appropriate for Queensland, as represented in this bill today.

I will now take members through each significant area of reform. Firstly, the bill modernises the Information Privacy Act 2009 to ensure that Queensland's privacy laws remain contemporary and relevant given the changes to the use of technology and to the way in which personal information is collected, used, accessed, stored and disclosed in today's digital world. The Information Privacy Act 2009 regulates how personal information is collected, secured, used and disclosed by Queensland public sector agencies and their contractors.

There are currently two sets of privacy principles: the National Privacy Principles, which apply to health agencies, and the Information Privacy Principles, which apply to all other Queensland government agencies. The bill provides for a new and enhanced single set of privacy principles for all agencies and contracted service providers, referred to as the Queensland Privacy Principles.

The Queensland Privacy Principles are broadly based on the Australian Privacy Principles in the Commonwealth Privacy Act 1998, with some adaptations to make them appropriate for Queensland's needs and legislative environment. The Queensland Privacy Principles will improve consistency with the Commonwealth privacy framework, providing an uplift of privacy protections for Queenslanders. The new Queensland Privacy Principles will provide individuals with greater understanding of their privacy rights, and enhance public confidence that personal information will be handled in a similar way across the Commonwealth, state or local government. They will also provide a higher standard of protection for sensitive information, which includes health related information, genetic information and biometric data. The Queensland privacy principles will also reduce red tape for businesses that may be subject to multiple sets of privacy principles such as larger businesses that contract with the Queensland government. These requirements promote responsible and fair management of personal information.

I know some people might be asking why we are making these changes now when the Commonwealth government has only recently released its response to the Privacy Act review report. The Commonwealth government has conducted a very thorough review into the Commonwealth Privacy Act over recent years. That review is still underway and is likely to continue for quite some time, noting that many of the recommendations were accepted in principle by the Commonwealth government and are subject to further regulatory impact analysis.

The reforms in the bill provide a stepping stone for Queensland agencies and provide a sound foundation on which further legislative reforms can be considered once the Commonwealth progresses legislative reforms. Not all reforms being considered by the Commonwealth will be suitable for Queensland. By strengthening Queensland's privacy framework now, public sector agencies will be able to continue to manage the challenges of digital service delivery while meeting community expectations around privacy. It is crucial that Queensland's privacy legislation is contemporary and remains fit for purpose. In today's interconnected digital era, information, including personal information, such as a person's contact details, private health records and financial information, has become more sought after and accessible than ever.

Another significant reform in the bill is the establishment of a mandatory data breach notification scheme as recommended by the Coaldrake report. Recent high-profile data breaches demonstrate that loss or unauthorised access or disclosure of personal information has the potential to result in serious harm to individuals. This could include: identity theft; identity fraud; financial loss; physical harm; reputational harm; emotional harm such as embarrassment or distress; and discrimination.

Queensland agencies currently operate a voluntary notification scheme under the Office of the Information Commissioner's Privacy Breach Management and Notification Guideline. The bill will establish a mandatory data breach notification scheme to ensure that there are clear, consistent requirements for government agencies to notify individuals of data breaches by Queensland government agencies so that individuals are empowered to take steps to reduce the risk of harm resulting from a data breach. The mandatory data breach notification scheme will introduce requirements to notify affected individuals and the Office of the Information Commissioner of eligible data breaches—that is, unauthorised access to, unauthorised disclosure of, or loss of personal information held by an agency where it is likely to result in serious harm to the individuals concerned.

The proposed MDBN scheme will also require agencies to conduct assessments of suspected eligible data breaches within 30 days to identify whether notification is required and, if an eligible data breach has occurred, provide a statement containing details about the breach to the OIC and notify affected individuals. Consistent and transparent handling of data breaches under the mandatory data breach notification scheme will empower individuals to mitigate the potential harm of data breaches in a timely manner, resulting in greater trust and confidence in government agencies.

The bill also provides enhanced powers for the Information Commissioner to respond to privacy breaches, including an own-motion power to investigate an act or practice without having received a privacy complaint. The bill also provides the Office of the Information Commissioner with new functions and regulatory powers in relation to compliance with the new mandatory data breach notification scheme.

In relation to computer hacking, the bill amends the offence in section 408E of the Criminal Code, which deals with the use of restricted computers without consent, to improve its operation and clarity having regard to key concerns highlighted in the CCC's Impala report. This includes amendments to rename section 408E. The Impala report highlighted that the title of the section does not make it clear to public officers that their conduct in accessing confidential information to which they have access in the performance of their duties can be a criminal offence. The CCC was also concerned that current maximum penalties do not adequately reflect the serious nature of deliberate breaches of the public's privacy by public officers and in some cases the offence becomes statute barred. To this end, the amendments increase the maximum penalty of the current simple offence in subsection (1) relating to use of a restricted computer without the consent of the computer's controller from two to three years imprisonment and reclassifies this offence as a misdemeanour which means that it is an indictable offence.

The bill will also make important improvements to the right to information and information privacy frameworks under the Right to Information Act 2009 and the Information Privacy Act 2009. The Right to Information Act provides a right of access to government information unless, on balance, it is contrary to the public interest to release the information. The Information Privacy Act also provides a right for a person to access or amend their own personal information.

The bill will provide a single right of access to information, including for personal information, all under the Right to Information Act. Applications for amendment of personal information will also be made under the Right to Information Act rather than the Information Privacy Act. This will reduce complexity for individuals and agencies and deliver efficiencies.

The bill also includes a suite of enhancements to the right to information and information privacy frameworks, including to: make improvements to the processing of applications; modify internal and external review processes; clarify the definition of 'public authority'; rationalise requirements for disclosure logs and make changes to annual reporting requirements; and enhance arrangements for privacy complaints. Lastly, the bill amends the Right to Information Act to support the operation of the administrative scheme which will provide for the proactive release of cabinet documents.

In conclusion, the bill implements critical reforms which go to the heart of Queensland's integrity framework. The Right to Information Act and the Information Privacy Act have important roles in our democratic society and in Queensland's integrity framework. The Palaszczuk government's

implementation of the important measures in the Information Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Bill will ensure transparency, accountability and privacy protections for individuals that accord with the Queensland community's expectations. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. LM ENOCH (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (4.26 pm): 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 Education, Employment and Training Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Education, Employment and Training Committee.

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

Hon. LM ENOCH (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (4.27 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, under the provisions of standing order 136, the Education, Employment and Training Committee report to the House on the Information Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by Friday, 24 November 2023.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.


Motion agreed to.

CRIMINAL CODE (SERIOUS VILIFICATION AND HATE CRIMES) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 3028, on motion of Ms Linard—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (4.28 pm): I rise to give my contribution on the Criminal Code (Serious Vilification and Hate Crimes) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. At the outset, the Greens support this bill and absolutely support its goal of tackling hate crimes and serious vilification in Queensland. Given the concerning rise in visible fascist, transphobic, misogynistic and racist far-right hate in recent years, it is good to see the Queensland government responding to the issue directly. One of the pillars of the Queensland Greens is social justice. We want to see fascist, transphobic and racist hate stamped out across the state. It is a little disappointing, but perhaps unsurprising, that with this bill Labor is again proposing a purely carceral approach to an issue that ultimately requires a far more comprehensive and nuanced social response. The response to far-right hate that the government has chosen in this bill only deals with punishment through the criminal legal system. The bill introduces a statutory aggravation for certain offences where the offender is motivated by hatred or serious contempt for a person or a group based on their race, religion, sexuality, sex characteristics or gender identity.

In its submission the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service suggested that this list also include deprivation of liberty. It is not entirely clear to me why that was ultimately excluded. The bill also establishes an offence for the public display of hate symbols in a way that might reasonably be expected to cause a member of the public to feel menaced, harassed or offended.

As other members have addressed, this list is determined by the minister, who must do so in consultation with the Crime and Corruption Commission chair, the Police Commissioner and the Queensland Human Rights Commission. While I understand that a degree of flexibility may be useful to respond to emerging hateful movements, I have some concerns about leaving ultimate control over this list to the government of the day. We have seen that the government is more than willing to disregard the advice of the Human Rights Commissioner in particular, for example, when it overrode

the Human Rights Act on two separate occasions to allow the imprisonment of more children in this state. Given the way the government has also introduced extraordinary legislation to prohibit certain types of protest—specifically, protest that is commonly used by its political opponents calling for climate action—it is not entirely implausible that the government could seek to outlaw certain symbols essentially on the basis that they challenge its policies or legitimacy. I understand there are safeguards in the bill that exempt symbols that represent a genuine political or other genuine public dispute, but I believe that a stronger protection would be to give the independent Queensland Human Rights Commissioner the ability to veto symbols from that list.

Beyond the process for designation of hate symbols, it is important for us to interrogate whether an approach that entirely relies on the force of the Queensland police and the prison system will ultimately achieve what it hopes to. Experts like the Australian anti-fascist group the White Rose Society have consistently made it clear that we cannot jail our way out of the rise of far-right extremism. In response to the news of these laws they raised concerns that the government would ‘pass these laws and then think the job is done’. I must confess to being a little worried about that too.

Criminal punishment is inherently backwards looking. It can only concern itself with what has already happened and at best is weak at preventing or deterring the concerning behaviour itself. The Australian Medical Association, Multicultural Australia and the Queensland Family and Child Commission all make this clear in their submissions on the bill. We have Victoria to look to as an example. That state criminalised the display of the swastika last year before any other state in the country, but racists in Victoria are far from being deterred by that. In fact, earlier this year we saw Neo-Nazis posing for photos on the steps of parliament and prominent Nazi figures continue to organise explicitly white supremacist events.

When it comes to extremist fringe movements, there is even a risk that poorly planned responses that exclusively focus on punishment can even embolden these groups by feeding their false narrative that they are a growing insurgent group whose power is being suppressed only by the forces of the state. Unfortunately, the idea of the people versus the government is a useful narrative for these groups and their recruitment tactics. To be clear, Neo-Nazis are not powerful. Generally speaking, it is a few very lonely racist, misogynist and transphobic people looking for a way to feel powerful or superior. They want to appear big and influential to help recruit vulnerable people who are looking for a sense of belonging. In reality, the vast majority of people despise and reject their message.

That is why, as the White Rose Society says, we need a whole-of-society approach to tackle far-right extremism. That means more support for struggling people so they are less vulnerable to recruitment by hate groups. It means providing better access to the fundamentals of a good, fulfilling life like better social housing, better rental rights, better funded health care and mental health care, and truly free public schooling. Even ideas like free public transport would help in this way. It means helping create stronger and more welcoming communities by investing in cheap and free public events and activities, particularly fostering local talent and supporting local performance spaces. Creating this kind of cultural richness gives people opportunities to connect and belong. The best tool against far-right extremists is building a vibrant society that properly supports everyone, especially the most vulnerable amongst us. Members of this parliament should also support locals in their area by standing up against hate. I am sure that many, if not all of us, do. That kind of leadership is a crucial part of a whole-of-society approach. Communities should feel empowered and supported to reject hate in their suburb as a community without the need for police or government to intervene.

The government and all members should also remember that in recent times some of the most damaging and insidious acts of hate and xenophobia have come from those in positions of institutional power. Some federal politicians in particular come to mind. My Greens colleagues at the federal level have proposed mandatory anti-racism training for MPs and increased mechanisms to hold media and online platforms to account for spreading hate, rather than just focusing on individuals. We also need well-funded public education campaigns to tackle serious vilification and hate crimes. This was recommendation 17 of the very committee report that prompted this bill. In their submissions the AMA, Multicultural Australia and QFCC all called for this to accompany the bill, because underlying social norms around racism, transphobia and misogyny are not going to be shifted by criminal punishments alone. This is particularly the case when those in control of doling out the punishment are sometimes the source of the problem itself.

As I have said in this chamber before, the Queensland Police Service has too often been shown to be an institution rife with racism, homophobia and misogyny. That is not just my opinion. It was laid bare throughout the Inquiry into the Queensland Police Service responses to domestic and family violence. Several whistleblowers have come forward in recent years alleging racism and misogyny in

the QPS. Just last November audio captured from inside watch houses and police facilities was published in the media, and much of what police officers were captured saying in these recordings is the exact kind of racist hate this bill aims to stamp out. Time and again we see racism enmeshed within the culture of the Queensland police—from vitriolic Facebook pages, to slurs in the workplace, to the way First Nations people are disproportionately targeted and killed in custody. The experiences of women within, and in contact with, the Queensland Police Service have told us they feel less safe with officers than with violent partners.

If this government wants to demonstrate they are serious about tackling hate and prejudice at its source, they need to introduce an independent oversight body for the QPS rather than allowing police to continue to investigate police. Instead, it seems that Labor has gone and paid consultants more than \$400,000 to find a way out of the commission of inquiry's recommendation for an independent police integrity unit to investigate all complaints. To be clear, we are talking about public money being spent on actively protecting the kind of racism this bill purports to reject. Until the state government introduces truly independent civilian-led oversight, I fear the police culture of racism and misogyny will continue unabated.

The Greens will be supporting this bill because it is vitally important to signal that hate crimes are unacceptable in Queensland. Between the continuing lack of independent accountability for Queensland police and the narrow scope of responses to hate put forward by the government to date, I am concerned that it is not truly committing to the kind of whole-of-society approach required to tackle prejudice and hate. I very much welcome this bill as a first step. I implore the government to do all that it can to fully stamp out vilification and hate crimes in Queensland.



Ms LUI (Cook—ALP) (4.37 pm): I rise to speak on the Criminal Code (Serious Vilification and Hate Crimes) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. Throughout history lots of people around the world have faced discrimination when they are treated differently because of their race, skin colour, gender, age, religious beliefs and so many other things. Sadly, it still happens to this day. I am proud to speak on this bill today because, like the incredible human rights activists before us, this bill is about making a change for the better—a change to help society move towards a world where everyone is treated fairly and equally.

The bill was introduced into the Legislative Assembly by the Hon. Shannon Fentiman, the then attorney-general and minister for justice, minister for women and minister for the prevention of domestic and family violence, on 29 March 2023. The objective of the bill is to implement recommendations 7, 8, 9 and 16 of committee report No. 22 of the 57th Parliament titled *Inquiry into serious vilification and hate crimes*.

The key issues raised during the committee's examination of the bill included: the attributes to be protected; in relation to serious vilification, the definition of a public act, removal of the requirement for a Crown Law officer's consent and increasing the maximum penalty to three years imprisonment; the circumstance of aggravation, including the test to be applied and the prescribed offences; in relation to prohibited symbols, prohibiting symbols by regulation; the test for the offence; the reversal of the onus of proof; impact on freedom of expression; allowing police to search a person or vehicle without a warrant; and compliance of the bill with the Legislative Standards Act 1992 and the Human Rights Act 2019.

I would like to acknowledge the memory of a dear friend, the former member for Stretton, the late Mr Duncan Pegg. Duncan was a champion for multicultural communities as he represented one of the most diverse multicultural electorates in Queensland. Duncan was a fearless advocate who believed that all people should be treated as equal, regardless of the colour of their skin, their ethnic background or their religious belief.

There is no room in this world for serious vilification and hate crime. I believe that, the more we stand up as individuals and/or as a collective to speak up against serious vilification and hate crimes in our community, the better the future of our communities will be. It should not matter who you are. It should not matter where you come from, where you live or what you look like, and it certainly should not matter what you believe, think or do because every person deserves the right to feel safe in their home and community. I stand with the committee in the hopes that the report from the inquiry will be a genesis for reform that embodies the spirit of equality, community, acceptance and inclusivity. I am proud of the multicultural state that we are, and I am equally proud to speak on a bill that speaks to protect the rights and interests of our multicultural communities.

Being a person of colour and someone from Torres Strait Islander descent, I am fully aware of what it is like to be different. I know what it is like to be on the receiving end of serious vilification and hate. I also know what it is like to defend someone on the receiving end of serious vilification and hate from another person. I do not condone such behaviour and I will always speak up against it. Being different sometimes attracts the most disgraceful acts. Many Queenslanders are subject to some serious vilification and hate crimes. These Queenslanders include people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, people with disabilities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and members of the LGBTIQ+ community. In some instances, vilification is intersectional. A person may, for example, be vilified on the basis of both their sexuality and their race.

Legal Aid Queensland described the vilification experienced by one of their clients, a gay man of Chinese ethnicity. The incident happened over a few months in early 2020 where he experienced extreme forms of verbal abuse from his neighbour. I read the obscene language used to degrade another human being and, quite frankly, I am disgusted and ashamed that someone felt it was okay to speak to another person in that manner. The neighbour also did things like stretching her eyelids in a mocking manner, obviously to demean and make someone feel less of themselves. She had no regard for this person's property by throwing coffee grounds and a vinegar-smelling liquid on his car, causing hundreds of dollars worth of damage. To spit, to throw a plate, food and rubbish, and to hose someone down with water—there are just no words to describe it. Behaviours like this should never be tolerated in our society. Vilification and hate crimes also occur online and in a wide range of physical settings throughout Queensland, such as on public transport, on the street and in workplaces, shops and schools. That is why we need to have strong measures in place to protect the people it affects.

We know that vilification and hate can often lead to devastating outcomes. In March 2019, a mass shooting occurred in consecutive terrorist attacks on two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand. This heinous crime was committed by a lone gunman who entered both mosques during Friday prayer and savagely killed 51 people and injured 40 others. While the Christchurch mass shooting happened across the Tasman, the remnants were felt here in Australia. It was not surprising to say the least that what happened in Christchurch sparked an act of vilification and hate crime here in Brisbane. Mr Ali Kadri, chief executive officer of the Islamic College of Brisbane and committee member of the Holland Park mosque, described an incident where there was—

... graffiti outside the Holland Park Mosque where somebody painted a swastika and wrote the name of the terrorist who killed 52 people in Christchurch, with 'Saint' at the beginning

He also shared a separate incident that occurred at the Southbank Parklands with his family, where he said—

An intoxicated person came in and started abusing us for being Indians. He used words like 'slaves'. He used words like, 'We rightfully colonised you', and so on and so forth.


When he asked the person to leave them alone, he then had wine spilled on him.

The committee considers that simply describing the nature and extent of hate crimes and vilification faced by members of the community is not sufficient to capture the whole story; it is important to also consider the impact of the vilification on the victims. This helps explain why something has to be done to reduce the instances of hate crimes and vilification in Queensland. I love that diversity makes our communities vibrant and unique. This bill will certainly go a long way to protect Queenslanders from serious vilification and hate crime. I fully support the need for education and awareness.

Queensland Multicultural Month and local events such as the Mareeba Multicultural Festival in my electorate provide platforms to create awareness for diversity so that society can learn to become more accepting of all people and continue to strive towards peace and harmony. I want to give a shout-out to the Mareeba community, the Mareeba Shire Council and the Mareeba Multicultural Festival committee for hosting the annual Mareeba Multicultural Festival, celebrating our First Nations people and our diverse community with people from more than 75 countries. The festival brings community together to showcase traditional performances, crafts, myriad cuisines, music, cultural displays and storytelling. The festival provides an opportunity for people to learn about other cultures and raise awareness for diversity in the region.

We have other initiatives such as Pride Month that occurs every June to celebrate the diversity of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community. It is a time to reflect on just how far civil rights have progressed in half a century and it is an opportunity to protest discrimination and violence. NAIDOC Week occurs annually in July and celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

While society is becoming more accepting of all people, there is still more to be done. I would like to acknowledge the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, its chair Peter Russo, the member for Toohey, and other members of the committee, as well as the committee secretariat and Hansard for the large body of work they did to bring this bill to parliament. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (4.47 pm): I would like to thank the member for Cook for her brave contribution today and for telling us from her heart what it is like to be somebody who stands out as being different in our community. Thank you very much.

If we lived in a society where everyone treated each other with respect, understanding and kindness, we would not be needing this bill, but unfortunately we are seeing people being vilified in our community because they are different, just as the member for Cook has outlined. Perpetrators of hate crimes are usually real cowards. They attack or make menacing threats anonymously over the internet or they wear masks. Recently, there was a video splashed around on mainstream media where masked men were burning an Aboriginal flag, calling out names of people and giving Nazi salutes. They were just cowards. This whole exercise was a message of hate and was designed to deliver fear. This is not acceptable in our society.

We pride ourselves on being a successful, multicultural nation. We boast about being a melting pot. To be successful, we need to be inclusive, with all citizens feeling culturally and physically safe. Since 2013 the Mackay Regional Council has been keeping tally of the different countries that people receiving citizenship in our region have come from. At the Australian citizenship ceremony last month, the tally clicked over to 100. This is probably reflective around our state, with an even higher number of nationalities in larger centres. Many have public celebrations where they want the wider community to learn about their culture. We learn about the Maltese, Italians and South Sea islanders. We have Africa Day, open day at the mosque and Filipino celebrations. Soon we will be heading down to Queens Park to celebrate Global Grooves, sharing food, music and fellowship as a cohesive community. Queensland is one of the most multicultural places on earth with a diverse range of cultures, faith systems and religions, languages and life experiences, and this is what makes our communities so rich.

The provisions in this bill will implement four of the committee's recommendations: recommendation 7, to remove the requirement for consent of a Crown Law officer before prosecution under section 131A of the Anti-Discrimination Act; recommendation 8, to introduce a statutory aggravation regarding hate and serious vilification; recommendation 9, to relocate the offence of serious vilification to the Criminal Code; and recommendation 16, to prohibit the display of hate symbols. These amendments will make it easier to prosecute vilification and hate crimes while increasing available maximum penalties to better reflect the long-lasting impact these offences can have on victims.

I am pleased that this bill will increase the maximum penalties for hate crimes, making it easier to prosecute vilification and ban public display of hate symbols. Importantly, in relation to hate symbols, it is intended that the laws will apply to online conduct and the public display of tattoos. We know that too many members of our diverse communities continue to experience the devastating impacts of hatred and bias.

The bill removes the requirement that the consent of the Attorney-General or the Director of Public Prosecutions must be obtained before a proceeding can be commenced under section 131A of the Anti-Discrimination Act, while also relocating the provision to the Criminal Code. The bill will also increase the maximum penalty for serious vilification from six months imprisonment to three years imprisonment. This better reflects the seriousness of the offence and community expectations. It also allows telecommunication warrants to be issued under federal legislation so that police can more easily establish who is responsible for online offending.

In addition, the bill adds a circumstance of aggravation to the offences of going armed to cause fear, threatening violence, disturbing religious worship, common assault, assault occasioning bodily harm, threats, unlawful stalking, intimidation, harassment or abuse, wilful damage, public nuisance and trespass. The circumstance of aggravation will increase the maximum penalty where the offender is motivated wholly or partly by hatred or serious contempt for someone or a group of people based on their race, religion, sexuality, sex characteristics or gender identity. The offence is intended to capture a broad range of circumstances.


I have been contacted by groups who use symbols for religious or peaceful purposes that are similar to those that have been also associated with groups for hate. There is also a non-exhaustive list of excuses to the offence, including if the display and distribution is for a genuine artistic, religious, educational, historical, legal or law enforcement purpose or a public interest purpose. A defendant

relying on an excuse must prove their conduct was reasonable in the circumstances. It is intended that an excuse might be available where the public display is made in books, satire, documentaries or museums and during historical re-enactments.

While the bill does not prescribe a prohibited symbol, the intention is to ban symbols related to Nazi and ISIS ideology. When referring to the Nazi symbol, it is important to note that the Nazi hooked cross is the correct terminology for the most widely known symbol. The hooked cross closely resembles the swastika, which has a peaceful and profound meaning in some religions, including Hinduism and Buddhism. The bill will recognise the religious and cultural use of the swastika; that is, the offence will ensure the swastika can continue to be used for religious and cultural purposes to acknowledge the swastika's important contribution to Buddhist and Hindu communities. There is no place in Queensland or Australia for hatred and bigotry, and symbols that are used to instil fear in all their forms must be stamped out.

Yesterday the member for Mirani called the provisions of this bill woke—a very trendy, far right wing approach to this bill. I can recall many occasions when the member has made some very impassioned speeches in this House, sharing the history and the pain that his community suffered when they were blackbirded and indentured to work in the sugar industry here in Queensland. This act of violence towards his community and the racism they have endured since in Queensland is horrific and heartbreaking. The intergenerational trauma is still evident in the community today. I sat with the member for Mirani and leaders from his community when they explained how the health of their community is affected because of the treatment received previously in history, in hospital where people with minor ailments were dying overnight at the hands of a doctor who had no regard for them as people, only as scientific specimens. I remember when the member shared with us the story of where his family were unable to buy a farm because the sellers would not sell to a person of colour.

In recent weeks I have heard people in my community talking about people of colour across the Mackay community in really terrible terms, and I do not want this for people of colour in my community or people who look different or who come from different communities. That is why I am voting for this bill. I call for the member for Mirani to stand up against white supremacy and join with us in voting for this bill. I cannot imagine what the stress of living with vilification and hatred might be, so I call on everyone to join in and vote for this bill. I support the bill.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (4.56 pm): I rise to address the Criminal Code (Serious Vilification and Hate Crimes) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 220. In doing so, I want to start by associating myself with the words of many in this chamber and express dismay at what is currently occurring and unfolding in Israel and to condemn the terrorist actions of Hamas. I want to commend the member for Chatsworth in particular for his ongoing role with the Parliamentary Friends of Israel and for hosting the event here in parliament the other night. As a student of history, I guess I have a fear, more than anything, that these kinds of conflicts have an ability to become bigger and more devastating than we can ever imagine, and it is my hope and my prayer that that is not the case in this instance—that the tragic loss of life can end sooner rather than later and we can go back to a peaceful coexistence not only there but also across the world.

As others in the LNP have said, we completely and utterly condemn vilification and hate crimes. As a former member of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee alongside the member for Currumbin, I was involved in the original report that has led to this legislation. In my contribution on the committee report I explained that, thanks to the upbringing my parents provided me, I have never understood—never understood—how someone could vilify someone else or express, using words or action, a form of hate that would require this kind of legislation. To me, it still defies belief that these things occur, but as we heard on that committee, and no doubt the committee heard again as they were considering this legislation, sadly those kind of actions continue, those kind of words, those kind of thoughts and belief practices still exist, and therefore it requires this legislation.

I know that others have said—the committee certainly said it in their original report—that alongside legislative reform there needs to be ongoing education—education of the broader community around what is acceptable but also education of the community, including multicultural communities, around the existing laws and how they can be used when instances like this occur.

There was certainly lot of discussion around the fact that laws did exist that the police and prosecutors could have used with regard to those individuals who have perpetrated some of these heinous crimes previously. What was clear was some were convoluted. As we are discussing today, one required special approval to use it. This bill will address that by removing that requirement. Other times it was a case that it was far easier to prosecute using another piece of the Criminal Code than to

use the one that might have determined a more serious outcome where vilification and hate crime were involved. Having said that, what we are now debating today is a change to the law to strengthen it around serious vilification and hate crime, and the LNP and I support that. I would point out, as I suspect a number of others have, we have to do this whilst balancing it with freedom of expression.

I do want to share one interaction I had with a concerned community member within the Glass House electorate. He came to me when he heard these laws were being considered and was quite concerned that it would curtail his freedom of expression. I went to great lengths calling up the legislation that currently exists and calling up this legislation to explain to him the high bar that is required to be met for a prosecution to occur under the existing legislation and this changed legislation. I think it is important that there is a high bar. Again, please do not get me wrong; I am not condoning vilification or hate crime in the slightest, but to get the balance right we need to make sure it is a high bar and it is an act that is worthy of these kinds of penalties.

I must admit I probably did not convince that constituent that we were getting the balance right and I suspect there are many in the community who may feel it is tenuous. I again say that having witnessed and heard some harrowing stories as part of that committee, there is no question that we as legislators need to ensure we have the right laws to stamp this out. Serious vilification, hate crime, cannot continue, cannot be condoned and cannot be seen to be occurring in Queensland. We are better than that. We really are.

I do want to pick up on the primary concern that I and the shadow minister and others in the LNP have had. It was picked up also by the committee in their report. It is around the protected attributes. It was the one that most stakeholders had some concern with. Bear with me while I note the committee's comment in this area. It stated—

The committee notes that the protected attributes included in the Bill were broadly supported by submitters. Submitters also raised a wide range of other attributes they would like to see included in the protected attributes in the Bill such as age, disability, impairment, HIV/AIDS status, homelessness, sex, sex work and sex worker and other attributes set out in s 7 of the AD Act.

The committee notes with approval the criteria of demonstrable need, additional harm and suitability in selecting additional attributes to be protected.

On the basis of these criteria, the committee is of the view that it would be appropriate to include age and impairment (including both disability and HIV/AIDS status) as additional protected attributes. This is particularly the case where these attributes are already protected under the current AD Act.

The committee recommends that the Queensland Government considers, as part of its review of the AD Act, the inclusion of additional protected attributes in relation to ss 124A and 131A of the AD Act (vilification and serious vilification), s 52B of the Criminal Code (circumstance of aggravation) and s 52C of the Criminal Code (prohibited symbols).

In relation to crimes committed on the basis of mistaken or false beliefs or stereotypes related to protected attributes, the committee is satisfied that this will be captured in relation to circumstances of aggravation by the inclusion of the term 'presumed' in s 52B of the Criminal Code. The committee is also of the view that such circumstances may also be captured under s 52B where the offender can be shown to be 'partly' motivated by hatred or serious contempt based on a protected attribute.

What we are doing is moving certain sections from the Anti-Discrimination Act into the Criminal Code. The committee has picked up that there is a number of protected attributes that will be falling through the cracks. The department said we will capture those as part of a broader review into the Anti-Discrimination Act. Given that is not progressing as quickly as I think many would hope, there is a concern that disability and age in particular are two areas that will fall through the cracks in the meantime. It is interesting—and I think others will potentially raise this when we get to consideration in detail—that the government has chosen not to address that recommendation of the committee. To be blunt, it beggars belief why that would be the case. It seemed a fairly simple addition and a very sensible one at that given the serious consideration that was given by the committee of this matter. I look forward to the closing remarks of the minister. I appreciate the minister will be doing it on behalf of another minister. I would be very keen to hear if there is an explanation as to why that was not the case.

I will leave my remarks at that. I commend those on the committee who have now looked at this matter twice—first, more broadly and, secondly, in relation to this specific legislation. I know from my personal experience on that first committee that dealing with some of the stories was quite challenging but nowhere near as challenging as being the individual to which those realities actually occurred. It is those realities that we have a responsibility to ensure do not happen.

I call on all members in this chamber and I call on all members of the community to do what they can to continue to educate those around them that whilst we can have differences of opinion, we can express those differences of opinion. Let's use words that are meaningful, not hurtful, that are in a form of respectful debate, that are not designed to bring others down and certainly do not vilify or harm.



Ms McMILLAN (Mansfield—ALP) (5.06 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the Criminal Code (Serious Vilification and Hate Crimes) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 which is currently before the House. I make comment particularly about the insertion of the recommended new section 52D into the Criminal Code, which will aim to deter the display, distribution or publication of prohibited symbols where a prohibited symbol is a symbol or image widely known by the public or by members of a relevant group as being solely or substantially representative of an ideology of extreme prejudice against a relevant group in a way that might reasonably be expected to cause a member of the public to feel menaced, harassed or offended unless that person has a reasonable excuse.

My electorate of Mansfield has become a strong multicultural community, made up of around 30 per cent of constituents with an Asian background, 30 per cent Indian and 30 per cent Caucasian with the remaining cultures of New Zealand, Canada, South Africa and Europe represented. Within this, the suburb of Burbank in the Mansfield electorate is home to Queensland's only Jewish day school, Sinai College, and Jewish retirement village. As the parliament would be aware, our Jewish community were victim to one of the most atrocious genocides the world has ever seen. Symbols of the Nazi hooked cross, unfortunately, continue to be used against the Jewish community and the Jewish living in my community. It constantly reminds them of the oppression, death and destruction that these families have experienced over many years. It is a symbol of hatred, a symbol of xenophobia and a symbol of racist hate crimes. Our multicultural communities deserve to live free of this.

I am sure the parliament will recall in 2021 when police seized a Nazi flag flown near a Brisbane synagogue, and just a few months earlier a train carriage in the suburbs was graffitied with Nazi hooked crosses and Nazi slogans. These events hurt many living in my community significantly as this was no practical joke—nor were the displayed ideologies. My electorate of Mansfield made their position very clear: hate and vilification of groups within our community will not be tolerated.

This was demonstrated more recently when Citipointe Christian College came out with prejudice towards a group of young LGBTIQ students whose families as Christian families chose to send their children to that school. My community spoke very clearly about what would and would not be accepted by the extreme right. They know the bill will stop this from happening. Further, my community is home to one of the largest mosques in the Southern Hemisphere. Many Muslim families also call my community home. This culture has also been victim to heinous vilification and hate crimes. We were all heartbroken by the occurrences in Christchurch in March 2019.

I know that my local Muslim community continue to be fearful after that event. I know that Friday prayers are a significant time when our Muslim community—and the Muslim community of my good friend the member for Greenslopes—come together and are afraid of their vulnerability. Events such as this amplify the importance of the committee's recommendations.

Hate crimes have no place in the Mansfield electorate and no place in Queensland. Again, my community have made this very clear. Whether they are based on sexual preference, on the colour of one's skin or on faith, hate crimes have no place in the community that I lead. My community and I would like to thank the Attorney-General; the member for Toohey; and the member for Waterford, the current health minister, for their work and for being at the forefront of this very important legislation.

The Palaszczuk government continues to work to address equity, acceptance of diversity and safety. I know that only a Labor government understands the policy settings needed for a multicultural, diverse but progressive Queensland. Recently I attended Mansfield State High School and discussed human rights with year 12 legal studies students as they prepare for their external exams. In particular we spoke about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, wherein article 3 states, 'Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.' This is exactly what the bill works to do and it is exactly what the Palaszczuk government will continue to uphold for all Queenslanders, regardless of the colour of their skin, where they were born or what faith they practise. Acts of serious vilification and hate crimes must be called out. As a government, we will continue to do this. We will confront hate crimes and we will condemn them in every possible scenario. I commend this bill to the House.



Mr McCALLUM (Bundamba—ALP) (5.11 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Criminal Code (Serious Vilification and Hate Crimes) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. It is my deep belief, and my great hope, that this bill will represent a significant step towards a more equitable society and that get rid of so much of the hurt that results from vilification and hate crimes in our communities. Beauty can be the result of what we say and do as human beings—there are expressions that are so inspirational—however, the flip side is that we can also say and do things that result in incredible hurt and incredible trauma. To be more succinct, what we say and do matters. Actions and words can divide us and cause hurt. I know this through personal experience.

In my inaugural speech in this place I explained that through my life I have certainly been the subject of racism, as many other members in this House, both current and previous, have been. I am absolutely proud to be here as the representative of the Bundamba community—a community that is strong because of its diversity. We are an incredibly multicultural community, with many people from different places across the globe and with many different religions. This is something that we celebrate. It helps to define and strengthen our community. When considering how this bill will result in real change in our local community, I know that the amendments contained in this bill will result in real action being able to be taken, with much more serious consequences, for those few people who choose to engage in heinous vilification of and hate crimes against members of our Bundamba community.

I acknowledge the work of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, which held an inquiry into serious vilification and hate crimes. This bill implements recommendations 7, 8, 9 and 16 of the committee's report. In its report on this bill the committee made another 17 recommendations, all of which have been supported in full or in principle by the government.


How will this bill result in change in our community? One of the most important things, and one of the foundations for the initial inquiry that resulted in this bill, was to look at how the Anti-Discrimination Act in Queensland operated and whether it was, effectively, fit for purpose in terms of its application to serious vilification and hate crimes. One of the recommendations that is being enacted by this bill is to take out certain sections of the Anti-Discrimination Act and put them into the Criminal Code. The bill also makes amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act and the Summary Offences Act.

Many issues were raised during the committee's examination of the bill. There were really important questions that go to the real-world operation of the amendments that are in the bill and whether or not they will be effective in reality—such things as the types of attributes that need to be protected legally when we are considering what serious vilification and hate crimes actually mean when we define them in legislation. Pleasingly, there is the removal of the requirement for a Crown Law officer's consent to start a prosecution. That is a huge impediment, and it was very clear from the public submissions and from the initial inquiry that this was an unnecessary and significant barrier to action being taken against discrimination and hate crime. The bill increases penalties for and introduces the circumstance of aggravation to offences that are already in the Criminal Code. The bill will also prohibit symbols listed by regulation.

I believe that it is clear from the committee process, from the bipartisan support that this bill is receiving and from the contributions of members from both sides of the House that this bill and the laws that it contains are both practical and workable. I acknowledge the contributions of previous speakers, including former police officers. There has been a lot of support from a lot of different people with very different life experiences who are all keen to rid our community of hate crimes and vilification.

It is particularly prescient for me and many others to be able to contribute to this bill a mere 48 hours or so before our nation heads to the polls on Saturday to participate in the national referendum around establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice in our Constitution and recognising our First Nations people, because the debate, unfortunately, has not been entirely respectful. There have been horrible instances of vile racial abuse that have been directed towards people throughout the course of this referendum. It is really disheartening to see that when it comes to a legitimate democratic process that every single Australian has a part in we have, in some instances, gone down to the lowest common denominator when it comes to the discourse of the Voice debate. I want to acknowledge the abuse and the effect that it has had on the member for Algeester, who shared some of her stories and experiences throughout the course of the Voice referendum debate.

I am very proud to be able to stand here today to support this bill. I think it will lead to a much better and much more tolerant society. I want to close by acknowledging the former member for Stretton, Duncan Pegg, and his role in bringing this bill towards the House. Duncan leaves a legacy with us all individually, and this will be a lasting legacy for every Queenslanders.


 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (5.21 pm): In the time remaining for this debate I just want to offer a few remarks in relation to this bill because this bill sets another line in the sand when it comes to freedoms and the expression thereof in that with every freedom there is a responsibility. On occasions there are limitations to those freedoms and this bill sets down another line in the sand for Queensland where that is to be drawn, and that is why the opposition offers its support for the bill tonight.

In a horrifying week for world affairs, I want to comment on the Friends of Israel gathering on Tuesday night which was organised by the member for Chatsworth and well attended from both sides of the House, because that was an opportunity to again express our sympathies and our thoughts with the people caught up in this horrifying event in the Middle East. I want to pay tribute to the member for Chatsworth for his words and also to the Treasurer for his words on the evening. I particularly want to pay tribute from that evening to Jason Steinberg, who is well-known to all of us in this House. I had not heard the story of Suzi Smeed and her escape as a Hungarian Jew as a very young child and the trials and tribulations that Suzi and her family faced as they escaped Hungary and ultimately came to Australia to forge a new life here.

I want to offer that expression of tolerance. It is not a well-known thing, but the first Jewish synagogue in Queensland was in Toowoomba. It was led by the Spiro family, who are well-known in Brisbane. The Gadens chairman is Paul Spiro and it was his ancestors who started the first Jewish synagogue in Toowoomba. In fact, Paul Spiro's uncle was my ophthalmologist and a well-respected member of the community. As I said, the first Jewish synagogue was in Toowoomba. I now represent a significant Islamic community where there is a mosque in my electorate today. That mosque has itself been subject to two arson attempts and there have been some significant challenges for worshippers to get to their place of worship, their place of gathering.

This bill, as I said, lays down some of those lines of freedom and that expression that we all want in a multicultural society where everybody can worship and express themselves regardless of faith, of creed, of culture and to be able to express themselves and their views with respect and decency to others but also to give that great expression to what it means to be an Australian in all its glory and in all its diversity. That is why this bill is an important marker—an important line in the sand—as we continue to build a more tolerant, diverse and accepting culture not just here in Queensland but right across our nation.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): 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 on the minister to reply to the second reading debate.

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (5.25 pm), in reply: I thank honourable members for their thoughtful contributions to the debate on the Criminal Code (Serious Vilification and Hate Crimes) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. Before addressing matters that were raised in members' contributions during debate on the bill, I was heartened to hear the warm tributes made by members in the memory of the late member for Stretton, Duncan Pegg. His strong and tireless advocacy for a caring and inclusive Queensland will long be remembered, and deservedly so. There was no greater advocate for our multicultural communities and the value of diversity in this place than Duncan. His memory and legacy are rightly acknowledged in this debate, as are the contributions shared by many members across the House: members who have shared personal experiences, some painful, of vilification in their own lives or the lives of those they love; members who have generously given their support for this bill, who have spoken passionately of their communities, of our Queensland community and of the need to ensure that everyone feels safe.

The Legal Affairs and Safety Committee identified in its report on the inquiry into vilification and hate crimes that, sadly, some Queenslanders are vilified only because of their differences. As the member for Caloundra so aptly pointed out in his contribution to the debate—

We are hugely and splendidly different and our differences are worthy of celebration ...

Regrettably, the member was also right to note that 'these differences also need protection'. During her contribution during the debate of the bill, the member for Macalister noted that—

Queenslanders deserve to have a life free from discrimination, a life of safety and security in their homes and in public life and a life free from violence and intimidation.

This bill is a significant step in the right direction in achieving these goals. As I indicated in the second reading speech on the bill, there is absolutely no place for vilification and hate crimes in Queensland. The Palaszczuk government is committed to strengthening our laws to ensure our diverse communities have that protection. This legislation supports that commitment.

The Criminal Code (Serious Vilification and Hate Crimes) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill will give effect to recommendations 7, 8, 9 and 16 that the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee made after considering the issue of serious vilification and hate crimes during its inquiries. The four recommendations that are to be implemented by the bill are important ones because they will ensure

that our laws operate to offer the protection that so many members of this House, as I just mentioned, have spoken about. Recommendation 7 is to be implemented through the removal of the requirement for the written consent of a Crown Law officer before commencing a prosecution for serious racial, religious, sexuality or gender identity vilification under section 131A of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991. The effect of this amendment is to ensure that, where a prosecution is being considered for an offence of serious vilification, actions to commence that prosecution can be taken swiftly and without the need to obtain the consent of a Crown Law officer.

The bill will make further changes to the offence of serious vilification that is currently in section 131A of the Anti-Discrimination Act. The first additional change is that, where a custodial penalty is considered appropriate, the maximum penalty of imprisonment provided for is to be increased from six months to three years imprisonment. This increase is intended to send a signal that the community will not tolerate and rightly denounces this type of conduct and the insidious harms that it produces. The second additional change is that the offence in section 131A of the Anti-Discrimination Act is to be relocated to the Criminal Code. I note that, as observed by some members in their contributions, the offence of serious vilification in the Anti-Discrimination Act is not a new offence but its relocation is a significant matter.

Queensland's Criminal Code houses the general criminal law. It includes criminal offences that are considered to be of general application. In other words, it applies to make offences of the types of conduct that people might ordinarily consider to be criminal offences. In relocating the section 131A of the Anti-Discrimination Act to the Criminal Code it sends an additional message that the type of conduct captured by the offence—that is, the vilification of another based upon that person's race, religion, sexuality, sex characteristics or gender identity—is something that the community will not and does not tolerate.

During debate some members raised whether the attributes that are covered by the offence are sufficiently covered and whether further attributes should be protected by the offence. As indicated in the government response tabled on 3 October 2023 to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee report No. 49, the Palaszczuk government supports consideration of the possible inclusion of additional attributes as part of the review of the Anti-Discrimination Act. The government has previously committed to introducing legislation in response to the Queensland Human Rights Commission report *Building belonging: review of Queensland's Anti-Discrimination Act 1991* within the current term of government. The Queensland government's final response to the QHRC report supported in principle all recommendations in the report. Relevant recommendations, which also includes recommendations about considering what constitutes a 'closed environment' and a 'public act' made by the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee's report, will be carefully considered in conjunction with the implementation of the QHRC report recommendations and any consequential changes to the circumstance of aggravation that may be required as a result will be considered as part of these broader anti-discrimination reforms. This approach will ensure a cohesive approach across the entirety of vilification and hate crime legislation, the proposed new Anti-Discrimination Act, as well as Queensland's wider legislative context.

The bill will implement recommendation 8 by introducing a circumstance of aggravation for particular offences where the offender, in committing the offence, is wholly or partly motivated by hatred or serious contempt for a person or group of persons based on a particular identified protected attribute. Where one of the prescribed offences is charged and the accused person convicted, the maximum penalty available for the offence is increased. The circumstance of aggravation will be available to the certain offences in the Criminal Code as set out in clause 12 of the bill. An example of an offence under the Criminal Code is where the offence of assault occasioning bodily harm is charged with a circumstance of aggravation. The maximum available penalty in that situation will be 10 years. Currently a charge of assault occasioning bodily harm without a circumstance of aggravation carries a maximum penalty of seven years. Another example is the offence of unlawful stalking, intimidation, harassment or abuse; where it is charged with a circumstance of aggravation the maximum available penalty will be seven years. That offence without a circumstance of aggravation currently carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment. The circumstance of aggravation will also be available for charges of public nuisance and trespass under the Summary Offences Act as provided at clauses 29 and 30 of the bill.

The bill will also implement recommendation 16 to establish a criminal offence that prohibits the display of hate symbols. Clause 12 of the bill introduces section 52D of the Criminal Code. The offence applies to a person who publicly distributes, publishes or publicly displays a prohibited symbol in a way that might reasonably be expected to cause a member of the public to feel menaced, harassed or

offended, unless the person has a reasonable excuse. Proposed section 52D(2) of the Criminal Code sets out what is a reasonable excuse for the purposes of the offence. A person will have a reasonable excuse where the person engaged in conduct that constitutes the offence for genuine artistic, religious, educational, historical, legal or law enforcement purpose or where a person engaged in the conduct for a purpose in the public interest or where the person engaged in conduct in opposition to the ideology represented by the prohibited symbol. In all cases where an accused person seeks to rely upon a reasonable excuse, it must be demonstrated that the person's conduct was, in the circumstances, reasonable for that purpose.

The creation of the offence also sees the creation of a power for the minister responsible for the Criminal Code to proscribe a hate symbol by regulation. During members' contributions to the debate of the bill three matters were raised in relation to the operation of the offence. The first matter was in relation to the power of the minister responsible for the Criminal Code to proscribe a symbol as a prohibited symbol and giving that power to a member of the executive. Members should note that a number of safeguards exist which are relevant to the making of a regulation to proscribe a prohibited symbol. As provided at section 52C(3), before recommending the prescription of a prohibited symbol the minister may only recommend to the Governor in Council that a regulation proscribing a prohibited symbol be made if the minister is satisfied that the symbol is widely known by the public as a symbol solely or substantially representative of an ideology of extreme prejudice or is widely known by members of a relevant group as being solely or substantially representative of an ideology of extreme prejudice against that group. The provision provides a definition of relevant group. It means a group of persons who identify with each other on the basis of an attribute or characteristic that is or is based on the race, religion, sexuality, sex characteristics or gender identity of the person. Proposed section 52C(3) makes it clear that the power is one to be exercised for the benefit of the public and not to further the nefarious aims of a politician. The exercise of the power to proscribe is based upon the community's understanding of the symbol as a symbol of an ideology of extreme prejudice. At proposed section 52C(4) the minister must consult with the chairperson of the Crime and Corruption Commission, the Queensland Human Rights Commissioner and the Commissioner of the Queensland Police Service. Compliance with section 52C(4) is mandatory prior to making a recommendation to the Governor in Council. Each of these agencies are uniquely placed to potentially inform the minister of matters related to a symbol which may be under consideration for prescription as a prohibited symbol. This will allow the government to respond to the emergence of new hate symbols in a more timely manner compared to other jurisdictions.

While on the topic of consultation, it was raised during debate why religious or multicultural organisations are not required under the proposed provisions to also be consulted. This is the second matter raised during debate in relation to the prohibited symbols offence. It is implicit within the power to proscribe a prohibited symbol for the minister to consult with those organisations. If no consultation was undertaken it could hardly be said that the minister has complied with the requirement in proposed section 52C to be satisfied that a symbol is widely known by the public as being effectively a symbol of hate.

Additional safeguards also lie outside the bill. For instance, a regulation made may be subject to disallowance motion of this Assembly. Other options may also be open where a regulation is made beyond the power provided for by the bill. A concern was also raised about the meaning of the phrase 'might reasonably be expected' in the context of the offence to display prohibited symbols. This is the third matter raised in relation to the prohibited symbols offence. The provision has been drafted referencing 'a member of the public'. That ensures that a court can consider the effects of the symbol on any individual or class of persons as a whole. It does not require the person to witness the display, distribution or publication. Whether or not a court is satisfied that a member of the public could reasonably be expected to feel menaced, harassed or offended would be defined according to the general means of statutory interpretation taking into account the text, context and purpose of the provision.

As I move from the substantive nature of the bill to some concluding remarks, I again reiterate, as foreshadowed during my second reading speech, I intend to move amendments during consideration in detail to make an administrative correction to validate the appointment of the Inspector of Detention Services under the Ombudsman Act 2001 from 9 December 2022 to 28 September 2023.

During the debate many members observed that throughout the committee's consideration of serious vilification across its two reports that there has been significant input from individuals in our communities and from organisations. The committee's initial inquiry attracted over 80 written

submissions and all submitters should be commended for taking the time to inform the committee during its deliberations and for contributing to the development of milestone legislation such as this in our state.

It takes courage to share one's personal story; it is vulnerable, raw and honest. To do so when that story includes experiences of pain, grief, fear, anger and, as some have said, shame it takes even greater courage. I thank those who did so as part of the consideration of the bill and the earlier inquiry and I thank the many who have shared personal stories with me. I honour those voices, as our government does by bringing forward this legislation. I thank the members across this House who will support this important reform for doing likewise.

In particular, I want to acknowledge the Cohesive Communities Coalition and particularly Christine Castley and Rita Jabri Markwell, who are in the gallery today, as co-chairs of the coalition for their fearless and impassioned advocacy to see these reforms delivered. As the former attorney-general said at introduction, these reforms are the direct result of the hard work and advocacy of multicultural community members and stakeholders from across Queensland. These reforms are yours and, while I wish they were not needed, I am honoured to have played a small part in bringing them about so that all in our community may feel safe, seen and valued. Of course, these laws will protect not only our multicultural community but also our LGBTIQ+ community. I acknowledge the many stakeholders and advocates who have equally called for these reforms from that community.

While the list is long, I want to read into *Hansard* the names of a number of dedicated stakeholders in acknowledgement of their contribution and input into this reform. Once passed, it will mean we have among the strongest frameworks in the country. They are: Multicultural Australia, Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council, Queensland Law Society, Caxton Legal Centre, Legal Aid Queensland, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service, LGBTI Legal Service, Settlement Services International Limited, Queensland Human Rights Commission, Access Community Services, Queensland Chinese Forum, Queensland Chinese United Council, Australian Muslim Advocacy Network, Queensland Council for LGBTI Health, Equality Australia, Queensland African Communities Council, Scarlet Alliance Australian Sex Workers Association, Respect Inc., Hindu Council of Australia, Islamic Council of Queensland, Islamic College of Brisbane, Islamic Society of Gold Coast, Islamic Women's Association of Australia, White Ribbon Australia, Gold Coast Sikh Association, Federation of Indian Communities of Queensland, Sikh Nishkam Society of Australia, Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland, Rainbow Families Queensland, Queensland University of Technology, Queensland Jewish Community Services Inc., Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies, Pacific Islands Council of Queensland and Queensland Council for Civil Liberties.

I make particular mention of my Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council, made up of eleven amazing humans with a myriad of life experiences as culturally and linguistically diverse Queenslanders. When we had our first meeting in 2021, I asked them what they would like to achieve during their time on the council. Having a much greater input into government process was at the top of their list. Shortly after submissions opened for the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee's initial inquiry into serious vilification and hate crime, they jumped at the opportunity to make a submission. It was a pleasure to write the forward to that submission. I was then so proud to see some MQAC members given the opportunity to appear before the committee. I have taken a quote from their submission that sums up perfectly the importance of this bill and what it means to those in our community who are subject to serious vilification and hate crime. It states—

While the Council is aware that racism cannot be tackled through legislative reform alone, it believes that strengthening the protections against serious vilification and hate speech represents a necessary and important step in making justice for its victims accessible and worthwhile.

I would also like to thank those officers who worked on the development of the bill, including Ernest Lin, Adam Savage, Jemma Golding-Wallace, Michael Shears, Adele Bogard and Justin O'May. I once again thank all honourable members for their thoughtful and respectful considerations during the debate.

I conclude with a quote that featured in the foreword of the inquiry report, written by my friend and colleague the member for Toohey, and also in his speech on this bill. He quoted Dr Martin Luther King who said—

It may be true that morality cannot be legislated but behaviour can be regulated. It may be true that the law cannot change the heart but it can restrain the heartless.

I thank the member for Toohey for his leadership. I thank the member for Toohey for his passion in regard to this bill. I thank all members of his committee for the report that they produced on both occurrences. The law is a powerful instrument for social change and in that vein I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 6, as read, agreed to.

Clause 7—



Mrs GERBER (5.45 pm): I rise to speak to clause 7 and, in particular, subclause (3), which is the clause that relocates section 131A from the Anti-Discrimination Act to the Criminal Code. I raised this in my contribution to the debate and I thank the minister for her comprehensive reply. However, there are a couple of aspects that I would like clarified in relation to the relocation of that section into the Criminal Code.

The minister foreshadowed the work that will be done in the *Building belonging* report in order to expand the protected attributes currently in the Anti-Discrimination Act that will now be moved into the Criminal Code. I understand that the minister has said that work will be done to expand those protected attributes, but I would like some further clarification that the *Building belonging* report will actually cover the Criminal Code because, as it stands at the moment, it relates to the Anti-Discrimination Act. As that section is to be relocated to the Criminal Code I would like that clarified.

In relation to expanding protected attributes, during the inquiry it was raised—and I raised this in my speech—that disability is a particular attribute that needs to be protected. People who are affected with a disability and people who have an impairment are often subjected not just to discrimination; we heard evidence that they are subjected to hate crimes and vilification. It is really important that the protected attributes be expanded to cover that.

I understand that in her reply the minister indicated that the committee's recommendation will be accepted and looked at as part of the *Building belonging* report, but I am concerned that the work should have been done now. I would like to understand why the work to expand the protected attributes was not done now. I appreciate and I am grateful that the bill before the House expands the criminality in relation to vilification and hate crimes. It allows for there to be a circumstance of aggravation on existing offences and it allows for a new criminal offence in relation to hate symbols. The work in relation to protected attributes should have been done now to allow for those offences to be prosecuted should those offences occur against, for instance, a person with a disability or an impairment. I would like to better understand why that work was not done now. If the work is to be done in the *Building belonging* report, will it extend to the Criminal Code and, in fact, will protected attributes be expanded to particularly include people with a disability or impairment?

Ms LINARD: I thank the member for her questions and also her acknowledgement that, in my response to members' contributions, I did talk about this issue. I want to reiterate a few points here. In our response to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, we did indicate that we support the consideration of the possible inclusion of additional attributes, as the member indicated, as part of the review of the Anti-Discrimination Act. I think it is important to mention that doing that through that format will ensure a cohesive approach across the entirety of vilification and hate crime legislation, the proposed new anti-discrimination act as well as Queensland's wider legislative context. Of course, when there is a new anti-discrimination act—and we have previously committed to introducing legislation in response to the Queensland Human Rights Commission report, *Building belonging: review of Queensland's Anti-Discrimination Act* within the current term of government—that new anti-discrimination act will cover additional attributes.

If there is further work required in regard to the Criminal Code to ensure that there is consistency there then that is something that we will consider of course at that time. I thank the member for the question. I hope that that qualifies and clarifies it. I do think it may not make the member totally satisfied, but I do think that the reason we are doing it that way and through that process is because we want to ensure a cohesive approach is taken across the entirety of vilification legislation.

Clause 7, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 8 to 11, as read, agreed to.

Clause 12—



Mr KRAUSE (5.50 pm): I have some questions in relation to new sections 52C and 52D. In talking about this bill, the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties referenced the fact that in their view these laws are blunt instruments. In relation to section 52C and the process for proscribing a symbol by regulation, there were submissions made—again by the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties—expressing concerns about a minister having the power to proscribe symbols. It was contrasted to other jurisdictions where in fact this power to proscribe symbols is made through legislation, through an act of parliament, rather than a subordinate instrument. Can the minister provide some information about why this process has been put into the bill and not a legislative process as put into similar Victorian laws? The Council for Civil Liberties says these laws are a blunt instrument. In terms of ensuring maximum parliamentary scrutiny, in my view—and in their view as well—it would be preferable for it to be done through an act. Some clarity around that would be appreciated.

Section 52D is about creating the offence for publicly displaying a prohibited symbol. The Law Society expressed some major concerns about the test here, which is that someone might reasonably be expected to cause a member of the public to feel menaced et cetera by the public display of a symbol. They describe section 52D as premature and obscure and creating no clarity whatsoever about what judicial test is being created through the provision. Could the minister advise the House what advice the government relied on to have this test put in when it has been criticised so roundly and on a reasonable basis as well? I also refer to the minister's speech in summing up the debate in which it was noted that the symbol did not have to be seen by anyone for an offence to occur. I think that even adds more merit to the case for an objective test to be put in, which is what the QLS ended up recommending in the first place. There are two questions there. Hopefully the minister can provide some clarity.

Ms LINARD: Yes, both of those issues were addressed in my summing-up remarks. It is important to understand that the way that Queensland has approached this issue provides flexibility that is required which other jurisdictions do not. If we look at some groups—one that is quite well-known if we think about neo-Nazis—is that the change what they do all the time to avoid these kinds of laws. Disappointingly, I think we have seen across communities—mine recently—information and material put into people's letterboxes that clearly seeks to subvert existing legislation. We want to ensure that the legislation has appropriate protections built into its drafting, but appropriate flexibility for government to be able to move when required to protect the community.

What I made clear I hope, member—because I know that I will not have time to go into this in detail, but that is contained in my concluding remarks—is the important measures provided at section 52C(3) in particular about how we will proscribe prohibited symbols and the consultation and threshold that is required to be met. We cannot just enter any symbol into legislation and limit the use of that symbol. It has to be widely recognised. There has to be consultation. It is legislation that has been very well drafted to find the balance between these issues. I again direct the member to my remarks which are far more detailed than, unfortunately, time will allow me tonight.

Clause 12, as read, agreed to.



Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time allocated for this stage of the bill having expired, I will now put all remaining questions. In accordance with sessional order 4, the House must now consider clauses or remaining clauses, schedules and any amendments circulated by the minister in charge of the bill. I call the minister to table the explanatory notes to her amendments and statement of compatibility with human rights.

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

Tabled paper: Criminal Code (Serious Vilification and Hate Crimes) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, explanatory notes to Hon. Leanne Linard's amendments [1658].

Tabled paper: Criminal Code (Serious Vilification and Hate Crimes) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Leanne Linard's amendments [1659].

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): I note that the minister's amendment No. 1 is outside the long title of the bill and therefore requires leave of the House.

Leave granted.

Insertion of new clauses—

Ms LINARD (5.55 pm): I move the following amendment—

1 After clause 22

Page 16, after line 19—

insert—

Part 3A Amendment of Ombudsman Act 2001

22A Act amended

This part amends the *Ombudsman Act 2001*.

22B Amendment of pt 12, hdg

Part 12, heading, after 'Transitional'—

insert—

and validation

22C Insertion of new pt 12, div 8

Part 12—

insert—

Division 8 Validation provision for inspector of detention services

120 Performance of duties of inspector of detention services before taking oath

- (1) This section applies in relation to a person who held office as the inspector of detention services during the period from 9 December 2022 to 28 September 2023 (the **relevant period**).
- (2) Anything done by the person under this Act, the *Inspector of Detention Services Act 2022* or another law during the relevant period in the performance of the duties of the office has the same effect, and is taken to have always had the same effect, as it would have had if the person had made the oath required under section 63(1) before performing the duties.

Amendment agreed to.

Question put—That clauses 13 to 30, as amended, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 13 to 30, as amended, agreed to.

Third Reading

Question put—That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

Question put—That amendment No. 2, as circulated, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment as circulated—

2 Long title

Long title, after 'the Criminal Code,'—

insert—


the Ombudsman Act 2001,

Question put—That the long title of the bill, as amended, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Merrimac State School

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (5.59 pm): Today I rise to speak to and table a nonconforming petition on behalf of the school leaders of Merrimac State School, one of the wonderful schools within my electorate.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition regarding the installation of a water bubbler at Merrimac State School [[1660](#)].

A few months ago I met the year 6 leaders. Our principal Shannon Lusk encouraged them to take an interest in politics in terms of how they could initiate change and how they could go about it. Since then they have been busy signing away—as demonstrated by this petition—for the Minister for Education to provide funding for a new cold water bubbler system for the students. Previously, the student council of Merrimac State School had conducted fundraising activities over the course of two years to fund the cold water bubbler in the junior part of the school. If this does not highlight a great school spirit, I do not know what does—a year 6 student-led funding initiative that was used to provide their younger school pupils with a cold water bubbler. How lovely is that? As a result, the junior school students have enjoyed the small luxury of a cold drink during recess, lunch and after running around for sport. I believe that the seniors at Merrimac State School should be afforded this same small luxury.

A drink of cold water goes a long way on a hot school day in hot school uniforms. A new cold water bubbler system would be installed in the seniors' section of the school for the seniors to enjoy. This would go a long way for all students. With hot summer days approaching, a cold drink of water will be very much needed. Not only does having a cold water bubbler help on those hot school days but also encourages improved hydration for students and is demonstrated to promote better educational outcomes.

As to their support of this petition, the school community has made its support loud and clear. The petition has 222 signatures from the Merrimac community. As the member for Mudgeeraba, I am a proud supporter of Merrimac State School, and I respectfully request that the education minister consider this petition and the request for funding. I think it absolutely extraordinary that these young schoolkids wanted to get involved in making change. They wanted to make a change for other kids in their school, not just for themselves.

In order to get involved in the process I had to teach them what a parliamentary petition was and how they had to go about it. As I said, they have taken it up with vim and vigour. It is a pity the education minister is not in the chamber, because I am sure she would support this. A small funding commitment for a cold water bubbler will go a long way for those senior students at Merrimac State School. After the generosity and effort of the school community to fund and provide the junior students with this cold water bubbler by themselves, I think the seniors at Merrimac State School should be afforded the same small luxury the junior school pupils enjoy. I look forward to hearing from the Minister for Education.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): I will remind all members not to comment on a person's attendance or otherwise in the House.

Prince Charles Hospital; Aspley Electorate, Sport




Mr MELLISH (Aspley—ALP) (6.01 pm): I rise to speak about some fantastic milestones for health projects in my Aspley community. Over the past month I have been to our local hospital, the Prince Charles Hospital, on multiple occasions alongside the Minister for Health and member for Stafford. The first of these visits was to turn the first sod on our new publicly owned multistorey car park project. This will see a new 1,500 capacity car park, more than tripling the existing car park capacity. A great benefit of this project is the effect it will have on north side families, who will pay less in parking when visiting a loved one or having to visit the hospital for a specialist appointment, as well as be able to find a car park. I know that this project is greatly anticipated by Aspley locals, and I am pleased that it is now under construction.

More recently the Minister for Health and I toured the Prince Charles Hospital to inspect the completed expansion of an additional six beds in the emergency department short-stay unit. After speaking with staff and patients using these extra beds, I could see that this project is already making a big difference. These additional beds will mean fewer delays for patients waiting to be admitted. The health funding for the Prince Charles Hospital does not end there. As part of our health and hospitals infrastructure plan, the Prince Charles Hospital is set to undergo a \$360 million expansion project, with construction set to begin mid-2024. This will see our local hospital receive a new dedicated acute services building, an expanded adult and paediatric emergency department and 94 new additional beds. Once completed, it will be the second largest children's health service in the state. These three projects are great examples of just how the Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering the crucial health infrastructure and services that our community needs.

While I am on my feet, I thought I would take the opportunity to also mention a few recent Aspley sporting achievements. I want to say a big congratulations to the Aspley Hornets men's QAFL Reserves and seniors teams on their premiership wins. It was a great afternoon down in Coorparoo, and I think my three-year-old is now an AFL convert. I also give a big congratulations to the QAFLW seniors team on their run-out performance in their own grand final.

Finally, I just want to mention how fantastic it is to see the Northside Indoor Sports Centre host a number of women's NBL games in this weekend's River City Rebound matches. The tournament will see the Sydney Flames, JCU Townsville Fire, Perth Lynx and Adelaide Lightning take to the Northside Indoor Sports Centre in Zillmere for a thrilling pre-season competition on tonight, Saturday and Sunday. Well done, Basketball Queensland; well done, Minister for Sport; and well done, Wizards, for making this great event possible. Prior to 2017 this facility was an abandoned shed in Zillmere, but we were able to deliver a fantastic facility which has added so much life to the north side and to Zillmere. It is used seven days a week. Every time you go in there you see families of all ages using it. It really is an amazing infrastructure right next to Jabiru school in the heart of Zillmere.

Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 4

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (6.04 pm): The dogs are barking, the whispers are swirling, and a strong rumour from Canberra tells me the extension of light rail stage 3 to light rail stage 4 going all the way to Coolangatta Airport will be cut from funding in the Albanese infrastructure spend review currently being kept under wraps until after the referendum. The cutting of federal government funding will be the perfect catalyst for the Palaszczuk state government to withdraw its funding commitment to light rail stage 4, in the same way the state Labor government blamed the federal Labor government for state Labor not going ahead with the Mary River dam after they spent \$500 million acquiring Mary River family properties.


The stage 4 project has four blue ribbon seats around it, and the Albanese government will take great pleasure in cancelling a priority project of the Morrison LNP federal government with no political fallout to their federal election chances. It is a \$3.3 billion budgeted exercise that will be \$5 billion by the time Labor gets to do it, and it is 55 per cent funded by the feds. The extension of light rail 3 from Burleigh to the airport has great engineering difficulties, as reported to me by department of main roads officers, and the increased height densities and population increases along the tram route that the light rail project was instigated to achieve cannot be realised through this last leg. The reality is that the state Labor government has no real interest in completing the last leg of the so-called public transport project and is desperate for an excuse for it not to go ahead.

Mr Albanese will be the perfect excuse for a parachute of the Palaszczuk Labor government from the project, and local Labor government senator and part-time Gold Coast mouthpiece for the federal Labor Party Murray Watt—'Who or Watt'—will suffer no political fallout as a statewide representative; nor will the single Labor representative on the Gold Coast, the member for Gaven, Meaghan Scanlon, whose electorate is not within cooee of light rail stage 4. I am calling on transport minister Bailey to advise Gold Coasters if he will still support light rail 4 when the federal government pulls out of funding. What is his unequivocal commitment to finishing the project, which the Gold Coast City council is still absolutely committed to and which was championed by his government as a priority project?

The subterfuge and dishonesty this government continues to inflict on the people of the Gold Coast because it is seen as a non-Labor-supporting area—and it is not—beggars belief. Only an LNP government will be up-front with the people of the Gold Coast from October next year. The good folk in the Mermaid Beach electorate will only be able to travel north on their light rail public transport experience—another failed Labor government infrastructure project.

(Time expired)

Cooper Electorate, Bushfire Preparedness

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (6.07 pm): On Monday I joined with the Premier and Deputy Premier to launch Get Ready Queensland Week at Suncorp Stadium. It was a fantastic event. We had members of SES, QFES, police, ABC Radio and RSPCA—they are all our partners in disaster management and recovery—and of course the ambassador of Get Ready Queensland, Johnathan Thurston, who has a really busy time ahead of him spreading this important message in Queensland.

We heard from Katie from the Bureau of Meteorology that this summer will be hotter than usual. It is an El Nino season, and we are likely to experience hotter-than-average temperatures. People in my electorate experienced flooding in the 2022 event and some are still grappling with the impacts of that. That period showed me that we do have incredible resilience as Queenslanders in how we respond and recover from natural disasters as well as how much better we can respond if we are prepared. I have spoken to a number of residents who are obviously really nervous about what will be a hot summer and understandably want to know how we can locally reduce our shared bushfire risk.

I can inform locals that I have regular discussions with local QFES around this. I can inform them that all of the bushfire hazard reduction burns that fall within the responsibility of QFES and Queensland Parks and Wildlife for our electorate have occurred or are on track to occur. I can further advise that the bushfire reduction burns throughout Mount Coot-tha, which are the responsibility of Brisbane City Council, have occurred. Those reduction burns that fall within the responsibility of the ADF at Gallipoli Barracks have also occurred. It is because of efforts like this that we have not had a bushfire in our region for 15 years, but of course we cannot be complacent. As residents, we all have a responsibility to manage our shared risk, and part of that is in the prevention space. I am calling on all of our local members to conduct a property audit, clear excess vegetation and create that buffer zone around their home, remove combustibles, check access points for QFES, check water supply, stock up on rakes and hoses, and think about how QFES would get onto their property.

The second element is preparation. None of us like to think about bushfires occurring, but if one does happen in our area we need to think about how we would evacuate from that. QFES has some great resources online. If members in my area cannot download those, they can contact my office and we can assist with that. QFES have packs that will take people through the steps they need to think about if they do have to evacuate—nominating a friend or family member in an area outside our local area they might get to early; what they might pack, including medications and valuables; and who they might pack, taking family pets along with them. Doing that planning coming into bushfire season is a real essential for all of us to manage that shared risk. Like I said, there are some great resources online through QFES. I encourage all of my locals to look them up and familiarise themselves with them and use them. Together, we can reduce our shared risk coming into bushfire season.

Gold Coast, Crime



Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (6.10 pm): It was 27 September 2023 that marked the 10-year anniversary of the bikie riot in Broadbeach which brought to a head Gold Coast crime issues that had been brewing for a long time. Local businesses in Broadbeach especially, such as coffee shops and restaurants, were being extorted by gangs. I table a news article by Andrew Potts from the *Gold Coast Bulletin* dated 27 September 2023 titled 'Broadbeach bikie brawl 2013: Truth finally revealed about night Bandidos and Finks battled in restaurant'.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 27 September 2023, titled, 'Inside the brawl that changed the Gold Coast—Broadbeach bikie brawl 2013: Truth finally revealed about night Bandidos and Finks battled in restaurant' [\[1661\]](#).

At the time, other businesses such as tow trucks, tattoo shops, fitness centres and massage parlours were the subject of revenge gang attacks and fire bombing. Brisbane Labor had long denied there was a problem. I was proud to be part of a government that took strong action with tougher laws, more police resources and a court system that followed through. Similar action is needed today with the youth crime crisis gripping the Gold Coast and Queensland. At the time, the bikie gangs laughed off the gang crackdown, telling police, 'We run this town.' I table a copy of that article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 2 October 2023, titled, 'Gold Coast bikies laugh off gang 'crackdown', tell police: 'We run this town'' [\[1662\]](#).

Ten years on, we now see evidence of gangs returning to the Gold Coast, with vape stores being fire bombed in Burleigh and Ashmore this week. I table a copy of the *Gold Coast Bulletin*.


Tabled paper: Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 12 October 2023, titled, 'Fires a 'warning'' [\[1663\]](#).

It was only earlier this year, on 24 May, that I told the then attorney-general that the word on the street is that tobacconists and shops selling illegal tobacco or chop-chop, often in vape stores, behind the counter could often be identifiable if there was also an ATM on the premises and they were a front for cash transactions. She mocked the suggestion. The gangs are back. Amongst other activities, they and others are driving on our roads with impunity, speeding and hooning along the Gold Coast Highway from the Sundale Bridge all the way to Broadbeach. Part of this stretch forms the finishing straight for the GC500 V8s and it is treated as a racetrack by many drivers. I am getting consistent complaints from Main Beach all the way to Broadbeach on this issue.

This road was 'de-mained' some years ago and the City of Gold Coast took responsibility for it, but speeding and hooning are ongoing issues. We need more police enforcement and speed cameras, which the state refuses to do because it is a council road. This all ties in with surrounding areas which are council roads, but there are fewer traffic police since COVID. These areas include: Main Beach into Surfers through to Broadbeach; Bundall Road through Bundall and Broadbeach Waters; Via Roma and Salerno Street on Isle of Capri; Thomas Drive on Chevron Island; Campbell Street, Sorrento; Ashmore Road through to Benowa; Bermuda Street in Mermaid affecting Clear Island Waters residents; Nerang Broadbeach Road through to Carrara; and Robina Parkway.

We need to sort the issues of hooning and car offences. They are our version of the New York broken windows theory. If we are allowing people to get away with these sorts of activities with less enforcement, residents on the Gold Coast feel unsafe on the roads and concerned about the levels of hooning. We need our community to feel secure and have the knowledge that there are enough police resources to protect both residents and tourists alike.

Bundaberg Electorate, Little Dreamers


 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (6.13 pm): Last Saturday I attended a young carers workshop hosted by Little Dreamers. Little Dreamers is a young carers organisation that since 2009 has been working hard to support young people who provide unpaid care for family members. A lot of people ask what a young carer is. A young carer is a person aged between four and 25 who provides care for a family member who may be affected by disability, by a chronic or mental illness or by addiction or be of frail age.

The first time I came across Little Dreamers and young carers was at a school holiday event hosted at Kepnock State High School in the Bundaberg electorate where young carers came together to help paint a mural that reflected what it was to be a young carer out there in the world. They were identifying safe places as well as dangers that are out there. They did this as a way to communicate with the rest of their school and community about what their life was like as well as how everyone can play a positive role in their community and provide a safe place for everyone. It was there that I met with Kelli Parr, a former colleague of mine when I was at Kepnock State High School. I also met a unique individual called Dee Riley. Dee is watching currently and she is probably clapping away right now because Dee is energy personified. She is fuelled by love and care for not only young people but also all people.

At the Saturday workshop it was wonderful to listen to the young carers, most of whom are at high school level. They listed their experiences and how government can help them in the future. One example was making sure teachers understand what a young carer is, saying that the more teachers engage with young carers in their classrooms the better education opportunities they can provide. They spoke about their own mental health and wellbeing and what it is to take on that extra task and responsibility of being a young carer for their family. They also spoke about the financial challenges for them and their family.

Dee took me through a Q&A session. For some reason, Dee had an ability to get me to speak about my personal life and speak honestly, which is something that is pretty unusual. The young carers made such a wonderful, safe place that it was important I shared some of my life so they could then share theirs and know that people of responsibility, such as members of the government, are listening to them and taking on board what they say. I want to thank them all. The best part was not only being able to hear from all of the young carers but also to receive this Little Dreamers book, which they all signed. I have written in my best handwriting 'thank you'.

Priority Development Areas; Refugees

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (6.16 pm): One hundred and six hectares of Woolloongabba and East Brisbane have been declared a priority development area by the Deputy Premier. Priority development areas are an undemocratic planning tool used to ram through controversial developments—in this case, the \$2.7 billion Gabba stadium rebuild. Given the growing opposition to the Gabba rebuild, which will come at the cost of East Brisbane State School and Raymond Park, it is no wonder that Labor is willing to slap a PDA over the area, to shut out the local community and grease the wheels for the property developers and the Olympics juggernaut. PDAs override local planning rules, and community consultation is next to zero. This huge section of our neighbourhood is now at the whim of the Deputy Premier and his property developer mates. The Deputy Premier might want to boost his own property portfolio with luxury apartments, but what this community needs is parks, schools and public housing.

The government have backflipped on their promise of 50 per cent parkland in the Gabba PDA, instead committing to 50 per cent open space. Open space can include paved walkways, concrete plazas and public buildings. The interim plan commits to at least two hectares of concrete between the station and the stadium. That is about six King George Squares of hot, hostile concrete—a far cry from the parkland that we were promised and that we need.


Other PDAs are facing huge community opposition, with ongoing protests against the Toondah Harbour PDA, which would see apartments built on globally significant wetlands, and the Ripley Valley PDA, which has seen years of occupation by First Nations communities to protect sacred sites, koala habitat and a potential massacre site.

The Deputy Premier is in fine form when it comes to ignoring local communities. This week the Deputy Premier approved the LNP city council's Kurilpa temporary local planning instrument that allows the LNP city council to override local planning rules and approve buildings of unlimited height in a flood zone. I table this pictorial depiction of Labor and the LNP working hand in hand—the political wing of the property developers.

Tabled paper: Image depicting a handshake and the phrases 'Labor State Government', 'LNP City Council', and 'Kurilpa TLPI' [1664].

Last week I met with a group of refugees from the Tamil Diaspora Association of Queensland who are fighting for permanent protection for all refugees. They are on their way to Canberra to meet with Refugee Women Action for Visa Equality, a group of Sri Lankan and Iranian women who are walking from Melbourne to Canberra to raise the alarm about refugees who have been refused permanent protection visas by this Labor government. Some of these Tamil refugees do not have work rights and are not able to access free education or health care. They described their situation to me as akin to torture. Despite Labor's insistence, they are unable to return to their home countries. The Greens call for permanent protection for all refugees in limbo and immediate evacuation of refugees stranded on Nauru and Papua New Guinea. To the women from Sri Lanka and Iran who are heading on foot to Canberra as we speak, we thank you for your strength and bravery. The Greens are proud to stand with you.

First Nations Children, Voice to Parliament


 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (6.19 pm): As of last night, 7,000 people have voted in Mansfield, about one-seventh of the adult population. Over the next two days, those who are still deeply considering their personal values will make one of the most important decisions in Australia's short history. Their vote has the potential to redefine the path and thus the future of First Nations people of this country. Like on that day in 1788 on Possession Island sadly defined the experiences of 235 years that followed for First Nations peoples, the outcome of the vote this Saturday will define the next 235 years.

During my career, I have witnessed every day the impact of colonisation on First Nations children. The 2023 NAPLAN results identify that one in three Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children require additional educational support, whilst one in 10 non-Indigenous children require this same intervention. This is not because First Nations children are less intelligent. On average, First Nations children attendance rates are 10 per cent less than non-Indigenous peers. This is not because they do not want to go to school. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are more than 20 times more likely to be suspended, excluded from school and incarcerated than their non-Indigenous peers. It is not because they are inherently more belligerent, naughty or obstructive. The fact that First Nations children are less likely to attend university, gain employment, nor live as long as their non-Indigenous peers is not because they do not dream to. In fact, my experience over 30 years has taught me that First Nations children want what all children desire—to be successful, to set goals, to be loved, to feel proud of their achievements, to make their families proud and to positively contribute to this world.

Sadly, because of decisions made by those in power, white and privileged, over 235 years, they have been marginalised beginning their life from a less privileged position than the majority of us. One of the greatest barriers to First Nations children's success at school is the impact of enduring racism on their self-efficacy, self-belief and self-worth. These factors alone significantly impact their educational outcomes, not to mention hearing and resultant speech-language issues, rheumatic heart disease, foetal alcohol syndrome, undiagnosed learning difficulties and socio-economic issues, which all impact their academic outcomes.

A Latin slogan used to communicate the idea that no policy should be decided by any representative without the full and direct participation of members of the groups affected by that policy: *nihil de nobis, sine nobis*—'Nothing about us, without us.' I will be voting yes this Saturday.

Theodore Electorate, Bushfire Preparedness

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (6.22 pm): As I have said to many people many times in this chamber, the Theodore electorate is nestled in the green emerald hills of the Gold Coast. In regards to recent media articles, similar to the speech of the member for Cooper, I want to talk about the upcoming

bushfire season. Over the last few years, we have had extensive rainfall which has created an enormous amount of vegetation in my region, especially in the western regions of the electorate along the Tamborine Mountain and Guanaba-Wongawallan areas. This vegetation certainly is a danger, especially when it is drying out. During our current season, we have not had any decent rain since late last year and the situation is becoming very precarious.


I want to thank the City of Gold Coast for holding an information seminar at the Coomera Valley rural fire brigade recently. Unfortunately, not many people were able to attend this information seminar, but some very good information was delivered on what people can do in regards to fire management on their properties. The rural fire brigade officers gave some good tips and advice. One matter I am concerned about, though, is there was some information which was handed out which cannot be found on the internet but which is very good information to disseminate to residents in my electorate on vegetation clearing under fire management laws. It is a quick cheat sheet, and I will table that for the information of the House.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Vegetation clearing—fire management' [1665].

Also, to add confusion to the situation we face, City of Gold Coast and other councils have local laws when it comes to vegetation clearing and vegetation management, some of which contradict state vegetation management laws. That is creating a fair bit of confusion for a lot of my constituents.

On another topic, our bushfire condition signs, unfortunately, have been removed. A lot of residents see them as a subtle reminder of what the bushfire conditions are for the area. They are not only for the benefit of local residents but also for tourists travelling through the area. Here is an example: Maudsland Road near Guanaba Creek Road used to have one of these signs. About 7,000 vehicles per day, according to the Department of Transport and Main Roads, would travel past that sign. There was a sign on Tamborine-Oxenford Road around Kreiderman Road which was also removed. The closest vehicle count was carried out a couple of kilometres away, but we are looking at about 10,000 cars per day. That is 17,000 cars per day which would drive past these signs. They are a subtle reminder to drivers of the bushfire conditions for the area. We ask the minister to please reinstate these signs because they are a good information source for my residents.

Eaves, Mr GR

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (6.25 pm): Tonight I rise to pay tribute to a committed unionist, a proud member of the great Australian Labor Party and a good friend, Gregory Richard Eaves. Greg was born on 4 November 1955, the youngest child of Victor and Lily Eaves, following Pat, John and Barbara. He spent his childhood outdoors, with long days at the beach and exploring Bribie Island with his cousins, Ian and Jon. They would set out at dawn, roam all day and return only for meals.

In the early 2000s, Greg returned to his childhood refuge of Bribie Island to live, which is where I met him. I remember Greg saying, 'We need a woman to run for Pumicestone!' Given he started in the union movement and the Labor Party at a time when women were more likely to make tea than make policy, I found his support really heartening. There was no such thing as empty words with Greg, and he was a staunch supporter in my 2020 campaign. He somehow got hold of a bus at a bargain price, he helped sticker it up, and took to the road as a mobile billboard every single day. It was an absolute dog of a bus: it was temperamental, it was liable to stall suddenly in 100 kilometre per hour zones and it needed all of Greg's expertise to keep it running. However, Greg was so proud when we won and I have a beautiful photo of him next to the infamous bus.

As a bus driver for many years, Greg was deeply impacted by a series of terrible bus accidents in the late 1980s—the Gillies Range bus crash in 1987, the Cowper bush crash in 1989 which happened down the road from my home and the Kempsey bus crash in 1989—and he went on to fight hard for laws requiring seatbelts on buses as a result. He was also extremely distressed by the fatal attack on Brisbane bus driver, Manmeet Sharma, in 2016. He advocated strongly for bus driver safety measures going forward. Greg was really pleased when our Palaszczuk government implemented bus driver safety screens, but the best activists are never satisfied and he would often send me long and sometimes acerbic text messages about the need for more reform.

Greg faced the challenge of a diagnosis of motor neurone disease in October last year. This was especially distressing to his family, as his dad and sister had also died from motor neurone disease. Like many of Greg's friends, I did not even know he was ill until close to the end. The text messages kept coming and he was tenacious to the final days, defying medical advice to take part in the walk for MND just a week before his passing.

Today I offer my condolences to Greg's loved ones, especially Sam, Adam, William, Yolanda and his stepdaughter, Kelli. Thank you for sharing Greg with us. Greg was tenacious about making the world a better place and tenacious in his commitment to Labor and the union movement. As a committed anti-racist, I know he would want me to say please vote yes for a Voice to Parliament this weekend. Vale, Greg Eaves. I will miss you very much.

The House adjourned at 6.28 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Head, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Kelly, King A, King S, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lui, MacMahon, Madden, Mander, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, O'Connor, Palaszczuk, Pease, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting