



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

### Tuesday, 13 February 2024

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## TUESDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2024

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The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.



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

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

### ASSENT TO BILLS



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from Her Excellency the Governor a letter in respect of assent to certain bills. The contents of the letter will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the letter for the information of members.

The Honourable C.W. Pitt MP  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

I hereby acquaint the Legislative Assembly that the following Bills, having been passed by the Legislative Assembly and having been presented for the Royal Assent, were assented to in the name of His Majesty The King on the date shown:

Date of Assent: 4 December 2023

A bill for an Act to amend the Crime and Corruption Act 2001, the Emblems of Queensland Act 2005, the Parliamentary Service Act 1988 and the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 for particular purposes

A bill for an Act to amend the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999, 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

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

A bill for an Act to amend the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 and the Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009 for particular purposes

These Bills are hereby transmitted to the Legislative Assembly, to be numbered and forwarded to the proper Officer for enrolment, in the manner required by law.

Yours sincerely

Governor

4 December 2023

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 4 December 2023, from Her Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 4 December 2023 [\[153\]](#).

### SPEAKER'S STATEMENT


#### Acknowledgement of Country



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, earlier this morning we were joined in the Legislative Council chamber by traditional owners including Aunty Deborah Sandy, the daughter of Uncle Des Sandy, from the Yagara peoples for a welcome to country ceremony to mark the first day of sittings for 2024. I thank all involved and members who attended.

## ELECTORAL DISTRICTS OF INALA AND IPSWICH WEST

### By-Elections, Issue of Writs


 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to inform the House that Her Excellency the Governor has issued writs for the election of members to serve in the Legislative Assembly for the electoral districts of Inala and Ipswich West. The dates in connection with the issue of the writs are as follows: issue of writs, 30 January 2024; cut-off date for electoral rolls, 5 February 2024; nomination day, 13 February 2024; polling day, 16 March 2024; and return of writs, 22 April 2024. I table the relevant correspondence.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 30 January 2024, from the Director-General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Mr Mike Kaiser, to the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, enclosing a copy of the writ for a by-election to be held on 16 March 2024 for the electorate of Inala [\[154\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 30 January 2024, from the Director-General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Mr Mike Kaiser, to the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, enclosing a copy of the writ for a by-election to be held on 16 March 2024 for the electorate of Ipswich West [\[155\]](#).

## PRIVILEGE

### Speaker's Rulings, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House


 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 1 December 2023 I tabled a ruling regarding a matter of privilege relating to a complaint by the Manager of Opposition Business and member for Glass House alleging that the member for Mundingburra deliberately misled the House on 13 September 2023 in statements made during debate on a private member's motion. On 1 December 2023 I also tabled a ruling regarding a matter of privilege relating to a complaint by the Manager of Opposition Business and member for Glass House alleging that the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women deliberately misled the House on 10 October 2023 during question time.

On 25 January 2024 I tabled a ruling regarding a matter of privilege relating to a complaint by the member for Everton alleging that the then premier and minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games deliberately misled the House on 26 October 2023 in statements made during question time. On 25 January 2024 I also tabled a ruling regarding a matter of privilege relating to a complaint by the Manager of Opposition Business and member for Glass House alleging that the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women deliberately misled the House on 24 October 2023 during question time. On 7 February 2024 I also tabled a ruling regarding a matter of privilege relating to a complaint by the Manager of Opposition Business and member for Glass House alleging that the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment deliberately misled the House on 14 and 16 November 2023 during question time.

I ruled that these matters did not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee. I now refer to these matters so that if any member wishes to exercise their rights in respect of these matters under standing orders they should do so immediately.

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

### Chamber Sound System

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Welcome back, honourable members. It is the first day of school. As you would have been aware when you took your seats today, the successful installation of our new audio system was completed last week. This includes the chamber's audio conferencing system, the attendant call system and the chamber bells system. As a result, the sound quality of the chamber has been greatly improved. I have once again agreed that an acoustic engineer can periodically record some of the sounds in the chamber today in case any fine-tuning or recalibration of the sound is required.

Members will find the system similar to operate, with one press to turn on the microphone. There is also a button for the attendant call and a new USB-C charger.

I join the Clerk in thanking the team at Videopro and our staff in IT Services and Property Services for delivering this project, which was overseen by the Parliamentary Service's AV Projects Board. I thank members in advance for their forbearance this week as we familiarise ourselves with the new system.

## Photographs in Chamber



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have approved staff of the Parliamentary Service to take photographs in the chamber this morning during preliminary business to use on social media and in education promotions. Photographs will be taken from the gallery and also from the rear of the chamber.

## Water Safety



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I am declaring today 'little superheroes day'—although not for the reasons you may think—where we encourage children to live, learn and survive. This campaign is about reaching and educating as many children as possible on developing life skills around water, fire, first aid and CPR so that they can survive their worst day.

Live Learn Survive is on a mission to educate children around Queensland with those life skills that are about reducing drownings and injuries by instilling in children resourceful auto responses to high-impact events. By developing empowered and resilient children who contribute positively to the community, we will help shape a better world for the next generations.

Today at 12 pm I will be hosting a Live Learn Survive showcase in the Premier's Hall and I invite all members to attend. The organisation's major fundraising event will take place on Thursday, 29 February 2024 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

## School Group Tours



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise that this morning we will be visited in the gallery by students and teachers from Peregrine Springs State School in the electorate of Ninderry and Dayboro State School in the electorate of Pine Rivers.

## APPOINTMENTS

### Miles Labor Government



**Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (9.36 am): I wish to inform the House that on 15 December 2023, in accordance with the Constitution of Queensland 2001, Her Excellency the Governor appointed me as Premier of Queensland. I also advise the House that other ministerial appointments were made subsequent upon my appointment as Premier including the elevation of the members for Aspley, Bundamba, Cairns, Jordan and Pine Rivers to the cabinet. I will have more to say shortly but with these fresh new faces comes a renewed vigour and focus on the people of Queensland.

I take this opportunity to thank the members for Miller, Barron River and Sandgate for their service as ministers of the Crown and for enabling renewal in the ministry. I know that they will continue to be hardworking members for their communities and serve on their behalf in other roles in this House.

Additionally, I pay tribute and thank the former member for Inala and former premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, for her strong leadership and dedication to public service in Queensland. While I am sure there will be other opportunities to remark on her strong legacy, on behalf of my government I wish to thank Annastacia for her service and wish her well on her next chapter.

I also advise the House that on 18 December 2023, Her Excellency the Governor, acting by and with the advice of the Executive Council, appointed assistant ministers. This has meant that the members for Pumicestone, Kurwongbah, Mansfield, Stafford and Ipswich were elevated to the assistant ministry. On behalf of my government, I congratulate those members. I can assure the House and the people of Queensland that my renewed team will continue each and every day to work hard for the people of Queensland.

I seek leave to incorporate the details of the current ministry and assistant ministry in the *Record of Proceedings*. I also table the *Extraordinary Queensland Government Gazette* of 15, 18 and 21 December, which outline all of these appointments.

Leave granted.

### Ministers

The Honourable Steven Miles MP, Premier

The Honourable Cameron Dick MP, Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment

The Honourable Grace Grace MP, Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing

The Honourable Shannon Fentiman MP, Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women

The Honourable Yvette D'Ath MP, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence

The Honourable Michael de Brenni MP, Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs

The Honourable Meaghan Scanlon MP, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works

The Honourable Mark Ryan MP, Minister for Police and Community Safety

The Honourable Leeanne Enoch MP, Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts

The Honourable Dianne Farmer MP, Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice

The Honourable Mark Furner MP, Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities

The Honourable Glenn Butcher MP, Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water

The Honourable Scott Stewart MP, Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals

The Honourable Leanne Linard MP, Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Innovation

The Honourable Nikki Boyd MP, Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services

The Honourable Bart Mellish MP, Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services

The Honourable Lance McCallum MP, Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development

The Honourable Charis Mullen MP, Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Multicultural Affairs

The Honourable Michael Healy MP, Minister for Tourism and Sport

#### **Assistant Ministers**

Brittany Lauga MP, Assistant Minister for Health and Regional Health Infrastructure

Bruce Saunders MP, Assistant Minister for Train Manufacturing, Regional Development and Jobs

Julianne Gilbert MP, Assistant Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Industrial Relations and Racing

Ali King MP, Assistant Minister for Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works

Jennifer Howard MP, Assistant Minister for Treasury, Trade and Investment

Shane King MP, Assistant Minister for Clean Economy Jobs

Corrine McMillan MP, Assistant Minister for Education and Youth Justice

James Sullivan MP, Assistant Minister for Justice and Veterans' Affairs

*Tabled paper:* Extraordinary Queensland Government Gazette No. 97, dated 15 December 2023, regarding changes to Cabinet [\[156\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Extraordinary Queensland Government Gazette No. 98, dated 18 December 2023, regarding changes to Cabinet, assistant ministers and administrative arrangements [\[157\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Extraordinary Queensland Government Gazette No. 102, dated 21 December 2023, regarding changes to Cabinet [\[158\]](#).



## **Opposition**

**Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.39 am): For the information of the House, I table an updated list of members of the opposition shadow ministry and other office holders that was released on 23 December 2023.

*Tabled paper:* Appointments of the Opposition Shadow Ministers and other roles [\[159\]](#).

## **PETITIONS**

The Clerk presented the following paper petition, sponsored by the Clerk—

### **Thuringowa Electorate, Noise Barriers**

28 petitioners, requesting the House to investigate the existing noise barriers in the electorate of Thuringowa [\[134\]](#).

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

### **Bruce Highway Western Alternative Stage 4 Transport Corridor**

**Mr Powell**, from 10,801 petitioners, requesting the House to terminate the proposed Bruce Highway Western Alternative Stage 4 Transport Corridor and restart the process with an alternative route that is better suited to long term growth and promotes a true alternative for transportation between Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast [\[135\]](#) [\[136\]](#).



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

**Bus Services, Route 723**

556 petitioners, requesting the House to alter bus route 723 to provide residents of the two retirement villages serviced by the bus route access to the Helensvale Plaza and the Helensvale Library [\[137\]](#) [\[138\]](#).

The Clerk presented the following e-petitions, sponsored by the honourable members indicated—

**Ipswich, Waste Industry**

**Mr Berkman**, from 2,242 petitioners, requesting the House to protect the health and safety of residents in the Ipswich region and undertake a range of measures in relation to environmental health and air pollution created by the waste industry [\[139\]](#).

**Path to Treaty Act 2023**

**Hon. Grace**, from 6,391 petitioners, requesting the House to remain committed to the full implementation of the Path to Treaty Act 2023 [\[140\]](#).

**Speed Cameras, Fines and Penalties**

**Mr Andrew**, from 2,846 petitioners, requesting the House to refund all fines and reinstate points issued by camera units positioned in contravention of 6.3.2 of the Police Traffic Manual and undertake a range of measures inquiring into the use of these units [\[141\]](#).

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

**Random Roadside Presumptive Testing, Medicinal Cannabis**

11,435 petitioners, requesting the House to amend random roadside presumptive testing laws to exempt holders of medicinal cannabis prescriptions [\[142\]](#).

**Carbon Emissions**

561 petitioners, requesting the House to include the carbon emissions from fossil fuels mined in Queensland and burnt elsewhere in the world when calculating the 75% reduction [\[143\]](#).

**Path to Treaty Act 2023**

6,051 petitioners, requesting the House to cease all further progression of any action in relation to the Path to Treaty Act 2023 [\[144\]](#).

**Bellbowrie and Riverhills, Bridge**

323 petitioners, requesting the House to gauge the support of residents of Moggill, Bellbowrie and nearby areas for the construction of a vehicle and pedestrian bridge between Bellbowrie and Riverhills [\[145\]](#).

**Cross River Rail, Albert Street Station**

1,029 petitioners, requesting the House to rename the Cross River Rail Albert Street station to Meanjin station [\[146\]](#).

**Bus Services, GPS Units**

437 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure it is a legal requirement for all bus companies providing TransLink routes to have a GPS unit fitted with the bus routes [\[147\]](#).

**Animal Management Centre**

347 petitioners, requesting the House to amend the Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Bill with provisions to establish an Animal Management Centre to develop an animal management code [\[148\]](#).

**Artificial Grass, Public and Government Land**

1,205 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure that the installation of artificial grass on all public and government land ceases immediately [\[149\]](#).

**Artificial Grass, Schools and Colleges**

844 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure that the installation of artificial grass in schools and colleges ceases immediately [\[150\]](#).

**COVID-19, Data Reporting**

2,015 petitioners, requesting the House to publish COVID-19 death data at the same time the department provides this data to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, which is daily and weekly [\[151\]](#).

Petitions received.

## TABLED PAPERS

### PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS (SO 31)

The Clerk informed the House that the following papers, received during the recess, were tabled on the dates indicated—

1 December 2023—

- [2071](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on delegation visit by the member for Toohey (Mr Peter Russo) and the member for Mansfield (Ms Corrine McMillan) to the People's Republic of China, 17 November to 26 November 2023
- [2072](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt—Alleged contempt of Parliament by the Member for Mundingburra
- [2073](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt—Alleged contempt of Parliament by the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women and Member for Waterford
- [2074](#) Ministerial Gifts Register—Reportable Gifts 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

4 December 2023—

- [2075](#) Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) and the National Boards—Annual Report 2022-23
- [2076](#) Director of Forensic Disability—Annual Report 2022-23
- [2077](#) Office of the Chief Psychiatrist—Annual Report 2022-23: Erratum

5 December 2023—

- [2078](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 60, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 13 September 2023 and 10 October 2023
- [2079](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 57, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 13 September 2023 and 10 October 2023
- [2080](#) Health and Environment Committee: Report No. 44, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 13 September 2023 and 10 October 2023
- [2081](#) Cross River Rail Delivery Authority—Tunnel, Stations and Development Public Private Partnership—Project Summary, March 2020
- [2082](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on Ministerial Study Tour to the United States of America and Canada by the Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts, Hon. Leeanne Enoch, 27 October to 5 November 2023

6 December 2023—

- [2083](#) Auditor-General Report 5: 2023-24—Energy 2023
- [2084](#) Letter, dated 9 November 2023, from the chair, Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts Board, Selwyn Button, to the Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts, Hon. Leeanne Enoch, presenting the financial statements for the Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts (ACPA) and Audit Closing report
- [2085](#) Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts Pty Ltd—Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023

7 December 2023—

- [2086](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on a Queensland Business Delegation by the member for Mansfield (Ms Corrine McMillan) and the member for Toohey (Mr Peter Russo) to the People's Republic of China, 17 November to 26 November 2023

8 December 2023—

- [2087](#) Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal—Remuneration Determination: Review of Annual and Additional Salary—Members of the Queensland Legislative Assembly 2023—Determination 29/2023, 8 December 2023
- [2088](#) Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 3—Projects Agreement Summary
- [2089](#) Probity Advisor's Report—Evaluation of the Operator Franchisee Initiated Modification to the Gold Coast Light Rail Network Project Deed to Initiate Stage 3

11 December 2023—

- [2090](#) Annual Report on the administration of the Nature Conservation Act 1992—1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

12 December 2023—

- [2091](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 61, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 11 October 2023 and 24 October 2023
- [2092](#) Auditor-General Report 6: 2023-24—Health 2023
- [2093](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on the official visit to the People's Republic of China by the Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, Hon. Anastacia Palaszcuk, 6-12 November 2023

## 13 December 2023—

- [2094](#) Response 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 Miles), to an ePetition (3983-23) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 907 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the Gold Coast City Council creates sustainable water and sewer infrastructure at Couran Cove, South Stradbroke Island
- [2095](#) Queensland Racing Appeals Panel—Annual Performance Report 2022-23
- [2096](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on overseas visit by the member for Everton (Mr Tim Mander) and the member for Lytton (Ms Joan Pease) to the United Kingdom to attend the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference on Parliamentary Scrutiny and Oversight of National Security, 21-23 November 2023

## 14 December 2023—

- [2097](#) Auditor-General Report 7: 2023-24—Major projects 2023
- [2098](#) Office of the Independent Implementation Supervisor: Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce Reforms—Biannual Progress Report 3 (November 2023)
- [2099](#) Domestic and family violence reform: A pathway forward for change—Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service responses to domestic and family violence—A Call for Change—Annual Report and Implementation Program, November 2023
- [2100](#) Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Hon. Furner), to an ePetition (3975-23) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 856 petitioners, requesting the House to cease logging Deongwar State Forest and to transition it to the conservation estate
- [2101](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Hon. D'Ath), to an ePetition (3928-23) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 3,836 petitioners, requesting the House to block the Criminal Code and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023
- [2102](#) Response from the Minister for Resources (Hon. Stewart), to a paper petition (3984-23) presented by the member for Burnett, Mr Bennett, and an ePetition (3962-23) sponsored by the member for Burnett, Mr Bennett, from 273 and 1,157 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to prevent Mineral Development License Application 3040 from commencing in the Burnett
- [2103](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on official visit to India by the Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement (Hon. Hinchliffe), 4-9 December 2023
- [2104](#) Response from the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing (Hon. Grace), to an ePetition (3930-23) sponsored by the member for Moggill, Dr Rowan, from 1,422 petitioners, requesting the House to build a new high school in western Brisbane
- [2105](#) Response from the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women (Hon. Fentiman), to a paper petition (3985-23) presented by the member for Condamine, Mr Weir, and an ePetition (3932-23) sponsored by the member for Condamine, Mr Weir, from 872 and 494 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to provide local care for acute ophthalmology patients in the Darling Downs Health Service area
- [2106](#) Childrens Court of Queensland—Annual Report 2022-23
- [2107](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3931-23) sponsored by the member for Warrego, Ms Leahy, from 335 petitioners, requesting the House to address the narrow sections and poor condition of the Mitchell St George Road, eight to 25 kilometres south of, Mitchell
- [2108](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (3987-23) presented by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(3), and an ePetition (3937-23) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 57 and 777 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to increase the parking capacity at Hope Island Train Station by 500 carparks; implement a shuttle bus service to the train station; and preserve the remaining area of Mangrove Jack Park

## 15 December 2023—

- [2109](#) State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 45, 57th Parliament—Queensland Climate Transition Bill 2023, interim government response
- [2110](#) Queensland Closing the Gap—Snapshot Report 2023 Edition
- [2111](#) Letter, dated 13 December 2023, from the member for Inala, Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk MP, to the Speaker, Hon. Curtis Pitt, tendering her resignation as the member for Inala
- [2112](#) State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 53, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 13 September and 10 October 2023
- [2113](#) Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Hon. Furner), to paper petitions (3986-23) and (3988-23) presented by the member for Hinchinbrook, Mr Dametto, and an ePetition (3938-23) sponsored by the member for Hinchinbrook, Mr Dametto, from 6,479, 30 and 3,482 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to develop a balanced solution that protects the Great Barrier Reef whilst allowing sustainable fishing practices including N2 inshore gillnet licences, and to properly reimburse fishers for the resumption of their business enterprises

20 December 2023—

- [2114](#) Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Hon. Furner), to an ePetition (3992-23) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,177 petitioners, requesting the House to acknowledge the harm being done to 'nature' in Deongwar State Forest and act to ensure the needs and aspirations of future generations are met

22 December 2023—

- [2115](#) Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Hon. Furner), to an ePetition (3965-23) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,111 petitioners, requesting the House to ban all shark nets in Queensland
- [2116](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 58, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 11 October 2023 and 14 November 2023
- [2117](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on trade and investment mission to Japan by the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities, Hon. Mark Furner, 20-23 November 2023

8 January 2024—

- [1](#) Response from the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works (Hon. Scanlon), to an ePetition (3976-23) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,261 petitioners, requesting the House to implement a rent stabilisation policy
- [2](#) Response from the Acting Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Hon. Grace), to an ePetition (3898-23) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,578 petitioners, requesting the House to legislate that regardless of age, gender, beliefs or mental state, any person found guilty of domestic violence resulting in death be sentenced to life imprisonment without parole or release
- [3](#) Response from the Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing (Hon. Grace), to a paper petition (3993-23) presented by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(3), from 394 petitioners, requesting the House to prevent the proposed land at Birkdale in Redland City be developed for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Whitewater Stadium and designate the existing Penrith Whitewater Stadium as the 2032 Olympic Canoe Slalom venue
- [4](#) Response from the Acting Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women (Hon. Ryan), to an ePetition (3991-23) sponsored by the member for Whitsunday, Ms Camm, from 1,089 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure Mackay Hospital and Health Service liaises with stakeholders to locate the CQ Rescue Helipad on site, or close access to emergency, during the construction of the hospital expansion or until the new onsite helipad is completed
- [5](#) Response from the Acting Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women (Hon. Ryan), to an ePetition (3948-23) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 886 petitioners, requesting the House to explain the reasons for no longer reporting COVID deaths in Queensland
- [6](#) Response from the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Innovation (Hon. Linard), to a paper petition (3995-23) presented by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(3), and an ePetition (3964-23) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 383 and 2,904 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to undertake a range of measures to ensure the protection of Moreton Bay's migratory shorebirds
- [7](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services (Hon. Mellish), to an ePetition (3943-23) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 490 petitioners, requesting the House to instruct the contractor to redo the repair work recently carried out on The Brisbane Valley Highway between Blacksoil and Fernvale to a higher standard
- [8](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services (Hon. Mellish), to a paper petition (3994-23) presented by the member for Nanango, Mrs Frecklington, and an ePetition (3945-23) sponsored by the member for Nanango, Mrs Frecklington, from 455 and 543 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to upgrade the three single-lane sections of Kingaroy-Barkers Creek Road to a two-lane standard
- [9](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services (Hon. Mellish), to a paper petition (3998-23) presented by the member for Nanango, Mrs Frecklington, and an ePetition (3970-23) sponsored by the member for Nanango, Mrs Frecklington, from 90 and 198 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to reduce the speed limit through Wooroolin to 50 km/hr to create a safer road environment for school children and pedestrians
- [10](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services (Hon. Mellish), to an ePetition (3971-23) sponsored by the member for Burdekin, Mr Last, from 597 petitioners, requesting the House to recognise the financial contribution of the Bowen Basin and implement upgrades to the Peak Downs Highway, Saraji Road, Kilcummin-Diamond Downs Road, Bowen Developmental Road, Suttor Developmental Road, Dysart Middlemount Road, Clermont-Alpha Road and May Downs Road
- [11](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services (Hon. Mellish), to an ePetition (3981-23) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 818 petitioners, requesting the House to investigate the concerns relating to the unmanned portable speed detection device positioned on Malanda Atherton Road in September and to suspend all infringement notices issued by this device at this location while this matter is properly and independently investigated
- [12](#) Response from the Acting Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works (Hon. Ryan), to an ePetition (3947-23) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 588 petitioners, requesting the House to install solar panels and batteries on as many government homes as possible

- [13](#) Response from the Acting Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works (Hon. Ryan), to an ePetition (3922-23) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), and an ePetition (3944-23) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 626 and 683 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to remove the regulations limiting the number of dwellings and/or the 100ha limit on subdivisions in the Regional Landscape and Rural Production Area, assess on a case-by-case basis depending upon use, environmental value, and by applying section 13 of the Human Rights Act 2019 to its activities
- [14](#) Response from the Acting Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works (Hon. Ryan), to an ePetition (3952-23) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 650 petitioners, requesting the House to address the housing crisis by limiting access to holiday rentals to a part of an existing home and only if the owner of that property is living there when the rental occurs
- [15](#) Response from the Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice (Hon. Farmer), to an ePetition (3963-23) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 387 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

9 January 2024—

- [16](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 62, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 25 October 2023 and 14 November 2023
- [17](#) Response from the Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services (Hon. Boyd), to an ePetition (3961-23) sponsored by the member for Theodore, Mr Boothman, from 901 petitioners, requesting the House to reinstate the Fire Danger Rating signs in the Gold Coast hinterland as soon as possible as a safety priority ahead of this year's severe bushfire season predicted by the Bureau of Meteorology
- [18](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report to Parliament on overseas visit to Dubai by the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure, Hon. Steven Miles, 2-9 December 2023

12 January 2024—

- [19](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on official visit to the United States of America by the Minister for Resources, Hon. Scott Stewart, 5-13 December 2023

19 January 2024—

- [20](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 63, 57th Parliament—Criminal Law (Coercive Control and Affirmative Consent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023
- [21](#) President of the Industrial Court of Queensland (in respect of the Industrial Court of Queensland, Queensland Industrial Relations Commission and the Queensland Industrial Registry)—Annual Report 2022-2023

24 January 2024—

- [22](#) Department of Health—Annual Report 2022-2023: Erratum

25 January 2024—

- [23](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt—Alleged contempt of Parliament by the former Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games and member for Inala
- [24](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt—Alleged contempt of Parliament by the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women and member for Waterford
- [25](#) Queensland State Archives—Annual Report 2022-23

29 January 2024—

- [26](#) Auditor-General Report 8: 2023-24—Local government 2023
- [27](#) Letter, dated 26 January 2024, from the member for Ipswich West, Mr Jim Madden MP, to the Speaker, Hon. Curtis Pitt, tendering his resignation as the member for Ipswich West

30 January 2024—

- [28](#) Administrator National Health Funding Pool—Annual Report 2022-23
- [29](#) National Health Practitioner Ombudsman—Annual Report 2022-23

31 January 2024—

- [30](#) Transport and Resources Committee: Report No. 47, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 11 October 2023 and 14 December 2023
- [31](#) Queensland Government: Second Progress Report titled 'Delivery of Recommendations: Commission of Inquiry into Forensic DNA Testing in Queensland', December 2023

1 February 2024—

- [32](#) State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 54, 57th Parliament—Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023

2 February 2024—

- [33](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 64, 57th Parliament—Oversight of the Queensland Ombudsman
- [34](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 65, 57th Parliament—Oversight of the Information Commissioner

[35](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 66, 57th Parliament—Oversight of the Queensland Family and Child Commission

[36](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 67, 57th Parliament—Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023

[37](#) Queensland Law Reform Commission—Annual Report 2022-2023

[38](#) Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council—Annual Report 2022-23

6 February 2024—

[39](#) Auditor-General Report 9: 2023-24—Minimising gambling harm

[40](#) Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, explanatory notes: Erratum

7 February 2024—

[41](#) Queensland Closing the Gap—Annual Report 2023

[42](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt—Alleged contempt of Parliament by the former Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment and Member for Woodridge

[43](#) Education, Employment and Training Committee: Report No. 42, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 11 October and 14 November 2023

[44](#) Statement for Public Disclosure: Expenditure of the Office of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for the period 1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023

9 February 2024—

[45](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt, regarding application of same question rule and the Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023

[46](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt, regarding application of same question rule and the Criminal Law (Coercive Control and Affirmative Consent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023

12 February 2024—

[47](#) Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal—Annual Report 2022-23

#### TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

#### STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Medicines and Poisons Act 2019:

[48](#) Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Amendment Regulation (No. 4) 2023, No. 170

[49](#) Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Amendment Regulation (No. 4) 2023, No. 170, explanatory notes

[50](#) Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Amendment Regulation (No. 4) 2023, No. 170, human rights certificate

State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, Transport Infrastructure Act 1994, Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994, Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995:

[51](#) Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2023, No. 171

[52](#) Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2023, No. 171, explanatory notes

[53](#) Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2023, No. 171, human rights certificate

Nature Conservation Act 1992:

[54](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 172

[55](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 172, explanatory notes

[56](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 172, human rights certificate

Water Act 2000:

[57](#) Water Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 173

[58](#) Water Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 173, explanatory notes

[59](#) Water Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 173, human rights certificate

Work Health and Safety Act 2011:

[60](#) Work Health and Safety (Codes of Practice) (Respirable Dust in Coal-fired Power Stations) Amendment Notice 2023, No. 174

[61](#) Work Health and Safety (Codes of Practice) (Respirable Dust in Coal-fired Power Stations) Amendment Notice 2023, No. 174, explanatory notes

[62](#) Work Health and Safety (Codes of Practice) (Respirable Dust in Coal-fired Power Stations) Amendment Notice 2023, No. 174, human rights certificate



## Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2017:

- [63](#) Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) (Survey Data) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 175
- [64](#) Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) (Survey Data) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 175, explanatory notes
- [65](#) Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) (Survey Data) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 175, human rights certificate

## Sustainable Ports Development Act 2015:

- [66](#) Sustainable Ports Development Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 176
- [67](#) Sustainable Ports Development Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 176, explanatory notes
- [68](#) Sustainable Ports Development Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 176, human rights certificate

## Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997, Building Units and Group Titles Act 1980:

- [69](#) Body Corporate and Community Management and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 177
- [70](#) Body Corporate and Community Management and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 177, explanatory notes
- [71](#) Body Corporate and Community Management and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 177, human rights certificate

## Building Act 1975, Planning Act 2016:

- [72](#) Building and Other Legislation (Queensland Development Code Update) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 178
- [73](#) Building and Other Legislation (Queensland Development Code Update) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 178, explanatory notes
- [74](#) Building and Other Legislation (Queensland Development Code Update) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 178, human rights certificate

## Housing Act 2003:

- [75](#) Housing Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 179
- [76](#) Housing Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 179, explanatory notes
- [77](#) Housing Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 179, human rights certificate

## Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008, Retirement Villages Act 1999:

- [78](#) Retirement Villages (Exempt Schemes) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 180
- [79](#) Retirement Villages (Exempt Schemes) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 180, explanatory notes
- [80](#) Retirement Villages (Exempt Schemes) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 180, human rights certificate

## Animal Care and Protection Act 2001:

- [81](#) Animal Care and Protection (Code of Practice for Horses at Livestock Slaughter Facilities) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 181
- [82](#) Animal Care and Protection (Code of Practice for Horses at Livestock Slaughter Facilities) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 181, explanatory notes
- [83](#) Animal Care and Protection (Code of Practice for Horses at Livestock Slaughter Facilities) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 181, human rights certificate

## Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994:

- [84](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Battery Booster Rebate Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 182
- [85](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Battery Booster Rebate Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 182, explanatory notes
- [86](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Battery Booster Rebate Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 182, human rights certificate

## Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994:

- [87](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Remote Communities Freight Assistance Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 183
- [88](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Remote Communities Freight Assistance Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 183, explanatory notes
- [89](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Remote Communities Freight Assistance Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 183, human rights certificate

## Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994:

- [90](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Resilient Homes Assistance Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 184
- [91](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Resilient Homes Assistance Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 184, explanatory notes

- [92](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Resilient Homes Assistance Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 184, human rights certificate

Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999:

- [93](#) Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 185  
[94](#) Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 185, explanatory notes  
[95](#) Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 185, human rights certificate

Environmental Offsets Act 2014, Nature Conservation Act 1992:

- [96](#) Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2023, No. 186  
[97](#) Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2023, No. 186, explanatory notes  
[98](#) Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2023, No. 186, human rights certificate

Forestry Act 1959, Nature Conservation Act 1992:

- [99](#) Forestry and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 187  
[100](#) Forestry and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 187, explanatory notes  
[101](#) Forestry and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 187, human rights certificate

Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011:

- [102](#) Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 188  
[103](#) Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 188, explanatory notes  
[104](#) Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 188, human rights certificate

Local Government Act 2009:

- [105](#) Local Government (Boundary Changes) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 189  
[106](#) Local Government (Boundary Changes) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 189, explanatory notes  
[107](#) Local Government (Boundary Changes) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 189, human rights certificate

Regional Planning Interests Act 2014:

- [108](#) Regional Planning Interests (Fraser Island Strategic Environmental Area) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 190  
[109](#) Regional Planning Interests (Fraser Island Strategic Environmental Area) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 190, explanatory notes  
[110](#) Regional Planning Interests (Fraser Island Strategic Environmental Area) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 190, human rights certificate

Victims of Crime Assistance and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023:

- [111](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 191  
[112](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 191, explanatory notes  
[113](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 191, human rights certificate

Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2023:

- [114](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 192  
[115](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 192, explanatory notes  
[116](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 192, human rights certificate

Criminal Code (Serious Vilification and Hate Crimes) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023:

- [117](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 193  
[118](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 193, explanatory notes

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994:

- [119](#) Fisheries and Other Legislation (Structural Reform) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 194  
[120](#) Fisheries and Other Legislation (Structural Reform) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 194, explanatory notes  
[121](#) Fisheries and Other Legislation (Structural Reform) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 194, human rights certificate

Planning Act 2016:

- [122](#) Planning (SEQ Regulatory Provisions) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 195  
[123](#) Planning (SEQ Regulatory Provisions) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 195, explanatory notes  
[124](#) Planning (SEQ Regulatory Provisions) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 195, human rights certificate

Integrity Act 2009:

- [125](#) Integrity (Designated Persons) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 196  
[126](#) Integrity (Designated Persons) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 196, explanatory notes



[127](#) Integrity (Designated Persons) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 196, human rights certificate

Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023:

[128](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 1

[129](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 1, explanatory notes

[130](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 1, human rights certificate

Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003:

[131](#) Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (Psychiatric Assessment Tribunal) Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 2

[132](#) Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (Psychiatric Assessment Tribunal) Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 2, explanatory notes

[133](#) Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (Psychiatric Assessment Tribunal) Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 2, human rights certificate

#### MINISTERIAL PAPER


The following ministerial paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Premier (Hon. Miles)—


[152](#) Report by 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 Miles), pursuant to section 103 of the Planning Act 2016, in relation to the Ministerial Call In of a development application for Waratah coal-fired power station at Alpha made by C.J Feltham Pty Ltd on behalf of Waratah Coal Pty Ltd

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Leader of the House

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (9.43 am): I wish to inform the House that the Hon. Michael de Brenni, Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs and member for Springwood, has been appointed Leader of the House. In doing so, I wish to thank the Hon. Yvette D'Ath, the Attorney-General, for her strong stewardship of the role for over 2,250 long days, overseeing two successful regional parliaments and ensuring that this House continued to function where it could during the COVID-19 pandemic. I am advised that the Attorney-General is the longest continuous serving Labor leader of the House, well surpassing the member for Sandgate on around 994 days and the second longest continuous Leader of the House, being pipped by Mr Claude Wharton in the mid-1980s.

### MacMahon, Dr A; White, Ms V; Miles Labor Government

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (9.44 am): I am sure I speak on behalf of all members in wishing the member for South Brisbane the very best in her recovery. I know that our hardworking doctors and nurses will look after her.

I want to acknowledge Vyleen White. Her life was taken too soon in an abhorrent act of crime that should never have happened. Her family have suffered an immeasurable loss. I know all members of this House and all Queenslanders share our thoughts with her family as they pick up the pieces. What happened in Redbank Plains this month should never happen. Every person has the right to feel safe at the supermarket and in their home. That is why my new ministry now has a minister dedicated to community safety. It is one of many new portfolios and new faces on this side of the House, because I promised Queenslanders a renewed government with fresh faces and fresh approaches.

I want to welcome our five new ministers—the members for Pine Rivers, Aspley, Bundamba, Jordan and Cairns. These new ministers have hit the ground running in delivering for Queenslanders. The member for Pine Rivers has overseen more disasters in a few weeks than most would in their entire career.

**Mr Bleijie:** She's in the Labor Party!

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Kawana!

**Mr MILES:** I certainly do not think our season of natural disasters is a laughing matter.

**Opposition members** interjected.

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

**Mr MILES:** The member for Bundamba is leading his community through an awful grieving process while also implementing free TAFE to ensure we have the skilled workforce of the future. The member for Aspley made sure all those roads damaged by the storms and floods were reopened as quickly as possible. The member for Jordan is supporting our multicultural communities through

sometimes challenging times and also ensuring the safety of our most vulnerable children. The member for Cairns, himself a product of our state's tourism industry, acted so quickly to support tourism operators in the state's Far North and Gold Coast to help them keep Queenslanders in work during recovery. They have been busy as has my whole cabinet and our caucus.

I announced that we will reduce our emissions by 75 per cent by 2035. This week, the legislation to lock in that target will be introduced to the House. By legislating this target, we will create certainty for industry and support a pipeline of jobs for the next generation. Only this government will deliver a clean economy for Queensland's future. Our health system is under pressure. The causes are complex and there is no quick fix, but new measures are making a positive difference. Thousands have been to our satellite hospitals in Caboolture, Kallangur, Redlands, Ripley and Tugun. Bribie Island and Eight Mile Plains will come online very soon.

As I said last year, I am working with the Minister for Health to see where we can put more to deliver better health care close to home. With bigger, better hospitals and new satellite hospitals, we need to train and retain more doctors and nurses than ever before. This year, more than 3,600 medical, nursing and midwifery graduates are joining the ranks of Queensland's front line. That is 869 first year doctors, 2,522 nurses and 264 midwives. This is one of the largest intakes in Queensland's history. It is a demonstration of our commitment to bolster the state's health workforce because only our government will deliver more doctors and nurses for Queensland.

We also know that cost of living is having a big impact on family budgets right now. From high interest rates to price gouging at the supermarket, it is not good enough. I said I would meet with supermarkets to understand why the price at the check-out differs so greatly from the price at the farm gate. I have had those meetings, and their explanations were not good enough. It is why this week we will be announcing a parliamentary inquiry into supermarket pricing.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Members of the House, I know it has been a little while. You have a lot to say. Please do so at the appropriate time.


**Mr MILES:** Where there is more to be done, Queenslanders know that I will do it. I will always fight for Queenslanders' best interests—to put money back into the pockets of hardworking mums and dads.

One of the first things I did after I became Premier was to visit Musgrave Park. I saw firsthand the important work outreach services do in connecting the homeless with support services and into accommodation. National pressures are making it harder for people to find a home, stay in a home or save for a home. That is why we released the Homes for Queenslanders plan this month. It is our government's vision to deliver more homes faster—all while supporting renters and first home owners, building our social and affordable housing stock, and working to end homelessness. It is a \$3.1 billion plan to deliver one million new homes and sets a target of 53,500 new social and affordable homes by 2046. We are also cutting red tape and supporting developers to build more homes in the right places. Together with industry, our government is delivering the biggest boost to social housing in history.

In the 60 days since I was sworn in as Premier this state has weathered two cyclones, wild storms and multiple flooding events, but we Queenslanders are a resilient bunch. We stand shoulder to shoulder to build back better. I want to thank the thousands of volunteers who dedicated their time to the recovery efforts, from the Far North to the Gold Coast. Recovery is a long road, and our support does not stop when the rain stops pouring. To all those impacted I say: my government is with you now and for the months and years that follow. Recovery will be at the core of my government's upcoming community cabinet in Cairns. There is no better way to listen than to show up and hear firsthand from locals about the issues that matter to them. That is why we will do even more community cabinets this year and host opportunities for Queenslanders to speak directly to me and to the cabinet.

There is more to do, but we cannot do it alone. My commitment to Queenslanders is that I am listening. I will always listen, and when I say that I will deliver for Queensland I will.

### **Miles Labor Government**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.51 am): This is the Miles Labor government—a government that is absolutely committed—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members to my left!

**Mr DICK:** Let me say it again. This is the Miles Labor government—a government that is absolutely determined and committed to putting Queenslanders first. We are a team that is united by a renewed determination to deliver opportunity for every single Queenslander. That is our lodestar. We are united in our belief that every Queenslander deserves opportunity.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, you have already gotten off to a great start. I am listening intently to the Deputy Premier, but unfortunately I am interrupted by hearing your interjections.

**Mr DICK:** Adding to the experience of our cabinet, our new ministers are ready to take on the challenges our state faces. As honourable members have heard this morning, our government continues to deliver for Queensland. Just last year unemployment, which plagued our state for decades, was reduced to its lowest level on record, but the work of government is never done. There is a lot more to do for our state. As one challenge is resolved, others emerge. There is no greater challenge for Queenslanders than the cost of living. The cost of living is hurting Queenslanders. It is hurting Queenslanders with their mortgage, with interest rates that are too high. It is hurting Queenslanders at the supermarket, with groceries that cost too much. It is hurting Queenslanders at the bowser, with petrol prices that are much higher than they used to be.

The state government cannot fix all of these issues on its own, but we will never apologise for fighting for Queenslanders and for putting Queenslanders first. It is why we called on the Reserve Bank to cut interest rates. It is why we have frozen car rego. It is why we have frozen public transport fares. It is why we have delivered free kindy to kids across Queensland. It is why we are delivering the biggest energy rebates in the country. Those rebates are providing a minimum of \$550 off every Queenslanders' power bill, funded through the public ownership of energy assets and funded by progressive coal royalties.

Only a government that unreservedly supports progressive coal royalties can deliver the lower power bills that Queenslanders deserve. Our efforts are beginning to pay dividends for Queenslanders. Queensland's consumer price index rose 0.5 per cent in the December quarter—below the national average. That means on an annual basis Queensland's inflation was 4.2 per cent to the December quarter 2023—down from 7.9 per cent in the September quarter 2022.

We are not finished yet. There is a lot more to do because national and international pressures continue to drive up costs for Queenslanders. Queenslanders deserve more cost-of-living relief because our cost-of-living relief is exactly what the Miles Labor government will deliver for Queensland.

### Weather Events




**Hon. N BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.55 am): Queensland has experienced extreme weather events across the state during the summer of 2023-24. We have seen Tropical Cyclone Jasper, Christmas storms in the south, Tropical Cyclone Kirrily in the new year and the continued rain and flooding that has come with it, impacting suburbs in Brisbane to Outback Queensland. Queensland has felt the full force of Mother Nature.

The current reconstruction estimate for our state over the 2023-24 disaster season, including the bushfires of late 2023, now exceeds \$1.3 billion, with more severe weather possible. Since mid-December 2023 we have seen more than half the state—a massive 43 councils—activated for disaster recovery arrangements assistance. We have seen approximately 10,200 rapid damage assessments conducted by the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and Queensland Reconstruction Authority in affected communities. More than \$63.8 million has been paid in personal hardship assistance payments that have benefited 341,000 Queenslanders. We have seen over a quarter of a million Queenslanders who have experienced the heartbreak and the trauma of disasters—Queenslanders like Jules, a northern beaches local, who was unaware that water had ripped through his Machans Beach home while he was volunteering and sandbagging for others. These events are not just widespread; they are unprecedented and they are intensely devastating.

The recovery response has been so extensive that at least 15 state agencies were involved in the immediate recovery. Countless volunteers and frontline workers have been crucial to our successful response to this intense summer of disasters and the intense recovery that will follow. I could not be more proud of the work provided on the ground to support Queenslanders. I have been truly impressed by the camaraderie and the teamwork our frontline workers and volunteers show in supporting the Queensland community.

We have visited numerous communities who have been impacted by the devastating summer, and I have had the honour of meeting some truly remarkable people—communities throughout Queensland who have come together to help each other out. Again, I thank every one of these Queenslanders for their selflessness and their generosity. The Queensland spirit continues to shine bright.

### Transport Infrastructure, Costs

 **Hon. BJ MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (9.58 am): The Premier has a big vision for Queensland and has led the government's \$89 billion Big Build. I am proud to support the Premier's vision to deliver the infrastructure that Queensland needs. The Miles government, in partnership with the Australian government, has over \$32 billion invested in transport and road projects. It is an ambitious program that is delivering increased connectivity for Queenslanders right across the state. Like all infrastructure programs, it is facing cost pressure challenges with the increased cost of construction.

As the House will be aware, I have made a commitment to provide more details highlighting the cost of construction for transport and road projects. On 22 December last year, the Deputy Premier and I released an itemised list detailing cost increases for 32 jointly funded major transport and road infrastructure projects that were impacted by the federal government's infrastructure review. Today I am tabling these details for the information of members. Releasing cost estimate updates on transport and road projects is part of the Miles government's plan for transparency with Queenslanders.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Table 1: Jointly funded projects with cost pressures and impacted by the Infrastructure Review' [\[160\]](#).

I have committed that, as TMR becomes aware of cost increases that are confirmed through our budgeting process, we will be making them public at least twice a year—at the budget and around the midyear budget update. In addition, for some individual projects we will be making cost increases public at major project milestones such as contract award or project completion. I can also advise that the Mooloolah River Interchange project cannot proceed until the federal government changes their position on funding, noting that they have withdrawn their funding contribution for this important project.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Ms Simpson** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Buderim! Member for Maroochydore!


**Mr MELLISH:** The Premier talked about backing Queenslanders. On my first day as minister—

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

**Mr MELLISH:** On my first day as minister, every state controlled road in Far North Queensland was shut following Tropical Cyclone Jasper. On 22 January we re-opened the Captain Cook Highway, restoring access for many families that were heading back to school. Last Saturday, 10 February, we re-opened a single-lane section of the Palmerston Highway to restore freight access across the Tablelands. Both of these roads were severely damaged in the cyclone. These milestones mark an incredible turnaround in the space of just two months and are a testament to the resilience of Queenslanders. I thank all of our Far North Queensland members and the member for Hill for their advocacy on these works.

As minister, our regions will be a major focus. Last month I joined the Prime Minister and Premier in Rockhampton to announce full funding for the Rockhampton Ring Road, and on Sunday I announced \$500 million in joint funding with the federal government for road safety projects right across the state. Over the coming months I look forward to keeping the House updated on these projects and many hundreds more that the Miles government is delivering for Queenslanders.

### White, Ms V; TAFE


 **Hon. LR McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.01 am): With my first words this year I pay tribute to Vyleen White and express my sincerest condolences to her family and loved ones. I foreshadow a fuller statement on behalf of the Bundamba community at the appropriate time.

I am proud to rise in this place for the first time as a minister, and I am humbled and honoured to be the first Aboriginal man in Queensland's history to speak in this place as a minister. It is my hope that young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and those from all diverse backgrounds see that this place can be a space for them should they so choose. In the Miles government there is always a place for them.

As Minister for Training and Skills Development, I have had the privilege of meeting many Queenslanders whose stories demonstrate that TAFE and vocational education and training transforms lives for the better—quality training that leads to recognised qualifications that get Queenslanders into work and into good jobs. Last month I was honoured to kick off the construction of \$4.5 million in new facilities at Bundaberg TAFE, and I want to acknowledge the hard work and advocacy of the member for Bundaberg. In Bundaberg I met Kerry Griffis—or, as she is known, Kez—a TAFE student and single mum of five who recently graduated with a Certificate III in Conservation and Ecosystem Management. Karen's passion about protecting the environment now means that she is pursuing a brand new career in that sector. Without the Miles government's Fee-Free TAFE Karen is adamant that she would not have been able to follow that dream.

That is what the Miles government is about: helping Queenslanders and empowering Queenslanders to back themselves and helping ease national cost-of-living pressures while we support them. It means backing more Queenslanders with free apprenticeships and free TAFE. It also means supporting our hardworking small businesses with the services and initiatives they need to thrive and compete with big business, including those that have been impacted by recent natural disasters. Small business is the engine room of our economy, and we want to help make doing business in Queensland a little easier, because the Miles Labor government will always put Queenslanders first.

### Youth Crime

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (10.04 am): Since the House last met Queensland has been rocked by an awful, heinous crime. No family should ever go through what the White family has. Every Queenslanders is thinking of them, especially Vyleen's husband, Victor, and their young granddaughter, who witnessed the crime and rushed to get help for her grandmother. I would like to thank our police, including Detective Acting Superintendent Heath McQueen, who so quickly apprehended an alleged offender and alleged accomplices. I would like to thank Dr Ademola Afolabi, who rushed to render medical assistance, and the community recovery team who have been at the Redbank Plains Town Square supporting community members impacted by crime in their community at their local shops.

I know that Queenslanders are angry. They want to feel safe to go about their business, to duck down to the shops for some last-minute groceries without fearing for their safety. I do too. No young person should be carrying a knife. No young person should use a knife to incite fear.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, can you assure the House this is not sub judice in terms of persons charged with the crime?

**Mr MILES:** I can, Mr Speaker. No young person should use a knife to incite fear or to harm another person. Too many of these young people are involved in gangs. Too many are stealing cars to commit crimes. We can always do more and do better—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, I am sorry for the interruption. Members to my left, I do not need any assistance regarding matters of the House in terms of sub judice. I am listening. I would appreciate it if I can hear the statement in order to make that determination.

**Mr MILES:** We have introduced some of the toughest laws in the country to hold offenders to account, and we are investing hundreds of millions of dollars into targeted serious repeat youth offenders, tackling the complex causes of crime and boosting community safety. We are listening to victims and providing the supports they tell us they need such as more financial support for victims and their families, including distress payments, and a dedicated Victims' Commissioner. A retired police officer, Mr Jon Rouse, is acting in that role right now so we can provide hands-on support to victims as soon as possible. We have more police on the beat. We will keep targeting offenders, and if there is more we need to do we will do it.

That is why yesterday I asked the Police Commissioner to attend cabinet. I asked her to share with us their intelligence about these disturbing trends and tell us what more the government can do. Our government's response to youth crime must keep a laser focus on community safety. Any changes we introduce need to make sure the public has confidence they will be protected from violent offenders. Kids on bail do not get to hang around the streets. We are going to make sure they are turning up to school, turning up to work and participating in the bail programs the court requires.

We have funded dedicated youth co-responder teams, a partnership between police and youth justice, which patrol the streets and engage with those people at risk of offending and those on bail. We are going to give them every chance to get back into school, but if they turn that down we are going

to take immediate action. That includes the greater use of electronic monitoring. That is what the Police Commissioner asked for and it is what we will deliver. The Commissioner explained that knife crime is a growing problem. That is why we need to limit access to knives and similar weapons like tomahawks, axes and machetes. Retailers need to act quickly to limit access to these weapons, so we have brought the start date of—

**Mr POWELL:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There is a bill before the House that deals exactly with what the Premier is raising. I believe he is pre-empting debate on that bill.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am listening carefully. I believe the Premier may potentially be foreshadowing other bills, and that is why I am listening carefully. I am going to allow it for the moment, but I am keen to listen to the contribution of the Premier.

**Mr MILES:** We need police to be able to identify concealed knives in more places, like shopping centres, and when kids are caught with knives there will be tougher punishments. I have asked police later this week to bring to parliament some examples of the types of weapons they have confiscated so that members can see for themselves what police are dealing with. Shopping centre owners and managers also need to do more to make sure shoppers feel and are safe. Security guards, CCTV and lighting can make a real difference. I have reached out to the Shopping Centre Council of Australia to discuss some practical measures to make the places we shop safer. That might include free security audits by police and minimum security standards for shopping centre managers.

The public also has the right to know what is going on in our court system. We want journalists to be able to cover these stories without letting the world know about things like a child's history of abuse or mental health reports. I also believe that victims' families should be able to attend court—again, with proper safeguards. Victims' families deserve to see what happens when the court considers the fate of someone who harmed or killed their loved one. It is that simple. Some have criticised me for my remarks regarding the courts. Let me be clear: I absolutely respect our judicial officers and their independence, but community safety is a complex issue and it should not be the case that one part of the system cannot be questioned or critiqued.

I am pleased that the House already has a mechanism in place to find bipartisan support on youth justice. The Youth Justice Reform Select Committee has been doing good work hearing from Queenslanders and stakeholders right across Queensland. I would like to thank the member for Noosa and the committee for their work. It is important that we capture what they have learned and that it informs future responses. That is why we will ask the parliament to support the committee providing an interim report by 27 March.

Queenslanders deserve to be safe. We will continue to do everything we can to ensure they are. It is my promise to Queenslanders that we will always listen—to Queenslanders, to our police, to the experts—to deliver a better, safer Queensland that we can all be proud of.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### Comments by Member for Hill, Correction and Apology



**Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (10.11 am): In the debate on the disallowance motion on the Fisheries Legislation (Spanish Mackerel and Bar Rockcod) Amendment Declaration on 28 November 2023, I stated that the LNP voted against the KAP's Food (Labelling of Seafood) Amendment Bill, introduced by the member for Traeger. This statement was incorrect. The LNP did vote in favour of the KAP bill. In making my statement, I relied on my recollections and did not check the voting record in *Hansard*. I apologise for this error of judgement. I did not intend to mislead the House and I sincerely apologise.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, question time will conclude today at 11.12 am.

### Youth Justice, Detention



**Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.12 am): My question is to the Premier. In 2016 the Premier voted to remove detention as a last resort. Today the Labor government could suspend standing orders to allow the LNP to undo this decision. Will the Premier support the LNP and Queenslanders and remove detention as a last resort today?

**Mr MILES:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. What I know is that this government has acted and will continue to act on the basis of the advice provided to us by police. That is why yesterday I gave the Police Commissioner the opportunity to talk directly to the cabinet and to tell us what additional measures she believes would strengthen their hand in the fight against violent young offenders, in the fight against gangs, in the fight to keep our streets and our communities safe.

**Mr Nicholls** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Clayfield!

**Mr MILES:** As you have seen—

**Mr Nicholls** interjected.

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

**Mr MILES:**—we are acting on the basis of that advice. There will be ample opportunity for members to debate those changes at the point at which we bring them here, send them to committee and bring them back for a second reading debate. We welcome the contribution of members opposite to the select committee that we have underway at the moment which will further inform our response.

Let me be very clear: this government will detain young offenders where they are a risk to the community. That is proven in the sheer numbers of young people currently in detention—more than anywhere else in the country. What we will not apologise for doing is, first, trying to prevent crime and, second, trying to intervene in the cycle of reoffending. We make no apologies for using detention where that is the only place we can deliver intensive programs for violent repeat offenders, but why would you not first try to prevent crime in the first place? Why would you not first try to stop crime before offenders become more violent and become repeat offenders? The policy of mandatory detention proposed by those opposite would see thousands of low-level offenders in detention—

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

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

**Mr MILES:**—exposed to hardened criminals and exposed to gangs, when the evidence suggests that that would make crime worse. We will listen to the experts, we will listen to the evidence, we will prevent crime where we can, we will intervene in the cycle of offending and we will use detention where it is the only choice, but we will not introduce mandatory detention as those opposite propose.

### **Youth Justice, Public Reporting**

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** My question is to the Premier. In 2016 the Premier voted to close children's courtrooms. Today the Labor government could suspend standing orders to allow the LNP to undo this decision and put victims first. Will the Premier support the LNP and victims and open courtrooms today?

**Mr MILES:** Mr Speaker—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Minister for Health, your interjections are getting too loud. The member for Mermaid Beach will cease his interjections.

**Mr MILES:** If the Leader of the Opposition had been listening to my contribution earlier, he would have heard my announcement that the government will support amending the laws to allow reporters into courtrooms where appropriate.

**Mr Crisafulli:** We've got the amendments. We're ready.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock.

**Mr MILES:** I welcome his support for my announcement.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, I will as always allow additional opportunities for you, given the position you hold. However, when I am actually hearing the Premier making a contribution which is being directly relevant to the question and apparently, according to the Premier's contribution, agreeing with the opposition, I do have some issue with the interjection. I ask members to please allow me and Hansard to hear the responses from ministers when they are trying to be directly relevant to the question.

**Mr MILES:** I will repeat what I said in case the Leader of the Opposition was not listening again. I announced this morning that the government would introduce laws to allow reporters into courtrooms where that is appropriate, and we will go further—to allow victims' families to go to court as well. We believe that that kind of transparency and scrutiny is important and appropriate. That is what you will

get with this government. We are a government that will listen and will act—in this case, to support victims and to provide greater media scrutiny of what is happening in our children's courts and in our magistrates courts. We will, though, make sure we get it right, so there will be a process of consultation.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr Powell** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Comments will be directed through the chair or members will be warned. Member for Glass House, I ask that you cease your interjections.

**Mr MILES:** We will do so in an appropriate, deliberative fashion. We will consult with stakeholders. We will ensure a parliamentary committee scrutinises the legislation that we propose and then we will allow a full debate here in the parliament, where the Leader of the Opposition and all of his colleagues will have ample opportunity to look at what we are proposing and to contribute to that debate. That is exactly the kind of action that we on this side intend to take. We will listen to Queenslanders and we will act on what they say to us. We are demonstrating that we will listen to the police and act on what they tell us. With this announcement today, I have indicated that we have listened to the media and we have listened to victims, and we will make sure they have greater access to the courts.

### Homes for Queenslanders

**Mr SMITH:** My question is of the Premier. Could the Premier please update the House on the Miles government's Homes for Queenslanders plan and how it will support Queenslanders, including those in the Bundaberg community, and is the Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

**Mr MILES:** I thank the member for Bundaberg for his question. I know that housing and particularly crisis services for homeless people is a true passion for the member of Bundaberg. He has met with and visited with homeless folk and people experiencing housing stress in the Bundaberg community. I know because he has called me from there to talk about those experiences. As I have indicated, I have done that, too, and it does affect you, talking to people sleeping rough. I know the housing minister was as stoked as I was when we found out that Munya, one of the men sleeping in a tent in Musgrave Park who we met that day, is now in a social home in Annerley. He has promised to invite us to the house-warming, but I do not think we have seen the invitation yet. That is the kind of difference a government can make, the kind of difference a Labor government can make. Housing sits at the core of our values.

We believe in opportunity. There can be no opportunity without housing. Housing is a fundamental need and that is why our government has delivered the Homes for Queenslanders plan, a comprehensive plan backed by \$3.1 billion worth of investment. It will deliver for Queenslanders, no matter where they live in our great state, including those who live in the Wide Bay region where the member for Bundaberg is from. It will support industry to build more homes faster, including subsidising the cost of their infrastructure charges where we need to see development of affordable and social housing, close to public transport. It also includes a trial of ground leases to see if taking out the land component of the cost of construction can allow industry to deliver more affordable and social housing.

The plan has support for renters because we know renters are doing it tough. It includes a ban on rent bidding and a code of conduct for property managers. It will support more people to buy their first home, including the First Home Owner Grant, which we doubled to \$30,000, and our legislation to support the Australian government's Help to Buy scheme—a scheme currently being held hostage by the LNP and the Greens political party that, for some reason, do not want to help Australians to buy their own home. The Homes for Queenslanders plan delivers all five pillars to support Queenslanders into housing.

### Youth Crime

**Mr BLEIJIE:** My question is to the Premier. Since the Labor government changed criminal laws in 2015-16, serious repeat youth offenders have doubled, car theft has jumped 116 per cent and break-ins have risen by 54 per cent. Why did the Premier vote to change criminal laws in 2015-16?

**Mr MILES:** I have addressed this at length in two ministerial statements and the two prior questions from the Leader of the Opposition, but I am more than happy to talk more about our efforts to keep the community safe.

**Opposition members** interjected.



**Mr MILES:** Hang on! The member's question goes to my voting record, and I think that is interesting because at the start of this term, the Katter's Australian Party moved an amendment that would have removed detention as a last resort, and the LNP, including the member for Kawana, voted against it. If you want to talk about voting records, the very change they now say is necessary—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr MILES:** I can only presume you did that because you agree that in the first instance we should try to prevent crime; where low-level offending occurs, we intervene to give young Queenslanders the best chance in life and to support them to break the cycle of reoffending; and where we have to, in order to keep Queenslanders safe, we will detain violent and repeat offenders, and we will make sure we have laws to ensure it happens. That is borne out in the data which is that there is a record number of young offenders in detention right now—more than anywhere else in the country—precisely because our tough laws result in less bail and in more custodial sentences, which was the intention.

We will not adopt mandatory detention as those opposite propose which would see thousands of low-level offenders exposed to hardened criminals and gangs, when we know, as the evidence tells us and as the experts tell us, that the best thing for those first offenders is intervention programs. Detention will always be part of our community safety kitbag. We will always need it for those people who we need to deliver intensive programs to. However, we will always deliver, in the first instance, prevention; in the second instance, intervention; and where we need to, detention.

### Home Ownership

**Mr HARPER:** My question is of the Deputy Premier and Treasurer. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on how the Miles Labor government is helping Queenslanders get into their own home, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Thuringowa for his question. As all members of the House know, for decades owning your own home has been part of the Queensland dream. That is why we are putting cash on the table to make that dream a reality. It is why we have doubled the First Home Owner Grant to be the biggest in the country at \$30,000 to support new builds. Importantly, because this grant supports new builds, it does not bid up the price of existing stock. That is why it has been welcomed by stakeholders, like the Master Builders Association.

In places like Townsville, the members for Thuringowa, Mundingburra and Townsville will be pleased to hear the median price of a new house and land package is \$428,000. That now makes Townsville the most popular destination for first home buyers in Queensland, with twice as many Townsville first home buyers getting the concession compared to a decade ago when the Leader of the Opposition cut and run and abandoned that city.

Speaking of the member for Broadwater, 'What is his plan?', I am asked by the member of Thuringowa. Do not look to the 'right-wing priorities for Queensland'—not one dollar in that pamphlet will be going around Queensland. You can ask Alan. The poor old member for Toowoomba South was sent out to talk about stamp duty. What a great day that was! At 8.30 in the morning, the member for Toowoomba South went out there and spoke the eternal, immortal words, 'We'll consider,' on raising the threshold for the exemption for first home buyers. By lunchtime, in the immortal words of the Leader of the Opposition, 'By jingo, by jolly, by crikey'—the immortal words—'the threshold will be raised.' To what? Nobody knows. How much is it going to cost? Nobody knows.

How will they pay for it? I will answer that question. They will pay for it the way the LNP always pays for it: by cuts. They know it, of course. That is exactly what happened the last time David Crisafulli was in government. They cut stamp duty and blew a massive hole in the budget. You all know, including the member for Surfers Paradise and the rest of them.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Deputy Premier, you need to refer to members by their correct titles and you need to ensure your comments are being directed through the chair.

**Mr DICK:** All of the members opposite, including the member for Surfers Paradise, know what happened. They blew a hole in the budget and 14,000 people paid for it with their jobs. That is what they do. Under the LNP people will be worse off, because the price of homes will be bid up by their policy. That is the consequence of what they will do when there is a supply-side challenge in Queensland. The only way Queenslanders can be protected from LNP cuts is to vote Labor. That is their plan: if you shred the revenue base of the state and do not increase debt, it leaves you with one choice, and that is to cut. The only way that Queenslanders can be saved from Crisafulli's cuts is to vote Labor.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I remind members again that members' correct titles are to be used in the House.

### Youth Crime

**Mrs GERBER:** My question is to the Premier. In December 2015 when introducing the government's changes to the Youth Justice Act, the Attorney-General said that a 'penalty that allows for the person to remain in the community is preferable'. Given that the rate of serious repeat offenders has doubled, does the Premier now acknowledge that this was a bad policy?

**Mr MILES:** I thank the member for Currumbin for her question. It provides me another opportunity to highlight the efforts we are making to deliver the laws and the resources that the police tell us they need to keep our community safe. We will continue to back them. We will continue to implement the tools and the resources that they tell us they need. This includes having hundreds more police on the beat. There would be a thousand fewer police in the community if those opposite had their way. There would be a thousand fewer blue uniforms in police cars patrolling our streets, making sure Queenslanders are safe, checking on offenders who are on bail and checking on people who need assistance. Our record is more police—a thousand more than there would be if those opposite had their way.

**Mr POWELL:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b). The question was not about police numbers; it was about offenders remaining in the community and whether the Premier would acknowledge that that was a bad policy decision.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I have been listening. I believe that the Premier is being relevant, but coming back to the core of the question would be appreciated.

**Mr MILES:** The additional police we have delivered is just one component of our comprehensive response. We are doing so much more, and I am happy to outline to the House what else we are doing. The first funding decision this government made was to give Townsville its own police helicopter. I am told that the helicopter is making a huge difference to community safety in Townsville. We are building two new youth detention centres as well as a new remand centre so that we can use those tough laws to detain offenders who are not safe in the community. We are cracking down on knife crime, as members heard me outline in some detail.

**Mr POWELL:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b). The question was about whether the Premier acknowledged that the decision made in 2015 was bad policy.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Whilst it is not directed at a member, the question is still insinuating that a policy is bad. That is possible to debate in some senses; however, there were also several parts to that question and a broad theme which I believe the Premier is being relevant to. I am listening carefully. I do not wish to have members interrupted, unless points of order are directly relevant. I have already ruled thus far. The Premier has 52 seconds remaining.

**Mr MILES:** We are ensuring the presumption against bail for young people does not apply for those who commit serious indictable offences. That is resulting in fewer offenders getting bail and more offenders on remand. Again, this is borne out by the statistics. We are deploying a new specialist youth crime rapid response squad to hotspots as a part of Taskforce Guardian, and they are doing a great job. I acknowledge the Minister for Community Safety. We are expanding the youth co-responder teams. They do a really good and important job, and we want to support them to keep doing more. One of the ways we can support them is to make sure their time is used as efficiently as possible. That is why we will consider the expansion of electronic monitoring. I am more than happy to spend all day every day talking about our approach.

*(Time expired)*

### Housing, Land Supply

**Mr HUNT:** My question is of the Minister for State Development and Infrastructure. Can the minister provide an update to the House on how the Miles government is unlocking land to support the delivery of housing in Queensland, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

**Ms GRACE:** I thank the member for Caloundra for his question, because he knows that houses are being delivered with the unlocking of the PDA in Caloundra South. The number of houses that are being delivered in his area is a testament to those policies. He knows the importance of the Miles government's Homes for Queenslanders plan and its record investment in this area. Underpinning our record, as the Treasurer recently said, is our \$3.1 billion spend. We will build more houses faster and provide a vital contribution to the state's social housing.

An area in my department that is doing a lot of heavy lifting is Economic Development Queensland. We are unlocking residential development through priority development areas. The member for Caloundra knows that, as we have done in Caloundra South, we are looking at eventually providing 20,000 additional homes. Since 2020, more than 3,600 homes have already been delivered. In Logan, more than 4,500 homes have been delivered across Yarrabilba and the Greater Flagstone PDA. Whether it is for Townsville, Mackay, Caloundra or the Gold Coast, the Miles Labor government is working with local government and developers to deliver a diverse range of new affordable and social housing for Queensland.

The member also asked about alternative policies. I will say one thing: we will not be lectured to by those opposite about housing policies. It is interesting that suddenly it is very politically convenient to be in favour of social housing. They wanted to go back to the future in their questioning earlier today. Let me go 'back to the future' about what the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Everton did when they were in government. They had no compassion for people in social housing—none whatsoever. In fact, I have never witnessed residents in my electorate more upset than they were by the social housing policies of those opposite.

**Mr Mander:** They love me.

**Ms GRACE:** I will take that interjection. Come in, spinner!

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Everton!

**Ms GRACE:** They are as delusional today as they were then. They certainly did not love you, member for Everton—far from it.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for McConnel, you will address members by their correct titles.

**Ms GRACE:** How did they think they were going to deliver more housing when they were in government? It went down by 428. They cut the housing construction program by 90 per cent and they cut—

**Mr Mander** interjected.

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

**Ms GRACE:**—QBuild workers by 1,600. That is what they did. That is why we had to rebuild after the mess they left us when we won government in 2015. Those opposite should not come in here lecturing us on this side of the House, with the policy and the record that they had.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Everton, I need to explain your warning. Your warning is based on the fact that I did ask you to cease your interjections. Whilst I appreciate that you were being provoked, unfortunately you will need to heed the warning. I apologise to members if they are not able to hear me as well as they otherwise would today. I hope you can understand that we have to work with the audio system as it is currently working.

### Youth Crime

**Mr NICHOLLS:** You will appreciate that I did not hear that warning that you gave me 10 minutes ago. My question is to the Premier. In April 2016 when introducing the government's changes to the Youth Justice Act, the Attorney said, 'Evidence clearly shows that increasing the severity of punishment does not reduce offending nor does it reduce reoffending.' Since then the number of serious repeat youth offenders has doubled, car theft has jumped 116 per cent and break-ins have increased 54 per cent. Given this evidence, why did the Premier decide to reappoint the Attorney-General?

**Mr MILES:** I thank the member for Clayfield for his question because it provides me yet another opportunity to outline to the House all of the steps that we are taking to keep Queenslanders safe, all informed by evidence, by experts and by our police. We will not apologise for doing that. We will not apologise for delivering those laws and enforcing those laws because it is all inspired by a desire to keep Queenslanders safe and make sure Queenslanders feel safe. It is why we are exploring the expansion of electronic monitoring so that those co-responder teams can use their time to intervene deeply to help young people to break the cycle of offending, to give them strategies to avoid the gangs that are corrupting their opportunity. That is the kind of evidence informed intervention that we on this side of the House support.

All of our policies are designed, first, to support police to prevent crime; and, second, to have comprehensive programs designed to intervene early in the cycle of offending so young people get the best chance in life and do not go on to reoffend and do not escalate into more violent offences. However,

where they do, we make no apologies for the fact that there are now more young people in detention than ever before precisely because we have those strong laws that mean fewer violent offenders are getting bail.

**Mr POWELL:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118(b). Whilst I acknowledge there was a level of preamble to establish the question, the question was simply: given this evidence, why did the Premier decide to reappoint the Attorney-General?

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will be very simple and clear with my ruling here. Whilst the last part of the question may appear to be simple, the preamble entitles the member on their feet to respond to all that has been asked, including the preamble.

**Mr MILES:** We are progressing a fast-tracked sentencing trial so that young people spend less time on bail or remand, so that more of the time they spend in detention is on sentence, so that we can deliver more programs, so that we can have more success intervening in that cycle of reoffending. We are expanding our use of intensive case management, proven by the evidence to be effective at breaking the cycle of reoffending, because we think it makes sense to prevent crime first. We think it makes sense to intervene before offenders become more violent. We think it makes sense to use detention where we have to in order to keep the community safe and that is what we will continue doing.

### Homes for Queenslanders

**Mr TANTARI:** My question is of the Minister for Housing. Can the Minister for Housing update Queensland and, in particular, my electorate of Hervey Bay on the Miles government's Homes for Queenslanders plan, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

**Ms SCANLON:** I thank the member for Hervey Bay for the question. I know he has been a strong advocate for housing in his community. I was very pleased to share with him when we launched the Homes for Queenslanders plan that we will be doubling the number of youth foyers we have in Queensland, and one of those will be in Hervey Bay. These are places for 16- to 25-year-olds who are at risk of homelessness to have that wraparound support as well as a roof over their head, something our Labor government is very proud of. I joined the members in Townsville to make that announcement where one of those projects is under construction right now. We are doing this because we know that it is a model that works and it was backed in by the Foyer Foundation CEO, Liz Cameron-Smith, who said, 'This is an extremely exciting day for young people across Queensland who are experiencing homelessness.'

This is one of many measures in our Homes for Queenslanders plan. It is a big plan with big investment to deliver our Big Build and it has been backed in by organisations like QCOS, Q Shelter, the Property Council of Australia and even organisations in New South Wales. All of those votes of confidence do not mean much for those on the opposite side because it had only been a day since we launched this new plan before they said it was effectively too much. My question for the member for Everton is: what exactly in the plan is too much? Is it the 53,500 social homes that is too much? Is it the 20 per cent uplift for specialist homelessness service funding that is too much?

**Ms Fentiman:** They cut all of that funding.

**Ms SCANLON:** I take the health minister's interjection. They cut that funding. Was it the doubling of the First Home Owner Grant that was too much? Was it the direct relief for renters that was too much, or was it the youth foyers that is too much for people in Hervey Bay?

We know when they say it is too much that that is code for cuts. We know that because that is exactly what they did last time. In fact, the Leader of the Opposition, in deciding who was going to be on the front bench—he does not have a lot to choose from—made the conscious decision to appoint the member for Everton to be their housing spokesperson. This is a man who sent social housing backwards by 428 homes. He cut the social housing construction budget by 90 per cent and he has just told us that social housing tenants love him. That demonstrates for me that he has learnt nothing. He is waving and laughing over there. This is the man who cut 1,600 QBuild jobs and he still thinks it is funny. The Leader of the Opposition was at the cabinet table at the time. He, too, made those decisions. The sector has put out a call to the LNP: match this plan or tell us what your plan is, and they have remained silent. The only way to deliver homes for Queenslanders is by electing a Labor government—

*(Time expired)*

### Health System, Data Reporting

**Ms BATES:** My question is to the Premier. An RTI obtained by the opposition revealed Queensland Health removed historical comparisons of hospital data in a bid to change the narrative of the Queensland health crisis. Why is the Labor government trying to fix the narrative instead of using all their resources to fix the health crisis?

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I refer to rulings that you have given that questions should not be phrased so as to state as fact that which, in fact, cannot be fact, otherwise by assumption or supposition. I would ask you to seek that the member is able to authenticate the comments that they rely upon.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, Leader of the House. In terms of the question asked, member for Mudgeeraba, it does appear that you have made reference to a piece of evidence in terms of an RTI document but then have editorialised a little around what you believe that says. You need to rephrase the question with the same intent in which you asked it and I will consider the new question.

**Ms BATES:** Why is the Labor government trying to change the narrative according to the RTI, which I table for the benefit of the House, instead of using resources to fix the current health crisis?

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Queensland Health Public Reporting: Horizon 1—Summary of Changes' [\[161\]](#).

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will allow the question but, Premier, you have some latitude.

**Mr MILES:** I thank the member for Mudgeeraba for her question. Queensland has a brand new government but we are stuck with the same old opposition—the same old opposition coming in here calling our health workers duds—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, the volume of interjection was extremely high but worse was the amount of gesticulating and finger pointing across the chamber. That will cease.

**Mr MILES:**—the same old tired, whiny opposition coming in here, slippery with the facts, making stuff up, bagging our health system and our health workers.

I will clarify why the member for Mudgeeraba was unable to verify her question. It is because she made it up. The fact is that on Saturday the health minister released more data than ever before. On Saturday the health minister provided more transparent data about the performance of our fantastic health system and our incredible health workers than ever before. In fact, for the first time she outlined the very impressive performance of our satellite hospitals and just how many Queenslanders had received world-class care closer to home with free parking at our fantastic satellite hospitals.

The health minister advised me that she also released additional data on things like ambulance response times. We have the best performing ambulance system in the country, despite the fact that it is free; it is not in most of the other states. She released additional data about the number of long-stay patients in our hospitals. She released monthly patient-off-stretcher-time data, which is really important. She produced data about tier 3 escalations, comparisons of how we perform compared to other states and, as I said, data about our satellite hospital presentations. Again I say that the reason the member for Mudgeeraba could not verify her question is that it was entirely misleading. It was entirely misleading, but that is all that we expect from this tired old opposition.

### Homes for Queenslanders

**Ms RICHARDS:** My question is of the Minister for Housing. Can the minister provide an update to the people of Redlands and Queensland on how the Miles government's Homes for Queenslanders plan will boost Queensland's social housing big build, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

**Ms SCANLON:** I thank the member for Redlands for the question. She is a big advocate for housing in her community, and I was so pleased that we were recently able to secure a former retirement village in the Redlands that will particularly help vulnerable older Queenslanders. That is 28 units that we have been able to turn into social homes to help vulnerable people in her community. Of course, it is one of many measures as part of our Homes for Queenslanders plan to deliver thousands and thousands of public and community homes right across this state, including in the Redlands. I should acknowledge that that is managed by Mangrove Housing, a wonderful community housing provider.

We will be working very closely with community housing providers here in Queensland to grow their portfolio—and we have a whole section in the housing plan about that—but we will also be growing public housing. I know that that triggers those in the opposition because the Leader of the Opposition has a long history of opposing public housing in Queensland, so much so that he personally campaigned against public housing when he was the deputy mayor of Townsville. I table a copy of the *Townsville Bulletin* for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Townsville Bulletin*, dated 5 May 2012, titled 'Public housing plans ditched' [162].

Apparently there were too many homes for him. Then as a minister in the Newman government he claimed the win when plans for that project were scrapped. That is his record. He does not care about public housing, and he has shown that time and time again. Where was he late last year when the LNP was blocking investment in delivering social housing? He was nowhere. Where was he when his hand-picked candidate for Oodgeroo said—

Labor talks a lot about social ... and affordable housing. That should always ring alarm bells ...

The fact is that he said nothing because he shares their views. He has never supported public housing, and he never will.

It is only a Labor government that will deliver both public and community housing in this state because it is only a Labor government that has done that. Those opposite use data that is incorrect at every opportunity. I want to make it very clear: only our government has increased both public and community housing, and we will continue to do that. The only risk to delivering Homes for Queenslanders is electing the man who cut social housing last time and campaigned against it. The Leader of the Opposition was around the cabinet table when they made those decisions. He appointed the very same man to the housing portfolio to do it all again. Only our government has increased social housing in this state by thousands and only the LNP will cut it.

### Health System, Data Reporting

**Mr MICKELBERG:** My question is to the Premier. In May, in response to a question about health data the health minister told parliament that there were no plans to change how these measures are reported. New documents obtained under RTI show that less than two months later the Labor government launched a plan to change how these hospital and health performance measures were reported. What action will the Premier take, given the health minister's decision to remove historical data which was previously released?

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I raised a point of order just a moment ago about the ability of the member to authenticate their assumption or proposition that there is an RTI that demonstrates—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my left, I want to hear the point of order.

**Mr de BRENNI:** The point of order I raised a moment ago is the same as this point of order—that is, members should be able to authenticate the data on which they are relying. They are saying that there is an RTI that demonstrates that data has been removed. The paper that was tabled by the member for Mudgeeraba had nothing to do with the data—

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Mudgeeraba, you will cease your interjections. I need to hear the point of order and I will rule on it accordingly. It is not a time to debate the question.

**Mr de BRENNI:** The paper that was tabled a moment ago did not pertain to health data and I would ask the member currently asking the question if they could authenticate the RTI or whatever other evidence they are relying on for the context of their question.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the House, I appreciate the explanation. It would be helpful if you could get to the point a little more quickly to—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, members to my left. I do not need juvenile behaviour in the chamber. I am giving some guidance to the Leader of the House in that during question time time is at a premium, and I think all members of the House appreciate that. Member for Buderim?

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I will table the document which authenticates my question. It explicitly states that data will be displayed from December 2020 only; it explicitly states that we will remove the historical graphs tab; and it explicitly states that the intent is to review the existing narrative. I table that document.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Queensland Health Public Reporting: Horizon 1—Summary of Changes' [163].

**Mr SPEAKER:** No, member for Buderim. In calling you, I was giving you an opportunity to rephrase the question, not to explain yourself or authenticate.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Mr Speaker, I was asked to authenticate. I am authenticating my statement.

**Mr SPEAKER:** No, you were not asked to authenticate by me.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, members to my right. Member, I appreciate the misunderstanding, but the Leader of the House has made a point of order. I have considered that. I have not asked you to authenticate. I am yet to try and rule on the question. My ruling on the question is that I will allow the question as asked, but I will allow the Premier latitude in terms of the way he responds.

**Ms McMILLAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I ask you to rule on standing order 236 around repetition and the previous question.

**Mr SPEAKER:** No. You can please resume your seat, member.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Kawana. I have given you a good run today. You are warned under the standing orders. When I am giving rulings and we are trying to make sure the next question is asked, it is not suitable for the House for any of those things to occur.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, you are warned under the standing orders. Are there any other members who would like to interject so it makes it easier for me to compile a list? Premier, you have the call.

**Mr MILES:** I thank the member for his question, but, again, this old, tired opposition is up to the same old tricks. The RTI—

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Mudgeeraba!

**Mr MILES:** The RTI that the member has referred to incorporates a single page from a PowerPoint presentation where there is one dot point that the member quoted which is 'remove historical graphs tab'. That is because, rather than have the historical graphs on a tab, the historical graphs have been integrated into the data on the rest of the page.

However, what more would you expect from this tired lazy opposition? They might be slick. They might have their carefully crafted lines and their grab for the news each night, but they are not smart. If they were, they would have noted the 160 separate links of historical performance data that are included and all of the historical performance data that we have always included. I am happy to table those so that the House has some accurate documents that actually relate to the debate that we are having here in question time rather than the made-up claims that we have heard from the member for Mudgeeraba, the shortest serving former minister in this place.

*Tabled paper:* Extract from Queensland Health Open Data Portal, undated, titled 'Elective surgery—Performance data pre October 2020' [164].

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Members to my right, I am having difficulty hearing the Premier. You may well be in support of the words that he is giving to the House but I cannot hear his contribution, and that is paramount.

**Mr MILES:** As I have indicated, on Saturday our health minister held a press conference at which she released more data than ever and here we have the LNP criticising us for that. Somehow they are criticising us for being more transparent about our hospitals. Somehow they are criticising us for providing Queenslanders with more information about their local hospital and health service and all of

the fantastic services they are delivering. Instead of coming in here and asking a question about the record number of elective surgeries or the massive reduction in long waits that were in that data, we have tricky old Mudgeeraba opposite twisting the truth to try to make claims that are completely without foundation and, in the process, she has set up poor old Buderim. We cannot blame him. He just tried to read it out. The member for Mudgeeraba, this tired old health spokesperson—

*(Time expired)*

**Ms Bates** interjected.

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

### Youth Crime

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** My question is to the Deputy Premier. Earlier in question time, the Leader of the Opposition referred to the previous government's approach to youth crime. Could the Deputy Premier please update the House on how the Miles Labor government is investing in justice and how that compares to the approach of the previous government?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Sandgate for his question. The truth of the matter is that when it comes to community safety the Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and their front bench should be ashamed of their conduct. That is the truth. They choose their words carefully in the LNP and the Leader of the Opposition chooses his words carefully, but every Queenslander knows this: the Leader of the Opposition, the deputy leader and all members of the LNP seek to make political mileage out of the most serious events and circumstances facing Queenslanders. It is politics; it is not policy. I will tell you why the Leader of the Opposition does not want to talk about policy. It is because he will have to reveal the truth to Queenslanders.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the Deputy Premier's comments where he alleges every member of the LNP seeks to take political advantage. I take personal offence at that and ask for it to be withdrawn.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, it has been long understood that members must be personally and directly offended as opposed to collectively offended. That can include someone referring to the term of the opposition, the government or a particular political party or grouping. There is no point of order.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** On that point of order, the Deputy Premier said 'every member'. I seek clarity that your ruling constitutes 'every member' as you have just explained.

**Mr SPEAKER:** It does, member. That has been the difficulty between independent or individual members and a collective. I hope that is clear for the House.

**Mr DICK:** The policies of the Leader of the Opposition will make things worse for Queensland because he will cut. Let us look at the history, as I was asked by the member for Sandgate about the history. When the LNP leader was a senior minister in the Newman government and the member for Clayfield was the treasurer of Queensland, they both cut, along with their government, police numbers. They sacked 110 senior commissioned officers and 212 non-commissioned officers.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I do take offence at what the Deputy Premier is saying. It is untrue and I take offence at it. I ask that he withdraw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, member. Deputy Premier—

**Mr DICK:** I withdraw, Speaker. The LNP cut training at the Townsville police academy in what was then the backyard of the Leader of the Opposition. The LNP leader reduced firearms training. The LNP leader cut Police Beat hours. The LNP leader cut funding for police helicopters. He even cut training at the Townsville police academy, in the city that he represented in the parliament. That is their history. The member for Clayfield was responsible for the biggest public sector cuts in Queensland. That is the truth. They all did it and they all revelled in it.

I say this to every member of the House: the LNP were not tough on crime; they were tough on police and frontline workers because they sacked them. That is who they are tough on. On and on it goes: 510 jobs cut from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and \$70 million cut from courts and court services. They cut the Murri Court, the Special Circumstances Court and the drug court. That is what they do when they get the chance to get hold of the justice system in this state. That does not keep people safe. That puts people at risk. That is their legacy.



I say to the Leader of the Opposition: stop the politics and let us get on to some real policy with some real solutions, but he is not worried about that. So supremely arrogant is the Leader of the Opposition that you can now buy a ticket to have lunch with the Leader of the Opposition and the invitation states, 'This is an ideal opportunity for people who want to meet David Crisafulli, Queensland Premier (elect)'. If that does not speak to arrogance then nothing will. I table that.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Lunch with David Crisafulli, MLA, Leader of the Opposition' [165].

### Youth Crime, Relocation Sentencing

**Mr DAMETTO:** My question is to the Premier. Katter's Australian Party's relocation sentencing policy has gained the support of the Townsville, Mareeba and Cairns city councils yet the state government has failed to adopt this practical solution to youth crime. Now that the government has an open chequebook policy, will the Premier commit to trialling relocation sentencing?

**Mr MILES:** I thank the member for Hinchinbrook for his question and for his interest in our community safety policies. I have spoken with him about them many times. Last year I was pleased to meet with him and other members of the Katter's Australian Party to hear their ideas about community safety and, particularly, youth crime. I took the written proposal that they provided to me and fed it into our internal systems of government to consider initiatives.

While I am not yet in a position to make an announcement, I would like the opportunity to brief the member for Hinchinbrook and any other members of Katter's Australian Party on what our plans are. I am hoping to be in Townsville next week and might have an opportunity to say more about the kinds of programs that we want to support. They will go to the objectives that the member for Hinchinbrook has outlined in the KAP's relocation sentencing program.

We have certainly taken that contribution on board. It has informed a program that we are in the process of putting the finishing touches on because we have heard from not only the Katter's Australian Party but also elders, community leaders and others that they believe they can deliver better on-country programs that can help young people to connect to country and to change the context that is causing their offending, to take them away from the triggers of that offending and to give them intensive supports to break that cycle. I understand that is what the member is seeking and certainly it is what we are seeking. As I say, it is something that we have done a lot of work on. I would welcome the chance to take you through what we are intending to propose.

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

**Mr MILES:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I certainly take the opportunity to take the member for Hinchinbrook through what we propose. I hope to be able to talk to the Townsville community about how it might roll out for them in the not-too-distant future. I thank the member for Hinchinbrook again for his question.

### Cost of Living

**Mr SKELTON:** I am sorry, Premier, that you have just sat down, but my question is for you.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, I will ask you to ensure you are following the standing orders in asking questions.

**Mr SKELTON:** My question is of the Premier. Can the Premier update Queenslanders and my community of Nicklin about how the Miles government is tackling cost-of-living pressures, and is the Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, you have two minutes to respond.

**Mr MILES:** I thank the member for Nicklin for his question. He never needs to apologise for getting me on my feet again. I always welcome the opportunity to take a question from the member for Nicklin, because he always asks such excellent questions that go to the core of the concerns of Queenslanders—Queenslanders in Labor heartland such as Nicklin. I know that the member for Nicklin is doing a great job representing them and conveying to us their concerns so that we can respond.

We understand the pressures families are under right now. It feels as though the cost of everything just keeps going up and going up faster than their wages do, leaving less for people to buy essentials for their families and less for food, which is also going up in price. That is why the first thing we did as a government was to freeze rego and public transport costs—a demonstration that we understand how important addressing the cost of living is. We have more than \$8 billion of concessions, all targeted at helping Queenslanders to make ends meet. We delivered a \$550 energy bill rebate,

meaning Queenslanders had the lowest electricity bills in the country. Seniors had \$1,072 off their bills. That is not all: we have made kindy free and we are making TAFE free. We have said—I know that the Treasurer is working hard on this—that this year's budget will be all about the cost of living so that we can direct all of the resources of government to make the lives of Queenslanders living in places such as Nicklin just a little bit better.

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

## MOTION

### Business Program



**Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.12 am): I move—

1. That the following business will be considered this sitting week, with the nominated maximum periods of time as specified:
  - (a) the Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, a maximum of 5 hours;
  - (b) the Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, a maximum of 4 hours;
  - (c) a government motion for the amendment of sessional orders, a maximum of 20 minutes;
  - (d) the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, to complete all stages by 5.55 pm on Thursday, 15 February 2024.
2. The following time limits for the bills listed in 1. apply:
  - (a) the minister to be called on in reply:
    - (i) for the Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, 30 minutes before the expiry of the maximum hours for that bill;
    - (ii) for the Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, 30 minutes before the expiry of the maximum hours for that bill; and
    - (iii) for the Integrity and Other Legislation amendment Bill by 5.30 pm on Thursday, 15 February 2024
3. If all stages of the bills listed in 1. have not been completed by the specified times in 2. respectively, Mr Speaker:
  - (a) shall call on a minister to table any explanatory notes to their circulated amendments, any statement of compatibility with human rights or any statement relating to an override declaration
  - (b) shall put all remaining questions necessary to either pass that stage or pass the bill without further debate
  - (c) may interrupt non-specified business or debate on a bill or motion to complete the requirements of the motion
  - (d) will complete all stages required by this motion notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders.

I take the opportunity provided by my first formal occasion to speak in this chamber this year to congratulate the member for Murrumba on his elevation to the office of Premier of Queensland. I thank him for putting his faith in me by appointing me as the Leader of the House. It is indeed an honour to serve in this the people's house.

I know that the Premier is a man of integrity. He is a Queenslanders who brings wisdom and deep thought to this place. He has a proven track record of putting the people of Queensland first. He has a proven track record of putting Queenslanders at the centre of every decision he makes. That is what members and the people of Queensland will see from this government in this chamber in the debate on the bills and motions before us. They will see legislation introduced by the Miles government that will support Queenslanders in the communities in which they live and work. They will see policy debates and ideas put forward by the Miles Labor government which are developed through thought, which are well researched and which will benefit them and benefit all Queenslanders no matter where they live. We will not do this in isolation. The Miles government will continue to build on the strong foundation left by successive Palaszczuk Labor governments. I take this opportunity to acknowledge former premier Annastacia Palaszczuk for her achievements and her long dedication to the people of this state.


I know that I am only the 16th Leader of the House out of 1,173 members who have walked through the doors of this chamber. I understand full well the privilege that it is to be in this seat. In reflecting upon that, I take the opportunity to thank and acknowledge the former leader of the House, the Attorney-General, for her work across over 2,250 days, through a pandemic and in delivering two successful regional parliaments, as we heard earlier today. I know that I have big shoes to fill in following the Attorney-General and also the member for Sandgate. We acknowledge his service as leader of the House to the people of Queensland and to this parliament.

I also wish to thank the Clerk of the Parliament and his staff, in particular the staff from Property Services. The Property Services staff have worked incredibly hard over the past few weeks, moving furniture and ensuring new office spaces were established for members of this House. We all know and appreciate that this was a big task. The government appreciates the work of the parliament and ministerial services.

I thank the members of the Business Committee for their contributions during last night's interesting meeting. We welcomed the member for Logan and congratulate him on being the Premier's alternate to sit on the committee.

Turning to the business before the House this week, the motion before us is quite straightforward. It sets the time for pieces of legislation and a motion regarding some enhancements to sessional orders. This week we will debate: the Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, with an allocation of five hours; the Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, which has been allocated four hours; and the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, which has been allocated the remainder of the week, noting that Appropriation Bill (No. 2) may commence if time permits. Minister in reply and consideration in detail times have been factored into those time frames.

In addition to the usual matters of a parliament week such as matters of public interest and private members' statements, we will have a condolence motion on Thursday for the late Neville Harper. While I will not now debate the enhanced sessional orders, a proposal is to dispense with this particular debate and just have the motion put. Putting this motion without debate will still allow members to have their voices heard on the setting of the time, but it will save at least 20 minutes a week—if not more—to be allocated for what this House ought to be doing, that is, debating legislation.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (11.17 am): Unlike the Leader of the House, I rise to address the business program motion. It is interesting: in the five-minute contribution of the new Leader of the House we had 3½ minutes of his inauguration speech. It really did sound like he was accepting the nomination for a presidential candidacy rather than addressing the business program motion. I would like to think that with a change in leader of the House there might have been a change in how we consider the business of the House.

**Mr Janetzki:** Was there? What has the change been?

**Mr POWELL:** There was a change, member for Toowoomba South. Was it for the better? No. I think the member for Noosa will agree with me that, in our time as representatives of the opposition and the crossbench on the Business Committee, that was the worst meeting that has ever been held. It pains me to say this, but I almost miss the member for Redcliffe as the leader of the House. At least when the member for Redcliffe was the leader of the House there could be some discussion around maybe a half-hour here or a half-hour there, but what we are reading in this motion is exactly as was put to the members of the Business Committee last night—no debate entered into and no consideration given.

No-one is going to dispute that the Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill are not important bills. No-one is going to dispute that. Members should have the opportunity to speak on those bills. However, when that is followed by the Integrity and Other legislation Amendment Bill then we know that the other side is trying to limit debate on one of the most important pieces of legislation this House will consider in this session. It is fair to say—I will not speak for the crossbench; I will let the member for Noosa do that—that the members of the opposition were lining up to speak on that piece of legislation. How long are we going to be allocated if we are lucky? Three hours—three hours to hear from 34 members of the opposition plus the crossbench. I doubt that we will even scratch the surface.

The Leader of the House talked about the contributions to the Business Committee last night. Well, there was very little contribution other than from himself to the Business Committee meeting last night. As I said, unlike the member for Redcliffe, there was no debate entered into. There was no discussion, consultation or engagement around what we are considering today. The Leader of the House said that the Premier is putting the people of Queensland first, but they are not letting the people of Queensland's representatives in this House have their say on important legislation.


Don't let it be lost—whilst I understand that this will come up later on when we debate permanent changes to the sessional orders—that the Leader of the House has just said that even this debate will become a thing of the past. We will no longer be able to challenge the business program put forward by the Leader of the House. It will literally just be moved and determined by a vote. Not only have we had a progressive watering down of the ability of members in this chamber to contribute to debate on

legislation that matters to their constituents—and it is not just the opposition and the crossbench who feel that; I imagine that members of the government also feel that they are being guillotined, that they are not having an opportunity to have their say on important pieces of legislation—but we are not even going to get to have a say on how long we get to have a say on those pieces of legislation.

**Ms Simpson:** Double gag!

**Mr POWELL:** I take that interjection from the member for Maroochydore: it is a double gag. We do not just have a single gag; now we have a double gag. Debate will be stifled and guillotined at the whim of the Leader of the House, of the new Premier and of this tired Labor government.

It is on that note that I want to conclude. It is when you start seeing activities like this that you realise the government has stopped listening to the people of Queensland. They no longer care. They are more interested in the survival of their own political livelihoods than caring about the people of Queensland. Those of us here in the opposition will continue to stand up for Queenslanders at every opportunity, albeit limited and fewer. We will speak up about the cost-of-living crisis, the youth crime crisis, the housing crisis and the health crisis. We on this side of the House are determined to ensure that Queenslanders know we will work harder for them because those opposite have certainly given up doing so.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (11.22 am): I thank the Leader of the House for laying on the table the business program of the House. If we were speaking to any Queenslanders, they would say that it is sensible and normal for all members to understand how the business of the House will be conducted in any week. They would ask, 'Doesn't that happen in other parliaments?' That would be right. It happens in all sorts of parliaments where the Leader of the House makes clear to each member the times for the debates, how they will be structured and when they will be finalised.

Let's think about the principles of this debate. This is the first time I have risen to speak on it but I have followed this debate with interest. The principles of the debate are that we put forward a business program motion. I think that that would be supported, as I said, by every Australian and every Queenslanders and I think secretly supported by everyone in the opposition.

We used to see debate on bills drag deep into the middle of the night—1 am and sometimes 2 am. If we were to put to our constituents whether they thought it was sensible that debates, votes, amendments, and amendments to amendments were put at one or two in the morning, none of them would say that it was. No-one would think that that is reasonable. Other parliaments including, as the member for Sandgate has said repeatedly, the mother of parliaments—the Westminster parliament—have a sensible business committee that puts these things in place.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr POWER:** Those on that side who are making so much noise to show their support for sensible progress and sensible timing for the business program know that we should not be sitting until one or two in the morning. That is the alternative they suggest will happen without a Business Committee.

This business program motion makes it clear to members the timing of debates. There is ample time for debate and for all of the relevant points to be put. There are those who would read the record of previous debates and note that there is endless repetition of talking points given by opposition members. If we were to run some of the software that I used as a high school teacher to pick up plagiarism, all of the speeches from those opposite would have red flags for plagiarism because their points are endlessly repetitive.


There is more than adequate time for all members of this House who have new ideas to contribute to debate. On this side—and this is why we are universally supportive of this—if we have something to say we can approach the whip or the Leader of the House and say, 'I have something to say in this debate that is new and different and innovative and something worth saying,' and we will have the time to contribute to that debate. This endless repetition of debate that drags debates till one in the morning—that is the position that is put by some members of the opposition—is not sensible and no Queenslanders support it, and secretly no members support it.

I have to remind members that during my first term I was lucky enough to serve on the Committee of the Legislative Assembly. We looked at that very proposition. We went to Victoria to see how this worked. We saw it work and all members at that point agreed that it was a sensible thing.

**Mr Brown:** Bring back Ray!

**Mr POWER:** I was not going to mention any names, Mr Whip. All members agreed that it was a sensible process and that it was a sensible way to structure debates. Indeed, in Victoria we saw hypocritical oppositions criticise this process while they were in opposition but then when in

government, because they all secretly agreed with it and quietly agreed that it was not sensible to present to the people of Queensland debates at one or two in the morning, they decided to keep those sensible arrangements in place. It is a sensible business program motion put forward by the Leader of the House and I thank him for putting it before the House.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (11.27 am): I will be speaking against the business program motion. I have never spoken on this motion before. This has been the most disappointing start to the year. My requests on behalf of the crossbench in relation to the business program are never unreasonable. Negotiating the order of the bills or for extra or even less time so that we can get more time for other bills should always be given consideration. This is especially so when it comes to bills on integrity. Instead we saw no consideration and no negotiation of our requests. I have to ask the question: if this is the case going forward, what is the point of even having the Business Committee? What is the point of standing here and using this time in this chamber to debate the motion?

We need collaborative systems. We need to mature as a chamber. Just like the other flaws in the committee system, this one needs to be addressed around the business motion and just like question time, where again today I missed out, like I often do when I am on the speaking list—I never take my 10 minutes. I cut it in half to try to make sure others get a chance. The system is not working. We have constantly now for years asked for a review, and it has never been more essential. We can and must do a better job. Let's get the review done. Let's get all of this sorted so we can get on with the job. What is our job? It is serving Queenslanders effectively and efficiently, not wasting time, and actually working towards getting the best systems possible for them.

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

*In division—*

**Mr SPEAKER:** I have a brief statement before going through the division process. I would like to let members know that we are aware that the bells and the level of those bells within the chamber and outside still require some adjustment. We are working to find the goldilocks level, and we aim to do that over the course of this week. We appreciate your patience regarding the new system.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I should also mention that if any members have been here as long as I have—and I do not think there are many of you left anymore—under the previous arrangement sometimes the level of the bells within the chamber was quite piercing, so that is what we are aiming to get right, for the comfort of members as well as to make sure members are aware that they need to be in the chamber.

**AYES, 49:**

**ALP, 49—**Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

**NOES, 38:**

**LNP, 34—**Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

**Grn, 1—**Berkman.


**KAP, 2—**Dametto, Knuth.

**Ind, 1—**Bolton.

Resolved in the affirmative.

## CORRECTIVE SERVICES (PROMOTING SAFETY) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. N BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services) (11.35 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004, the Corrective Services Act 2006, the Corrective Services Regulation 2017, the Parole Orders (Transfer) Act 1984 and the Police Powers and

Responsibilities Act 2000 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Corrective Services (Promoting Safety) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 [166].

*Tabled paper:* Corrective Services (Promoting Safety) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, explanatory notes [167].

*Tabled paper:* Corrective Services (Promoting Safety) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights [168].

The Miles government is committed to backing victims of crime. The Corrective Services (Promoting Safety) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 strengthens support for victims and their families. It puts victims' voices first. Responding to crime and better supporting victims of crime is a priority of ours. We are always listening and always seeking to improve, and that is what this bill does. The bill will provide greater support for victims of crime and make it easier for them to register as an eligible person on the victims register to ensure they receive necessary information to plan for their safety.

The bill will also strengthen powers to respond to abuse of prisoner communication channels to crack down on prisoners seeking to inflict harm from behind bars by contacting victims, especially domestic violence victims, via the prisoner telephone system. Other amendments in the bill will help protect the community and the safety of corrective services by increasing oversight of child sex offenders and introducing an offence to possess a gel blaster on corrective services land.

The Miles government is committed to increasing support and safety for victims who are interacting with the correctional system. We have listened to victims advocacy groups and we have identified opportunities to: provide greater support for victims of crime; ensure victims receive necessary information to plan for their safety; and empower victims to engage with the parole process. Amendments will allow other agencies, such as a victim support service, to refer a victim directly for registration. This new pathway is intended to reduce retraumatisation that can occur when victims are asked to repeat their story to multiple services.

The bill also extends the criteria for those who are eligible to register; for example, enabling a person impacted by a homicide event offence to register against the offender if they return to custody or supervision. The bill also ensures that an immediate family member who may register on behalf of the deceased victim will include any equivalent First Nations family or kinship arrangement. Once a person is registered, the victims register can share prescribed information about the prisoner with the eligible person. The victims register will have discretion to share broad information about a prisoner's parole such as information about parole suspensions or cancellations. The victims register may also share information about a prisoner's immigration removal status if this is provided by Australian Border Force.

The best parole process is one where victims' voices are heard. The bill further strengthens opportunities for victims to engage with the parole process to ensure they can participate more actively and have their voices heard. Under the current process, a registered victim is entitled to make a written submission about the prisoner's parole. This bill makes it possible for the board to accept a submission in another format such as a voice or video recording. While written submissions will continue to be the norm, this amendment provides greater accessibility. Critically, this bill will ensure the Parole Board must consider any submission provided by an eligible person in its deliberations.

The Miles government understands that victims of crime have a personal story to tell, and that story needs to be heard and considered. The bill also enshrines victims and First Nations representation on the Parole Board by amending its membership requirements. It gives a greater voice to First Nations people in the parole process by requiring at least one First Nations person to be a professional board member. First Nations people are already represented within the Parole Board's community membership; however, this amendment recognises the importance of having First Nations representation on the Parole Board's professional membership in addition to its community members. As part of the Path to Treaty initiative, the Queensland government committed to ensuring First Nations people have increased representation on government boards and committees. The amendment to enshrine First Nations representation within the board's professional membership further supports these important objectives.

The Parole Board's membership requirements will also enshrine representation for victims. Victims are already able to make statements to the Parole Board. This amendment gives a person with lived experience or expertise in victims' issues the opportunity to provide context about the victim's perspective. This could also include where the board has not received a victim submission.

This bill also makes amendments to prison processes to put victim safety first. We know domestic and family violence victims can face ongoing and challenging effects after enduring physical, mental or emotional abuse. Incarceration of a perpetrator can offer a reprieve for victims, but prisoners generally have access to a telephone system while they are imprisoned. Some prisoners seek to use these systems to inflict further harm on the community and their victims from behind bars. This behaviour by offenders continues their unacceptable pattern of violence and abuse. The bill provides new powers for Queensland Corrective Services to crack down on prisoner communications being used to inflict harm. This includes strong powers to suspend or end phone calls and revoke approved contacts where prisoners are abusing the system, such as trying to breach a domestic violence order from custody.

Next, I would like to highlight amendments in the bill that will protect information provided by victims or through intelligence from being disclosed to offenders. Providing reasons for decisions is important to ensure a prisoner's right to procedural fairness. However, this right must be balanced with the need to prevent prisoners from accessing sensitive and confidential information. In particular, victim information must be protected to ensure their safety. The bill provides a clear power for decision-makers to withhold information when giving reasons.

A key way to keep the community safe is expanding police powers to provide more robust oversight of Queensland's highest risk child sex offenders. Strict monitoring of offenders with a history of child sexual offending is essential. The Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act and the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 provide police with powers to check if a reportable offender is complying with their reporting obligations, committing any offences or engaging in conduct that poses a risk to the safety or wellbeing of children. A reportable offender under the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act, who is also subject to supervision under the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act, is only required to make an initial report to police before their reporting obligations to police are suspended. The reason for this is to avoid duplication of reporting obligations to multiple agencies who can share the information.

The bill will enable the use of certain police powers in relation to reportable offenders subject to both legislative schemes. These powers will complement and enhance existing efforts by giving police the ability to enter premises, verify reported details and search devices for reportable child sex offenders being supervised under the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act. The amendments aim to enhance collaboration between police and corrective services officers and will not result in duplication of an offender's reporting requirements. They will complement Queensland Corrective Services' supervision and management of these high-risk offenders by ensuring appropriate powers are available to police.

The bill will increase the penalty for any person who enters or attempts to enter corrective services land while in possession of a restricted item, including a gel blaster. While this offence is necessary and appropriate for the general community, the possession of gel blasters on corrective services land presents unique risks to the correctional system. The bill increases the maximum penalty for the possession of gel blasters on corrective services land to two years imprisonment. This will help protect frontline corrective services officers and better align with community expectations.

There is a clear authority for frontline officers to use body worn cameras in prisons. However, in situations where officers are escorting prisoners in the community, the authority is less clear. These situations could include where a prisoner has to attend court or seek medical treatment. For the protection and safety of the community, it is vital that officers are able to use body worn cameras outside of prisons. The bill will also deter unsafe behaviour and promote accountability in the delivery of corrective services by clearly authorising the use of body worn cameras in the community.

Our correctional facilities have diverse prisoner needs. To meet these we are making improvements to enable invasive searches to be conducted in a better way. Contraband undermines the safety and security of Queensland's prisons. The Corrective Services Act enables the authorisation of different types of prisoner searches, including invasive searches. Invasive searches are critical in maintaining safety and safety of prisons and reducing the risk contraband poses to corrective services officers, visitors and prisoners. The Corrective Services Act provides safeguards for prisoners who have to undergo invasive searches. However, the Queensland Human Rights Commission's report, *Stripped of our dignity*, identified opportunities for improvement to ensure best practice is followed. The report highlighted the need for more flexibility in how Queensland Corrective Services conducts searches. In particular, the report noted the vulnerabilities of female prisoners, especially those who have a disability, are pregnant or breastfeeding, or wear religious clothing. The report also noted there is a tension

between the same-sex safeguards and the desire to provide additional flexibility for invasive searches of trans, gender diverse and intersex prisoners. The bill will ensure that legislation can better accommodate the diverse needs of prisoners, including those who are trans or gender diverse.

In October 2021, the Queensland government entered into an agreement with the Commonwealth government to support the provision of state services to Norfolk Island. In line with these commitments, the bill makes amendments to enable Queensland Corrective Services to receive and lawfully detain prisoners from Norfolk Island on behalf of the Commonwealth government.

Other amendments in the bill will further support the administration of the Parole Board. In 2021, the Queensland government engaged KPMG to provide advice on how to best support the Parole Board to modernise and increase its efficiency. In its response to this review, the Queensland government committed to clarifying the Parole Board's status and ensuring appropriate operational, structural and governance arrangements are in place. The bill gives effect to the Queensland government's commitments by making amendments to support the independence and efficient administration of the Parole Board.

I would now like to provide a brief overview of the minor and technical amendments in the bill. Amendments in the bill will ensure the continued effectiveness of the assistance that frontline corrective services officers provide to the proper officer of a court to maintain the security and good order of court cells. To ensure prisoners are receiving the right level of health care, the bill clarifies the authority to lawfully transfer a prisoner to a place for ongoing palliative or personal care.

Another amendment in the bill clarifies an official visitor's ability to oversee the law enforcement removal of a prisoner from custody via video link, therefore ensuring operational practices keep pace with technology. The bill also contains amendments which remove outdated gendered references to modernise the language in the Corrective Services Act. Lastly, the bill makes amendments to validate parole order transfer and registration decisions between Queensland and other states and territories under the Parole Orders (Transfer) Act 1984.

This bill is about supporting victims of crime. It makes it easier for victims of crime to register as an eligible person and makes it easier for victims to have their voices heard. It is part of our ongoing commitment to better support victims of crime and improve our response to crime with best practice.

### First Reading

**Hon. N BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services) (11.49 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a first time.

### Referral to Legal Affairs and Safety Committee

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

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (POWERS AND PENALTIES) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Innovation) (11.50 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Environmental Protection Regulation 2019 and the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Health and Environment Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Environmental Protection (Powers and Penalties) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 [169].

*Tabled paper:* Environmental Protection (Powers and Penalties) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, explanatory notes [170].

*Tabled paper:* Environmental Protection (Powers and Penalties) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights [171].



I am pleased to introduce the Environmental Protection (Powers and Penalties) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. The bill further demonstrates our government's commitment to protect the community as well as Queensland's unique and much loved natural environment. It does so by ensuring the powers and penalties available to regulators are contemporary, effective and responsive and by removing impediments to their efficient use.

The bill will support regulators to be responsive and proactive to changes in industry practices and community expectations. The bill also amends the Environmental Protection Act 1994 to ensure environmental values continue to be protected, including the health, wellbeing and safety of all Queensland communities. The amendments, through this bill, will facilitate a more proactive approach to environmental risk management to prevent the community from being exposed to harm. It will remove existing barriers to timely and effective regulatory responses to manage and restore environmental harm that has occurred.

The bill recognises that the goal of environmental protection is inextricably linked to safeguarding the health and wellbeing of our communities. In recent years, environmental impacts from a number of industries have presented increasingly complex regulatory challenges. These are often linked to growing communities resulting in coexistence of housing and industrial areas. Effective regulation is critical to minimise and prevent harm to the community and environment from the increased risks from dust, odour and noise.

The bill will implement the government's response to the 2022 independent review undertaken by retired judge Richard Jones and barrister Susan Hedge. The review, which looked into the powers and penalties under the Environmental Protection Act, was initiated in part due to the significant odour nuisance issues that have arisen in communities in the vicinity of existing waste management activities, most notably in Ipswich.

I would like to acknowledge the advocacy of the members for Bundamba, Jordan and Ipswich as well as the former member for Ipswich West on this important issue. These members have listened to their communities and brought their issues and concerns, and the need for solutions, to our government's attention. They have been passionate, persistent and relentless in their advocacy on behalf of their communities, and I and our government have listened.

The odour issues being experienced by residents in Swanbank, New Chum and nearby suburbs are completely unacceptable, and the government's clear message to the companies causing the odour is simple: take action to stop the odours now. The Department of Environment, Science and Innovation is taking strong action. This action has included seeking a restraining order in the Planning and Environment Court, seeking to stop one company's activities in order to bring relief to the local community. The application was heard in the Planning and Environment Court over two days from 31 January this year, with the decision reserved. The department is committed to continuing to work with the community and using every tool in its regulatory toolbox to resolve the odour issue as soon as possible.

The review aimed to identify whether the tools available under the EP Act, particularly in relation to environmental nuisance, are sufficiently contemporary to address the challenges of the future and make any recommendations for the improvement of the act for the regulation of Queensland's environment. The review considered the environmental legislation of other jurisdictions as well as other Queensland legislation. The review found that the act generally has an adequate range of powers and penalties to enforce environmental obligations and reduce the risk of environmental harm; however, Judge Jones and Ms Hedge identified areas where the powers could be enhanced. For example, the focus of existing powers and penalties tends to be reactive rather than proactive, and there is a need to prevent harm occurring, which was reinforced through a recommendation for a new offence for a breach of the general environmental duty. The review also found that the introduction of clearer policy principles such as the precautionary principle, polluter pays, primacy of prevention and proportionality principles would be beneficial. Other key recommendations included enhancing the effectiveness of available compliance tools with a particular focus on addressing nuisance issues and protecting human and community health and wellbeing.

Judge Jones and Ms Hedge made 18 recommendations on how Queensland's laws could be updated to better protect the community and environment. Our government supported, or supported in principle, all recommendations made. Several of the recommendations have already been delivered through the Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023, which was passed by the Queensland parliament in March of last year. The bill I am introducing today will finalise the

government's response to the recommendations. It will make enhancements to the processes under the Environmental Protection Act. This will help ensure the tools available to the environmental regulators are efficient and proportionate to address current and future challenges, particularly those in relation to persistent environmental nuisance.

The bill will improve existing tools and regulatory processes, allowing for firmer and faster action against polluters, ensuring we are better protecting both the environment and community's health and wellbeing. The bill will promote proactive action to prevent environmental harm. It will introduce an offence for the existing general environmental duty, placing emphasis on prevention and removing barriers to timely and effective regulatory responses. This will mean action can be taken before environmental harm occurs where there is failure to take all reasonably practicable measures to prevent or minimise harm that will or is likely to occur.

The bill also introduces a new duty to restore. Where a person's actions can cause harm or environmental contamination, the duty will require that, as far as reasonably practicable, the environment is restored to the condition it was before the incident occurred. This introduces a proactive obligation, replacing the existing requirement to rehabilitate or restore in response to a compliance notice. The duty is underpinned by the 'polluter pays' principle and reinforces and complements the general environmental duty which has the objective of harm prevention and mitigation, whereas the duty to restore applies where environmental harm nevertheless occurs. The duty clarifies that a person should not wait for the administering authority to issue a notice to commence clean-up or remediate and is intended to encourage quicker responses to incidents involving contamination to ensure they are remedied before they cause greater harm.

A new type of compliance notice, called an environmental enforcement order, will replace existing provisions for environmental protection orders, direction notices and clean-up notices. This will streamline statutory notices and reduce regulatory complexity, enabling a more efficient and responsive compliance approach. The bill will clarify that an environmental authority is not a barrier to issuing an environmental enforcement order or notice requiring environmental evaluation when responding to an environmental harm incident where the harm is not clearly authorised or conditioned for under the environmental authority, EA. This will provide comfort to the community that the amendment will counter EA holders seeking to delay or block action in relation to the harm or nuisance being experienced by the community by using legal proceedings reliant on an existing EA condition. Following the action in response to harm that has occurred, there may be a need to amend an environmental authority to ensure the harm does not reoccur.

The issuing of the notice also means that the administering authority may initiate an amendment to the environmental authority under the existing provisions of the act. This maintains the status quo for most environmental authority holders, with impacts limited to operators causing unacceptable harm. There are a range of other enhancements and minor amendments included in the bill that will support a greater emphasis on the concepts of human health, wellbeing and safety, further supporting a proactive approach.

The bill includes minor amendments that are not related to the independent review, including clarifying the operation of information privacy provisions that were introduced in the Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023 but are yet to come into effect. Consultation on the amendments included in the bill occurred with the release of a public consultation paper in September 2023. The consultation paper outlined proposals for amendments to implement enhancements and efficiencies to existing powers and penalties under the Environmental Protection Act, as well as to introduce a new statutory obligation—the duty to restore. Prior to the consultation paper's release, the government released the report outlining the independent review findings and the government response to the review recommendations in May 2023. Key stakeholders—including the resources sector, regulated industry, local government, community, environmental and conservation groups and First Nations groups such as registered native title bodies corporate—were also consulted on the potential amendments, with a series of presentations held in October last year.

The Department of Environment, Science and Innovation has published a conservation report which details the feedback received and the stakeholders who provided submissions. Not surprisingly, views on the government's proposed changes were mixed, with strong support from some and reservations and opposition from others. All of the feedback that was received was considered in preparing the bill, which strikes a balance between improving the protection of the environment and the community as well as providing the right conditions for investment in sustainable industries.

The effective operation of environmental legislation with adequate powers and penalties for regulators is essential to the protection of our natural environment and the wellbeing of our communities. This bill represents a move to managing risks before they cause environmental harm and nuisance. It will ensure the appropriate tools are in place to manage environmental harm, including persistent nuisance issues, before and as they arise. Introducing this bill continues our government's commitment to safeguarding the health and wellbeing of all Queensland communities and to protecting our unique natural environment.

### First Reading

**Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Innovation) (12.02 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 Health and Environment Committee

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Health and Environment Committee.

## SUMMARY OFFENCES (PREVENTION OF KNIFE CRIME) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 29 November 2023 (see p. 3801).

### Second Reading

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Community Safety) (12.03 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

To lose a loved one, the terrible consequences, the ripples of grief and loss and the hurt felt by those who loved and cared for that person, are simply devastating. That is what Vyleen White's family and community are experiencing right now. Our thoughts are with them. Our thoughts are also with the investigating police. Their dedication to delivering justice for the grieving family is unwavering. I take this opportunity to commend police and support agencies for their relentless approach in working so swiftly to apprehend and charge the alleged perpetrator. Queensland is fortunate to have a police service that is so thoroughly dedicated to serving its community. It is important that the people of Queensland and the government continue to support the Police Service by giving them the resources, the tools and the laws that they need to do their good work—laws like the ones that are proposed in this bill.

On 1 February 2024, the State Development and Regional Industries Committee tabled its report on its examination of the Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. The committee has made three recommendations on the bill. The first recommendation made by the committee was that the bill be passed. I thank the committee for its timely consideration and support of the bill.

The second recommendation was that the Queensland Police Service develop guidance and resource materials in consultation with the retail sector to support businesses in implementing the new operational obligations that are introduced by the bill. The Queensland government supports this recommendation. Subject to the amendment that I will move during consideration in detail to permit, on assent of the bill, the immediate opportunity for retailers to commence the restrictions on retail sales, the provisions of the bill will otherwise commence by proclamation to allow time to undertake the necessary implementation activities, including the development of guidance and resource material, to support businesses to meet their new obligations in the bill. However, the time period will be as short as possible.

As part of this implementation activity, the Queensland Police Service will engage with the retail sector and other key stakeholders in developing effective guidance and resource material. Guidance and resource material will be developed in consultation with these stakeholders to ensure this material is appropriately targeted and supports businesses and their employees to understand and implement the new obligations introduced by the bill. This collaborative approach with the retail sector, focused on compliance with the obligations in the bill, will help achieve the objectives of the bill to enhance community safety by reducing the availability of knives and other dangerous items to young people and their use in violent crime.

The committee also recommended that the Queensland government consider undertaking an education campaign to inform the public and stakeholders about the changes introduced by the bill. The Queensland government also supports this recommendation. The Queensland government is committed to reducing knife crime and keeping the community safe. Public messaging about the bill will also complement existing campaigns such as the 'I live my life... without a knife' campaign to educate the community—particularly young people—regarding the dangerous and devastating consequences of knife crime and empower them to make safe choices. The Queensland Police Service will continue to promote positive messaging regarding the safe and lawful use, possession and accession of knives and other items, including community engagement and crime prevention efforts. I table the government response in respect of these recommendations.

*Tabled paper:* State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 54, 57th Parliament—Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, government response [\[172\]](#).

In addition to thanking the committee for its support of the bill, I also thank the officials from the Queensland Police Service who made themselves available and assisted the committee during their consideration of the bill. Additionally, I acknowledge the organisations that provided a submission to the committee; namely, the Queensland Small Business Commissioner; PeakCare Queensland; the Shopping Centre Council of Australia; the Jack Beasley Foundation; the Queensland Law Society; the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service; the Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service; and the Woolworths Group. The committee was also greatly assisted by representatives from the Jack Beasley Foundation, the Queensland Law Society, the Queensland Small Business Commissioner and the Shopping Centre Council of Australia who attended and provided input during a public hearing on the bill held by the committee.

I would particularly like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Brett and Belinda Beasley, who are in the gallery today. Brett and Belinda Beasley are, of course, strong and robust supporters of community safety initiatives and I am very pleased that they are here to recognise their advocacy in respect of the development of this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to enhance community safety and to minimise the risks associated with knives and other dangerous items. The bill achieves this objective by:

- prohibiting the sale of knives and other weapons (known as controlled items) to minors;
- making it an offence for a person to falsely represent themselves as being over the age of 18 years for the purpose of being sold a controlled item;
- requiring retailers to display signage advertising the legal prohibition against the sale of controlled items to minors;
- prohibiting controlled items from being sold or advertised in a way that suggests the item is suitable for combat, intended to be used for violence, or likely to simulate or encourage violent or criminal behaviour involving the item;
- imposing obligations upon suppliers of particular controlled items to safely secure the items at retail locations; and
- making consequential amendments to support these reforms such as allowing a police officer to request to see proof of age if they see or reasonably suspect a person under the age of 18 has been sold a controlled item and authorising the police officer to seize the item under certain circumstances.

For the purposes of the amendments, a controlled item is defined as a knife other than an exempt knife, swords, machetes, axes including a tomahawk, sickles and scythes, spear guns, spears and replica firearms that are considered a restricted item under section 9 of the Weapons Categories

Regulation 1997 for the purposes of section 67 of the Weapons Act 1990. This latter category captures gel blasters if the design of the item replicates a firearm to the extent that it may be mistaken for a genuine firearm. The provisions in the bill which are relevant to controlled items are:

- the prohibition of their sale to minors;
- the offence for a person to falsely represent themselves as being over the age of 18 years for the purpose of being sold a controlled item;
- the requirement for retailers to display signage advertising the legal prohibition against the sale of controlled items to minors; and
- the prohibition on controlled items being sold or advertised in a way that suggests the item is suitable for combat, intended to be used for violence, or likely to stimulate or encourage violent or criminal behaviour involving the item.

Although knives are captured by the definition of controlled item, some knives are exempt and are therefore not captured by these provisions and offences. Specifically, knives that are wooden or plastic and designed to be used for eating; a knife with a rounded or dull edge; or a knife designed for use as a cheese knife are not captured by these provisions. The definition of controlled item has been drafted to ensure flexibility in the operation of this new framework. A regulation may be made to prescribe a thing as a controlled item or prescribe a thing to not be a controlled item. This approach will ensure the ongoing viability of the amendments.

The bill also includes a requirement for commercial sellers—that is, a person who, in trade or commerce, sells controlled items to the public—to securely store certain controlled items. This provision does not extend to all controlled items but is limited to: (1) a dagger that is a double-edged blade; (2) a knife with a blade at each end; (3) a sword, machete or axe; (4) a sickle or scythe; (5) a spear gun; (6) a spear; and (7) a bladed item prescribed by regulation. This provision is also intended to offer flexibility to commercial sellers by providing that, for the purposes of the provision, a captured controlled item can be securely stored in a locked room, cage, cabinet or container, or, alternatively, securely tethered.

It is acknowledged that many controlled items have a legitimate use and purpose in society. However, there is no place in society for controlled items that are marketed or designed to glamorise their use as deadly weapons or encourage their use for violence. This bill therefore prohibits controlled weapons from being sold or marketed in a way that suggests the item is suitable for combat, is intended to be used for violence or is likely to stimulate or encourage violent or criminal behaviour.


As I made clear when introducing this bill, these new laws will complement and build upon existing initiatives designed to tackle knife crime. These existing initiatives include those championed by the Jack Beasley Foundation including Brett and Belinda Beasley, Jack's Law. The Jack's Law wandering framework was originally introduced into the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 and was limited to, initially, the Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach safe night precincts. This framework was expanded by the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill 2022 to include all safe night precincts and all public transport stations, including public transport vehicles in Queensland. Data derived from the Jack's Law framework demonstrates its effectiveness, with at least 450 weapons seized since May 2021 as a result of over 4,140 authorised wandering operations. That means there are 450 fewer weapons out on the street and 450 fewer opportunities for these dangerous items to be used in the commission of a violent or deadly attack.

Too many times we have seen the devastation which can result from possessing a knife, including lifelong trauma for the victims and their families. Too many lives have already been lost because of knife crime. The Queensland government is determined and steadfast in its commitment to reduce knife crime within our community and in particular the prevalence of and notoriety of knife possession amongst young people. This bill goes hand in hand with the expansion of Jack's Law and takes another significant step in securing a safer Queensland and keeping dangerous weapons out of the hands of young offenders.

I would like to foreshadow an amendment to the bill, which I will move during consideration in detail, which I understand has already been circulated in the House. I will move an amendment to provide retailers with flexibility in implementing policies to restrict the sale of controlled items to minors prior to the commencement of the offence provisions within the bill by proclamation. This means that on assent retailers can start imposing the sales restrictions immediately. This is achieved by making it clear that any retailer that refuses to sell a controlled item to a minor will not be taken to discriminate

against the person because of their age under the Anti-Discrimination Act 1999. This ensures that any retailer who wishes to introduce measures to restrict the sale of knives and other dangerous items to minors can do so immediately upon assent of the bill and with confidence.

Once again, I would like to acknowledge the continued advocacy of the Queensland Police Service in pursuit of community safety initiatives as well as thank the Jack Beasley Foundation for pursuing legislative reform, for supporting this reform and for their tireless efforts in combatting knife crime and, in particular, for their advocacy regarding restricting the sale of knives to young people. This bill achieves this and supports our goal—our quest—to make Queensland an even safer place. I commend the bill to the House and I encourage all members to support it.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (12.16 pm): I rise to contribute to the Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. I thank the State Development and Regional Industries Committee for their deliberations.

Since 2019, reported knife offences committed by a person under the age of 18 have risen by 22 per cent. In the 2018-19 financial year, 1,784 offences were reported involving minors using knives in the commission of a crime. This has increased to 2,177 reported offences in the 2022-23 financial year. Based on these figures and from desperate pleas from our front line, more police powers are required to fight the escalating youth crime crisis.

At the outset, let me be very clear that the LNP will support any measure to restrict young people's access to dangerous weapons, including knives, which is why we will not be opposing this bill. We support the objective of this bill, to promote community safety and reduce youth offending; however, this bill is yet another missed opportunity from a government in chaos and crisis—a government that likes to talk tough on crime, but yet again its actions speak louder than its words.

I have struggled to find any evidence of how these new laws will correct behaviours, deter or stop young people from carrying knives and using knives, or change the escalating knife culture. While this bill does attract tough penalties for businesses, the only extra power it gives police is to demand the particulars of a person they suspect as being under 18 years of age buying a controlled item, an offence which carries a fine which a young offender will never be compelled to pay.

Getting tough on small business is not the same thing as getting tough on youth crime. Our frontline police have been screaming for backup and calling for stronger laws and more resources, but this legislation falls short. It does nothing to address the cause of knife crime. The bill seeks to strengthen the legislative framework regarding the sale, possession and storage of knives and other dangerous items in an attempt to reduce knife crime and associated youth offending. Despite recent efforts, youth crime hotspots have spread across the state. Queensland's youth crime wave is now a tsunami, drowning communities in fear, robbing lives and destroying families. The government has not increased police resources to address this and, as I mentioned earlier, this legislation does not provide that solution.

As this bill explores, weapons of choice come in many shapes and sizes. In addition to the use of knives in violent crimes, gel blasters have recently been used in armed robberies by young offenders. These are not toys; they are replica firearms and can cause serious psychological harm in the event they are mistaken for genuine firearms. They can result in injury or death. The QPS has reported an increase in the use of these weapons recently in serious crimes by young offenders and I note that they are listed in the bill as a controlled item.

Fear is so prevalent on our streets and in our homes that as a community we are on high alert. At youth crime offender forums held in my electorate of Ninderry last year I heard from a number of residents who have lost all confidence in this government to keep them safe and felt compelled to take things into their own hands in order to feel safe such as night patrols and upgrading CCTV cameras. Communities are paying the price and engaging their own security guards. Our citizens do not feel safe. It is the highest priority of any government to ensure the safety and security of its citizens. If communities across Queensland do not feel safe, it is a failure of this government. More recently, weekend media reported a few days ago that there are street gangs, rap gangs and drill gangs involved in violent suburban turf wars in South-East Queensland which is another growing concern. The shocking scale of the youth crime crisis is discussed daily in our schools, hospitals, police stations, courtrooms, business, sporting and social groups. Families share shocking stories about people they know who have been impacted and, tragically, some families are just left with an empty chair at the evening dinner table and relentless despair.

In January 2022 on the Sunshine Coast Balin Stewart, aged 16, was stabbed to death with a 12-centimetre steak knife outside his home by a 17-year-old male who was known to him. Balin's father, Michael Stewart, told Channel 9 that after the offender's murder charge was downgraded to manslaughter the offender was given a three-year, three-month stint in jail. Mr Stewart said that he and his wife, however, had been sentenced to life for a crime that had taken his son's life. Mr Stewart told Channel 9 that the Queensland youth justice laws have been watered down by Labor since 2015 and, contrary to Labor's claim, Queensland does not have the toughest laws in the country. He said that the same crime in New South Wales would have carried a sentence of 18 years, with nine years served before parole—three times that of Balin's murderer.

Michael Stewart described the court process as bewildering. He said that he and his family were instructed by the court not to wear Balin Stewart Foundation T-shirts which, along with the Bin the Blade for Balin campaign, was all the hope they had left to save another life from knife crime. He told the court in his impact statement that knives are not harmless just because they are not guns and that juveniles wrongly believe that if you get stabbed 20 times you can keep running, just like in the movies. He said he was devastated that the justice system is broken and that it looks after the offender, not the victim. What a shameful indictment of our justice system over which we preside in this House. I also want to pay tribute to the Beaumonts and the Beasley family, whom I acknowledge are here today—I want to acknowledge their fierce advocacy for community safety and to try to reduce knife crime—but they are just two of a long list of families who share horrific commonality with the Stewarts and their collective experience in the tragic loss of a loved one to youth crime and of their experience with Queensland's unjust justice system and the weakness of the laws that underpin it.

Reducing the number of knives landing in the wrong hands is a deceptively simple solution and one that reeks of Labor's efforts in spin and not in change, starting with the definition of what even constitutes a knife. This has not been explicitly defined in the bill, with a lot being left to regulation. The definition of a 'knife' under the law will include kitchen knives and utility knives but will exclude a plastic or wooden knife designed for eating or a knife with a rounded or dull edge such as a butter knife or a cheese knife. The bill stipulates that the definition of a 'controlled item' includes knives other than exempt knives; swords; machetes; axes, including tomahawks; spear guns; spears; and restricted replica firearms such as gel blasters. The bill will prohibit the sale of controlled items to minors and require retailers to display signage advertising the legal prohibition against the sale of controlled items to minors. Prohibition signs must be displayed at every point-of-sale register or at each display.

With regard to the penalties prescribed in the bill, the penalty for selling a controlled item to a minor, except by an employee, ranges from \$21,672 for a first offence to \$65,016 for a third or later offence. The sale of a controlled item by an employee of a commercial seller—mindful that often these employees at some of these retail outlets can be juveniles themselves—could attract a penalty of \$3,096 for the first offence and \$6,192 for a second or later offence.

The bill prohibits a person from falsely representing themselves as 18 years or older to purchase a controlled item and attracts a penalty of \$3,870. The police have been given powers to request ID from a person if they believe they are under 18 and to seize a controlled item if it is found. That is it. That is all for police powers. The bill prohibits controlled items from being sold or advertised in a way that suggests the item is suitable for combat, intended to be used for violence or likely to stimulate or encourage violence or criminal behaviour involving the item. For example, an image of a knife with blood on the blade or words such as 'killer' or 'slayer' on the item, packaging or ad is prohibited. This new offence is designed to combat the notoriety associated with knife possession.

The bill imposes obligations upon suppliers of particular controlled items to safely secure the item at a retail location, in particular daggers that are double edged, knives with a blade at each end, swords, machetes, axes, spears and spear guns. Items must be safely stored in a locked room, cage, cabinet, container or securely tethered so they can be held and not removed. Commercial sellers must instruct their employees not to sell controlled items to minors and that they are required to sight acceptable evidence of age. Failure to do so will be an offence. The seller must obtain written acknowledgement by the employee that confirms they have received these instructions and warnings.

At the committee inquiry Dominique Lamb, the Queensland Small Business Commissioner, said about the impost on small business—

... a small business that inadvertently sold a knife to a minor would receive a \$21,672 penalty for a first offence. On top of the risk of heavy financial penalties, this may also place a financial burden on small businesses to reach and maintain compliance. For example, some businesses will need to implement secure storage facilities or they may feel compelled to install CCTV to ensure they are able to provide proof that they sighted evidence of age under the defence sections of ... the bill. Unlike larger businesses, small businesses, especially those in the retail industry, generally cannot absorb those additional costs.

There is a lack of evidence as to where the knives come from that are used by offenders—be it from home, online or a store—but nonetheless the QPS has identified that a large number of knives and other weapons are being possessed in public places without reasonable excuse. Noteworthy is the submission to the inquiry by the Queensland Law Society, which recommended research into the cause that drives young people to commit knife crime in the first place. According to Assistant Commissioner Cameron Harsley during the public briefing on the bill, the QPS is particularly concerned that knives are predominantly used in the commission of a violent offence such as assault, robbery and other offences against the person. This has been supported by data collected in the first nine months following the passing of the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill 2023 during which 435 weapons were seized and 1,148 people were charged with almost 2,055 offences, and this is just from a limited number of isolated places.

There were approximately 20 stakeholders who were targeted for consultation in the consideration of this bill including, but not limited to, Woolworths, Coles, Bunnings, Gel Blaster Association, Gel Blaster Association Inc., the office of the Queensland Small Business Commissioner and, as has been pointed out earlier today, the Beasley family in particular. As I mentioned earlier, the definition of what is and what is not a controlled item was raised by many stakeholders as a potential source of confusion. The Queensland Small Business Commissioner expressed concern for retailers that may be selling a scalpel for doing craft in that it may fall under the definition of a 'shiv' and therefore be considered a controlled item. It also raised concern about the financial impost, particularly on small businesses, to comply with security requirements of the display and storage of a controlled item. Similarly, the definition of 'sell' in the bill does not stipulate if it includes sales made online, at any place other than a retailer and sales outside of Queensland to a person in Queensland. The QPS advised that online commercial sellers are still prohibited from selling a controlled item to a minor and are responsible for instituting appropriate age verification procedures for online transactions.

Essentially, this is about a young person buying any one of these weapons or controlled items online. I am anticipating that, like with Dan Murphy's, you will click a button confirming that you are over the age of 18 and will then have unfettered access to purchasing these items online. I am mindful that a lot of those sellers will be interstate and on a lot of occasions police will not have the capacity or the resources to stop that sale.

The operational and financial impacts on the 49,000 small business retailers in Queensland and the associated penalties for noncompliance with new requirements were seen as heavy by several inquiry participants. If business is to bear the real brunt of the new laws then this bill is limited in its capacity to effect real change.

The QSBC suggested that the QPS take an education-first approach to enforcement and only issue penalties to a small business in the case of repeat breaches or a refusal to comply. In response, the QPS confirmed that it will continue to exercise discretion in the enforcement of these offences and advised that, where appropriate, that may include a verbal warning and educational component. I acknowledge that in his contribution the minister talked about a phased rollout that will include taking industry on the ride with advertising, especially considering the impacts on small businesses in regional communities.


Where is the strong deterrent to stop young people from carrying knives? If caught, a young person will receive either a caution or another compulsory diversion away from the justice system. If sent to court, they will not be compelled to pay unless they admit they have the capacity to do so. However, a small business could face a fine of between \$20,000 and \$60,000.

Sadly, the legislation will not change the behaviour or the culture of young people who carry knives. As crime increases amongst youths, more and more young people are carrying knives for their own personal safety. On the weekend, a senior police officer mentioned to me that we now have good kids carrying knives to protect themselves from bad kids carrying knives, which is not an ideal situation. They are doing that not necessarily to inflict an injury or commit crimes; just like older residents, they are doing whatever they can to find protection, including isolating themselves from their communities altogether.

Queenslanders are desperately seeking solutions to curb youth knife crime. PeakCare suggested to the committee that prohibition should be complemented by prevention and early intervention strategies to reduce the number of young people carrying controlled items in the first place. We must expand police powers and increase their resources to reverse the current trend in youth crime. In the absence of the LNP's policies and initiatives, I acknowledge this bill as the government's recognition that there is in fact a problem. While limited in its understanding, that has been a long time coming.



The LNP does have a plan to improve community safety. One aspect of it is to reverse the amendments that this government proudly made in 2015 when they watered down the Youth Justice Act. That is why today I will be moving amendments during consideration in detail. The first amendment is to remove detention as a last resort, which this government proudly implemented in 2015. The second amendment is to open the Childrens Court to not only victims and their families but also the media, to let the sunshine in. I call on the government to support these sensible amendments that will improve community safety and help fix the crime crisis facing Queenslanders.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (12.33 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I stand as the chair of the committee that examined the bill. As we heard this morning, community safety is a primary focus for the Miles government because we want ordinary working Queenslanders to feel safe and to be safe, whether that is in their homes or in their local communities. I keep thinking about the key message that we heard from the Jack Beasley Foundation and the Queensland police: we want young people to be able to say, 'I live my life without a knife.'


At its core, the bill is designed to reduce knife crime and to enhance community safety by strengthening laws surrounding the sale, possession and storage of knives. The bill captures knives, machetes, axes, spear guns, spears and gel blasters. It is comprehensive. Obviously, one of the key objectives of the bill is to prohibit the sale of controlled items to minors, whether that be in shops, online or at markets. During our examination of the bill we heard that all of those retail possibilities are covered in the bill.

A notable objective of the bill is to prohibit the marketing and advertising of weapons that may be created to appeal to young people. That includes, for example, weapons that are advertised as suitable for combat such as can be seen in online gaming. It includes weapons that are advertised as 'zombie knives', which may be suitable for use in an imaginary apocalyptic scenario but belong only on a screen. They have no place in a civilised community. They are dangerous.

During the committee's examination of the bill it became very clear from all submitters that everyone supports the bill. I note that there was no dissension or statement of reservation to the committee's report by opposition members. I thank the Jack Beasley Foundation for coming along and presenting to us. Belinda Beasley and Sam O'Connor, who is a member of their board, came along to explain why these laws are important. I thank the police for their comprehensive submission to our committee.

I thank the retailers. It is very clear that, because of the foreshadowed changes, retailers will have to move quickly to cooperate with us as we control the sale of these items to minors. I thank the retailers for making suggestions on how we can further improve safety in public spaces such as shopping centres. I have no doubt that some of their opinions and submissions will be examined closely as further changes are considered carefully by this government.

In conclusion, this bill is part of a comprehensive response to decrease knife crime and increase public safety. This morning we heard the Premier say that on this side of the House we have a laser focus on community safety. We are providing more support to victims and we are putting more police on the beat. As the Premier said today, everyone deserves to feel safe and we are going to continue to make sure Queenslanders feel safe. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (12.37 pm): At the start of my contribution, I put on the record that I proudly serve as an executive board member of the Jack Beasley Foundation, which of course is declared on my register of interests. This is another reform that has happened only because of the advocacy of this great community organisation. It is an organisation that was born out of tragedy: the devastation left in the wake of the murder of 17-year-old Jack Beasley in 2019. I acknowledge Jack's parents and my good friends, Brett and Belinda Beasley, who are in the gallery. I know that Brett will make me buy him lunch after this. I might put it on the minister's tab. Can I do that, Minister?

**Mr Ryan:** I am taking him to lunch.

**Mr O'CONNOR:** I am off the hook today! I acknowledge the Beasleys for their unwavering determination to drive change, which of course, as other members have referenced, led to Jack's Law that we saw pass last year. Under the government's approach, a two-year trial is underway. I reiterate the LNP's commitment to making that permanent to ensure the police have the right powers to find weapons in our state. It stacks up. Many weapons are off our streets because of Jack's Law and it should be permanent. It should not be a trial. There are enough protections there and we need to ensure it remains part of the police powers in Queensland.

The laws we are discussing today are a direct result of Brett's actions in particular. As the Jack Beasley Foundation's submission showed—it included a lot of media clips—Brett really does enjoy the media. He takes every opportunity he can to advocate for ways to stop knife crime and youth violence. Brett and Belinda are an extraordinary couple. I think I have said before that they never would have expected to be appearing before parliamentary committees or even to be interacting with their local MP or the government at the level they have, but it has come from the unimaginable tragedy they have gone through. It has really made them the extraordinary Queenslanders I am so very proud to represent and call friends.

I said to Brett before that he is basically driving youth crime policy in Queensland through his voice and the way that he cuts through when he speaks. At the start of the year, we saw the impact of Brett's bravery in terms of the Parole Board debacle that he brought attention to. Of course, I acknowledge the introduction of laws today to enhance Queensland Corrective Services' victims register. At the start of this year, Brett called out the disappointing and administratively incorrect decision to grant parole to the young man convicted of manslaughter for the killing of Jack. It would have meant that he served barely half of the jail term to which he was sentenced. It was distressing news for the Beasleys, especially coming at Christmas time, and questions still remain over how this occurred. If Brett had not spoken up, that decision would not have been changed and other victims could have suffered the same trauma. I again pay tribute to him for always using his voice. It is that advocacy which has led to these changes.

This legislation will make it harder for young people to get their hands on knives or other weapons. There is no silver bullet to stopping knife crime, but this is another measure which will reduce access and availability. There are very few good reasons for a young person to buy a knife or another weapon. It is not unreasonable to require shops to store them in a secure cabinet or something similar, as outlined in this bill. It is a very small inconvenience compared to the devastation that these items can cause in the wrong hands. No law will stop all young people from carrying a knife. The only way we will genuinely achieve that is by changing their mindset and by showing them that there is a better way.

**Mr Purdie:** By cultural change.

**Mr O'CONNOR:** By cultural change. I will take that interjection from the shadow minister. It is in the name of the excellent police campaign 'I live my life ... without a knife'. Of course, these laws will stop just one source of knives. It is not just about young people going to buy these items—I would suggest that a significant number of the young people getting these items from shops have probably not purchased them—but it will make sure that they cannot just walk in and grab one off the shelf.

In the Queensland Police Service's submission to the bill, they outlined some frightening statistics. Knife related crime has increased by 18 per cent since 2019. In the 2022-23 financial year, 12,865 offences were reported in Queensland with a knife as the most serious weapon used. For juveniles there has been a 22 per cent increase in knife crime, escalating to 2,177 offences, according to the data for the most recent financial year. We cannot allow these laws to lead to an increase in the online sale of knives to minors.

I thank Melissa from Arundel for writing to me about this. She raised the issue of the online sale of box cutters which come in cute designs, including as key rings. Melissa's 13-year-old daughter bought one of these in the shape of a bunny while ordering some beading materials. She said in her correspondence to me that this was terrifying because weapons such as this can be in plain sight. We need to ensure this ban is properly applied and ensure that it applies to these kinds of products that are designed to be attractive to kids.

I also note the clarification from the Queensland Police Service regarding how these laws will apply to online sales. It will be vital to make sure sellers use robust age verification methods. There needs to be careful monitoring of online sales. We need further information on how this will be achieved, especially with interstate and overseas vendors. It seems to me that this will be near impossible to properly enforce. The more clarification we can get in those terms, the better.


I also acknowledge the Shopping Centre Council of Australia submission which says that they are deeply concerned about the worrying trends in relation to rises in crime, including retail crime and youth crime, and the general concerning trend in relation to the possession and use of weapons. I think it was last August that in my part of the Gold Coast we had an incident at Westfield Helensvale. At quarter to eight in the morning, a security guard was stabbed multiple times outside our local

Woolworths. The knife allegedly used by these young offenders, whom the police picked up a little further up the M1, was described as being roughly the size of a meat cleaver. That security guard was lucky to make it out alive.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): Member for Bonney, can you assure the House that this is not before the courts at the moment?

**Mr O'CONNOR:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker; I will move on. Alleged incidents such as that highlight the concern around this that shopping centres are places where people congregate. The whole point of Jack's Law was to make sure that it applies to places where people are. That is why the laws we passed last year apply to safe night precincts and public transport stations and vehicles, and it is why it is worth considering where they can be further applied. The committee's recommendations were good. We need an education—not an enforcement—approach, because retailers need to be partners in this ban to make sure it works as it should.

To wrap up, hundreds of weapons are off the streets thanks to the advocacy of my community through the Jack Beasley Foundation. Every single knife that these laws prevent from getting into the wrong hands is a potential tragedy avoided. Change will be made in Jack's name. This is another step in the right direction to make sure we are doing all we can to ensure no-one else is taken from us in a senseless knife attack. I also voice my support for the shadow minister's amendments that he has foreshadowed to remove detention as a last resort and to open up the Childrens Court to victims and their families. That is the right thing to do, and I urge the government to allow him to move those amendments.

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (12.46 pm): I too rise in support of this bill. In doing so, I acknowledge all victims of knife crime and their families because these are tragic incidents which affect many across the community. It is important to put forward this legislation so that we take knives out of the hands of those who may offend in a criminal way. I too express my thanks to Belinda from the Beasley Foundation for attending the public hearing and sharing her experience. She was supported by the member for Bonney, Mr Sam O'Connor. Her words were very powerful. Sadly, they are words that Ms Beasley has had to repeat time and time again. I am sure that they never get any easier to say, but every time they are said they are as important as the time before. They are ever important, especially when we consider the role of the Jack Beasley Foundation in our schools.

As a former teacher, it was very important to hear about the way the Beasley family and Jack's friends are engaging with young people across the south-east corner and even into the northern part of New South Wales. It is important that young people are educated around the damage that can be caused to another's life and their own life should they possess a knife and commit a criminal act. I thank Belinda for her attendance. I thank the member for Bonney for his attendance.

As stated before, the Beasley Foundation played an important role in Jack's Law. In Bundaberg we have a safe night precinct. Our police officers have engaged in wandering activity—the powers for which have been granted to them by Jack's Law. When I talk to my local police and the patrol inspector, they say that are picking up knives. What has struck me in this respect are the types of knives being found. Police and some publicans have spoken to me about novelty knives that take the form of a lipstick or are disguised as a belt buckle. I believe Belinda even spoke about coming across Hello Kitty knives.

When we talk about vapes and things like that being targeted at young people, we also need to consider the novelty effect on young people. This legislation is important because, even though minors may be attracted to purchasing a knife because of its novelty effect, a knife is a knife is a knife regardless. I remember when I was not 10 yet—so this was still in the nineties—and my uncle returned from a trip to Bali and brought me back a novelty knife, to my mum's horror. Of course the knife was taken away, meaning I could not do anything silly that would impact me and I could not do anything silly that would impact a friend's life or anyone else's life. That is an important perspective of this bill. The bill does not suggest that criminal intention will cease, but a knife crime cannot occur if a person does not possess a knife. That is what is important about this legislation. Yes, we must make sure we are putting in forms of education, intervention and prevention but, ultimately, a knife crime cannot occur if a person does not possess a knife.

The police in Bundaberg are telling me that when they find these novelty knives the people carrying them are not expecting to ever use them. They think it is a toy or a collectible. What would happen if they were engaged in alcohol fuelled violence and they thought the only way to defend themselves was to reach for that novelty knife? All of a sudden, something that may have been able to

be prevented has instead occurred. That is why I thank Ms Beasley for her words in responding to the question I put to her when the Queensland Law Society questioned this legislation. Will you be able to stop criminal intent? No. You cannot always stop criminal intent but you can stop knife crime if there is not a knife. I thank her for her words.

I want to reflect on the committee. The committee made recommendations—I am glad that the government has accepted those recommendations—around providing support for small businesses and for greater education and how they can play a positive part in keeping communities safe. Ultimately, if you are a retailer of such knives it is your responsibility as a member of the community to ensure you play a role in creating a safe community. That is ultimately what this legislation is doing. It is making sure that we, as community members, are helping to shape and form the community that we want. It is important that retailers and their employees play that role. I think there are good provisions in this legislation to make sure that any employer must go through training with their employee and that it must be in written form that the employee understands their responsibilities. That is important because that means there is compliance, oversight and confirmation of an engaged employee with this legislation.

It is disappointing, though, to hear the member for Ninderry suddenly become political in his new role, attacking the government saying that this bill does not put forward education. I did not see the member for Ninderry's amendments that will go towards intervention, prevention and education. We hear about gold standard intervention programs and courses, yet where are those amendments from the member for Ninderry? The member for Ninderry has come in here, puffed out his chest, reached into his pocket and realised that he does not have a plan for education or for intervention. That is disappointing, especially when the opposition members did not put forward a statement of reservation because they understood the importance of this legislation in its context and framing—that it is about reducing knife crime by taking knives away from young people. The member for Ninderry has been misled by the work experience kid who wrote his speech and has looked foolish in doing so.

This is good legislation that will make sure that we keep our community safe and will make sure that young people are not accessing dangerous weapons that they can use against others or inadvertently injure themselves with. It will help keep families together well into the future. I support the legislation. I support the opposition members on the committee who were thorough in what I thought was good questioning and bipartisanship. Ultimately, our committee decided that we wanted to see this legislation passed for the safety of all Queenslanders.



**Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (12.55 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. Firstly, I pay respect to and acknowledge the hard work and the advocacy of Jack Beasley's family. This legislation has been fought hard for by people trying to reduce knife crimes here in Queensland. I also want to put on the record my condolences to the White family on their most recent tragedy, and I will leave it at that.

Knife crimes in Queensland have become not only the norm but also fashionable amongst teenagers. I remember growing up in Queensland when you did not carry a knife. I grew up in a small country town named Ingham. If you were thought to be carrying a knife, you were dragged out the back and punched in the mouth. You did not bring a knife out in public. It was a culture that was not accepted. We have seen this culture creep in. The bad guys out there are carrying knives and it has become a culture for young people to think, 'I have to carry a knife to protect myself.' Then we end up in this self-perpetuating situation and we see where the problem is at today. Young people feel that they need to carry a knife to protect themselves because the bad people are carrying knives. That is wrong. We need to figure out how to stamp out that knife culture.

Although this legislation has good intent and the KAP will be voting for this legislation today, I want to put on record our concerns that just banning something and making it illegal to sell a knife to an under-age person does not automatically fix this problem in Queensland. The legislation before the House will prohibit the sale of knives and other weapons, known as controlled items, to minors and make it an offence for a person to falsely represent themselves as being over the age of 18 years for the purpose of being sold a controlled item. That is interesting. The reality is that a lot of young people are being charged with more heinous crimes than that but they do not even see the inside of a detention centre.

The bill will also require retailers to display signage advertising the legal prohibition on the sale of controlled items to minors. It will prohibit controlled items from being sold or advertised in a way that suggests the item is suitable for combat, intended to be used for violence, or likely to stimulate or

encourage violent or criminal behaviour involving the item. It will impose obligations upon suppliers of particular controlled items to safely secure the items at retail locations. It will make consequential amendments to support these reforms, such as allowing a police officer to request to see proof of age if they see or reasonably suspect a person under the age of 18 has been sold a controlled item.

This legislation has the best of intentions, but I think it is going to be very hard for not only QPS but also retailers to control this and abide by this legislation. A lot of retail now happens online. Physical stores unfortunately are no longer the norm. A lot of businesses are now operating online. It will be interesting to see how that is policed. A young person under the age of 18 could quite easily go online and use mum and dad's credit card or even a stolen credit card to purchase a knife.

It will also be interesting to see how this legislation reduces knife crime because there are a lot of knives in society right now. If you are trying to gauge how many times a weapon has been used to hurt or kill someone, different organisations have indicated that one of the most dangerous weapons in Australia or Queensland right now is the black-handled steak knife that we find in nearly every household in Queensland. They are easily accessible and easy to use, and they have been used in everything from stabbings to domestic violence situations. A lot of them already exist. As I said, this is very well intended legislation, but I fail to see how this is going to put a large dent in knife crime in Queensland. I also want to raise my concerns about the attitude towards knives—

Debate, on motion of Mr Dametto, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

## MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

### Miles Labor Government, Performance



**Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): What is it going to take for the Labor government to address the youth crime crisis gripping this state? In every part of the state this crisis is impacting Queenslanders at home, in their businesses and on the streets. How much more loss, how much more pain, how much more suffering until this government admits that Queensland is in the grip of a youth crime crisis? These are the laws Queenslanders want. The LNP have brought them; Labor must support them. There is no other option. Our priority is supporting victims and ensuring there are fewer in the future; Labor's is running from its record.

I have spoken to the family of Vyleen White and given them a commitment that we will see this through, and their comments ring so true at a time of great trauma. If we cannot feel safe walking around, there is a problem. There should not have to be a death to bring action. It is shutting the gate after the horse has bolted. This morning there is too little, too late. It is not the first tragedy in this state. I have spoken to the family members of many victims in this state. Thousands of other Queenslanders have also had their lives ripped apart by youth crime. It happens every day—it happens to the vehicle they need to make a living; the conversation they have to have with a loved one, a young child, when they are broken into. There have never been more victims in this state.

Just before I came into this House I received a message from a young business owner called Mark. Mark runs Tribe Coffee Co., which is a great business on the north side frequented by the member for Clayfield and many of our emergency services. I met Mark about a year ago when one of his staff was held up at gunpoint. Overnight that business was broken into again. I asked Mark, 'What is the impact for you, mate?' He said, 'There's \$1,900 to replace a freezer and there's about \$400 to replace stock, but in a few weeks time my insurance premium is up for renewal.'

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Sorry to interrupt, member for Broadwater, but can you confirm that the matter you are referring to is not before the courts?

**Mr CRISAFULLI**: It is not, Mr Deputy Speaker. In a few weeks time he gets his insurance renewal, and that is where the long-term sting in the tail will be. Mark wants to know what it is going to take for this government to embark on real action. Instead, they are running from their record—a record where the Attorney-General, who has been in the same seat for nearly a decade, says 'a penalty that allows for persons to remain in the community is preferable' and 'evidence clearly shows that increasing the severity of punishment does not reduce offending, nor does it reduce reoffending'. The number of repeat offenders has gone from 10 per cent to 20 per cent, so I am not sure that rings true. Today the Premier spoke for three minutes and could not even defend the former premier's legacy for three seconds. That

is the record they are running from. The Premier said there are more police in this state, despite the thin blue line getting a little thinner to the tune of 322 officers in the last 18 months. Despite a commitment to add more, police numbers have gone backwards.

The amendments tabled by the LNP will remove detention as a last resort and allow victims of crime and the media back into Childrens Court courtrooms. The Premier said they might investigate. They might consider it. They will ponder changes at an unknown time in the future. If the Labor government will not act to fix the youth crime crisis, we will. It starts with removing detention as a last resort to allow the judiciary to do their job. Today the Premier tried to blur the lines by talking about other forms of sentencing. Let me make this very clear: the LNP wants to remove detention as a last resort to repair the mess created by this government nearly nine years ago. The LNP wants to open the Childrens Court to allow families of victims and the media to see that justice is being done, to repair the mistakes those opposite created by watering down the laws nearly a decade ago. The rights of victims should be above the rights of offenders. What is it going to take to agree to these sensible solutions?

It is not just the youth crime crisis that is impacting this state; there is a health crisis and Queensland is ground zero. Our priority is releasing data in real time. Labor's priority is changing the narrative and hiding the data. We have the right priorities for Queensland's future when it comes to repairing the health system those opposite have starved through a lack of resources, a lack of transparency, a lack of putting doctors and nurses back in charge. Labor's priority is crafting the narrative. On 25 May the minister told parliament, 'There are no plans to change how these measures are reported.' RTI disclosures show that historical graphs have been amended to wipe information prior to 2020. Ministerial staff were also pushing the department to use built beds instead of operational beds. The RTI also shows there are weekly meetings about data which involve the minister and her staff. Why is this information kept from Queenslanders?

On Saturday afternoon the minister finally released the overdue December quarter figures. Today the Premier said it is getting better. Not only is it not getting better; it is getting worse at a rate of knots. Ambulance ramping in Queensland is at 43 per cent. That is the worst in the nation. It is nearly double what it is in New South Wales, it is 10 per cent more than WA and Victoria, and it is the highest figure ever recorded in a December quarter. For the first time ever the elective surgery waiting list has surged past 60,000, and in a moment the shadow health minister is going to show what that means to Queenslanders. For the first time the specialist waitlist has gone past 290,000 patients, and in a moment the shadow health minister is going to explain what that means to Queensland. On Sunday Metro South went on bypass—a practice this government said does not happen anymore and a practice that Queenslanders would never have known occurred unless a brave paramedic sent us a screenshot of a message. To hear paramedics talk about a system at breaking point, the lid being lifted, ready to blow up, tells you the stress and strain our frontline staff are facing under a very bad government.

It is not just Queensland Health that is in crisis; there is a cost-of-living crisis, and Queensland is ground zero in that. Our focus is on the things that we control as a parliament, the things that this place can do something about. Let's start with electricity. Queensland had the biggest rise in electricity prices in the nation at 19.9 per cent—double that of Victoria and New South Wales, triple one of those entities. There was one state where the price went backwards—Western Australia. The only power Labor is interested in is clinging to the kind that keeps them in office.

The video we have seen released after question time today raises more questions than it answers. In a minute, the shadow minister for energy is going to pose some of those questions. The video shows what happened but it does not say why it happened. Power plants do not just blow up if they are well maintained, and clearly this one was not. No-one, after nearly a thousand days, is prepared to step up and answer questions and take responsibility.

There is a crisis in health, there is a crisis in cost of living, there is a crisis in housing and there is a crisis in youth crime. After almost 10 years of this government, have things gotten better or worse when it comes to the youth crime crisis, the housing crisis or the health crisis? Are things better or worse for Queenslanders than a decade ago when it comes to their cost of living? Undeniably, on every one of those metrics, Queenslanders have had enough, and it does not have to be this way. Queenslanders need to know that it does not have to always be like this. You do not have to live in fear in your home, you do not have to live in fear as to whether or not a brave paramedic will turn up in your hour of need, and you do not have to live in fear as to whether or not you can pay your bills. There is a better way, and the LNP has the right priorities for Queensland's future.

## Crime



**Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (2.10 pm): Like everyone in this House, I want to express my sorrow and heartfelt condolences to the family of Vyleen White for their tragic loss. While I cannot speak for them, I can speak as someone who has experienced the grief of losing family members to violent crime. I have received that knock on the door from police. I have felt the shock, the disbelief, the fear and the anger—a grief unlike any, a grief complicated by public interest and political intrusion. Across this chamber, we all have personal reasons for being here. For me, one of my central missions as an MP has been to amplify and empower the voices of victims of crime, but I also came here to help the parliament navigate the difficult path towards the reduction of crime.

While the work this Labor government has done has not been without complexity, I stand here proud of the steps we have taken to support victims and prevent crime. As the Premier has said, it is about prevention, it is about intervention and, when absolutely necessary, it is about detention. We have: appointed an Interim Victims' Commissioner; invested \$200 million to support victims of crime; invested millions to keep students at school and intervene when we know they are showing signs of going down the wrong path; expanded the operation of our co-responder teams; delivered investments to help seniors secure their homes; provided \$15 million in crime prevention grants; and stood up a new bipartisan Youth Justice Reform Select Committee.

For the past 20 years I have had a front row seat to the worst of humanity, but I have also seen us at our best. I recall supporting in court a mother whose son had died as a result of a single stab wound—an injury delivered by another young person who was an associate of the victim. The trial was over, the jury had rendered their verdict and the families of both the victim and the offender were piling outside of the courtroom. I watched as these two mothers embraced and wrapped around each other unprompted and said, 'I'm sorry.' It is that spirit of fellowship and common humanity that I think we need more of in this place.

That is the strong and consistent feedback we have been receiving through our work in the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee. The vast majority of witnesses and submitters to the committee have been clear—that creating long-term, sustainable change lies in bipartisanship. I ask members in this place to reflect on those sentiments before they seek to attribute political blame for horrific acts so they might obtain some advantage for their side.

I also ask the same members to reflect on the role their own policies might play in exacerbating the issues that we are all trying to address. The evidence tells us that to keep kids away from a life of crime we need to make sure they have a quality education. You do not deliver that by closing schools. The evidence tells us that we need to provide families with housing. You do not do that by slashing the budget for social housing construction. The evidence tells us that you need kids to have access to high-quality health care. You do not do that by sacking health workers, closing child and youth mental health services or slashing NGO funding.

I am proud to be part of a government that is delivering more schools and teachers, investing in homes and delivering the biggest uplift in health workers and health services that Queensland has ever seen. I stand on this side of the House because I have witnessed Labor's commitment to victims of crime. I have witnessed what we can do when we operate from our values and lead all Queenslanders to work together. I hope that all other members will join us in this endeavour.

## Miles Labor Government



**Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.14 pm): Valentine's Day is tomorrow, and there is no love between the Labor MPs on the other side of the House. We saw it today. We saw it when I warned everybody about Labor's Christmas coup before the House rose for our Christmas break last year. We recall they all said, 'No, it's not happening. The opposition are politicking.' They all supported Anastacia Palaszczuk and we said, 'No, the Christmas coup is happening.' We have seen the leaking and the jostling for positions. We have seen the utter chaos that ensued. They were all taking sides. Housing Minister Scanlon jumped on Minister Miles's bandwagon straightaway. Poor former minister Bailey picked the wrong side. 'Bad Choice Bailey' has gone from 'Blowout Bailey' to 'Backbench Bailey'. He picked the wrong side.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! Pause the clock.

**Mr BLEIJIE**: I withdraw and apologise.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Resume your seat. I am going to take some advice. Member, you are an experienced member of this chamber. I would ask you to refrain from using incorrect titles. If you continue with that in this speech, I will warn you.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The member for Caloundra jumped on Minister Fentiman's bandwagon, love-hearing her Facebook posts when she announced. It did not turn out good for him, either. We know that the majority of the Labor MPs do not support Premier Miles. We only have to read their own comments to see this. Minister Fentiman said at the time—

Now is the time for renewal and that means we may have to do some things differently, and I believe I am best placed to lead that change.

I have to say that it did not last long. Minister Fentiman's leadership ambition was as short as the lifecycle of the Palingenia mayfly—less than a day. She had the whole press pack there, while ministers and her supporters were love-hearing her emojis, but it lasted less than a day. We know what happened: Gary Bullock decided who the unelected Labor Premier would be.

Premier Miles is now trying to convince Queenslanders that this is a brand new elected government. He is trying to con Queenslanders that he had nothing to do with any of the bad decisions in the past nine years under the Labor government. Nothing has changed. Labor is the problem in Queensland, and Premier Miles was at the heart of every bad decision the Labor Party made. Look at Wellcamp. He was responsible for the \$220 million blowout. The Gabba knockdown, at \$2.7 billion, never stacked up. Two weeks before he became Premier he reannounced the Gabba, with all of the glossy brochures, and said that it was the only viable option. He went on holidays during the storms. He released less lots for building approvals in Queensland under his watch. The health crisis started when he was the health minister; it was under his watch. We have had a jobs-for-mates scandal with Rachel Hunter, his former chief of staff Danielle Cohen and Mike Kaiser. A political unit is being established in DPC—no doubt about it. He giggles at youth crime questions. Maybe that is where he gets the nickname 'Dr Giggles'. I do not know, but that is what Queenslanders are saying—that he giggled at a youth crime question.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I am going to take some advice. I would ask you to continue to use correct titles.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** In the last week crime victims have been saying that Premier Miles is not up to the job. He has been missing in action for six days. They had the Labor love-in, and he demanded that his MPs not leak against him. They then went out and leaked the very anti-leaking policy against him. They leaked the anti-leaking policy straightaway.

What a rabble. What chaos. Nothing has changed. Queenslanders know that Premier Miles is the problem and that Labor is the problem. We have been getting feedback from Queenslanders that Premier Miles is an odd character and that he is trying to be this suburban dad, but they know his history and they know what he is like. He is just not premiership material. They know that he is trying to re-create his character, but Queenslanders are not believing it. They know he has been around every bad decision the Labor government has made.

Some Queenslanders have even said to me that he is very robotic in how he talks and his character is very much like a Dalek on *Doctor Who*: 'I am the Premier. I am the Premier. Labor is the problem.' Then when you ask the Dalek what Minister Fentiman thinks about this problem, it's, 'Exterminate. Exterminate. Oh, competition.'

The reality is that Premier Miles is not up to the job. He was not up to the job of being deputy premier and he is not up to this job. He has overseen the housing crisis, the youth crime crisis, the cost-of-living crisis and the health crisis. He has been at the heart, responsible for all of the bad Labor policy decisions, and Queenslanders will not forget it in October 2024.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, there was some material in that contribution which I declare to be unparliamentary. I ask you to withdraw.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I withdraw.

### Liberal National Party



**Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (2.20 pm): The arrogance and the hubris of the Leader of the Opposition is on display for the whole of Queensland to see. This is the man who now styles himself as the Queensland premier-elect. The leader of the LNP describes himself as the Queensland premier-elect on the TryBooking



Australia website. I say this to the Leader of the Opposition: how about you try honesty. How about try humility. What is it going to take? What is it going to take for the Leader of the Opposition to tell Queenslanders the truth about what he is going to do and what his plan is for Queensland? The Leader of the Opposition will not do that because of one simple reason: his policies will damage Queensland. Queenslanders just need to look at what the LNP did when they were last in government.

The LNP wants to talk about community safety. Let's talk about what the Leader of the Opposition did when he got his hands on power. They axed 110 senior commissioned officer positions and cut 212 non-commissioned officers from the Queensland Police Service. The LNP cut training, including at the Townsville police academy, reduced firearms training, hours at police beats, and cut funding to police helicopters with the Queensland Police Union raising safety concerns on the Gold Coast. Police were even asked by the LNP to do laundry for prisoners in watch houses to save money. The LNP cut over \$70 million from court and court services. They cut \$9 million in planned funding from the court diversion program and, with it, more than 20 jobs. The LNP abolished the Murri Court. They abolished the Special Circumstances Court. They abolished the Drug and Alcohol Court. The LNP abolished youth justice conferencing, cutting \$26½ million from youth court diversionary programs and sacked 65 dedicated staff in the process. They have never apologised once for those cuts.

**Mr Nicholls** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** Of course, the member for Clayfield cannot stop interjecting. The cutter-in-chief cannot even sit in the right chair to interject. That is what he thinks—entirely arrogant, just like his leader, thinking they can lecture to everyone in Queensland because the LNP knows best. What the LNP knows is one thing and one thing alone and that is to cut and cut and cut again.

What about the deputy leader? All we heard today was more of the same—the same personal invective attacking the Premier, attacking frontbenchers, all of the hectoring and all of the personal denigration. It is all stock-in-trade for the member for Kawana. I get the disappointment of the member for Kawana. He took the deputy leadership, but the one thing he really covets in the main game is to be the shadow treasurer. However, he could not get the job. Why? Because the Leader of the Opposition will not trust the deputy leader with public money—that is the truth—because he wasted it on the boot camps and the pink jumpsuits—

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Resume your seat, Deputy Premier. The House will come to order. Member for Kawana, you are warned under the standing orders. I have asked you to cease your interjections and you have not been putting your interjections through the chair, so you are warned.

**Mr DICK:** I will give the Leader of the Opposition his due. He knows his deputy is absolutely toxic and could not be trusted with the Treasury portfolio. Even Campbell Newman, who was about as toxic as they come, knew that the member for Kawana would drag him down. That is why he put him in the lock box in witness protection for the entire duration of the 2015 campaign, and as night follows day, as soon as the election period begins in 2024, the member for Kawana will disappear again.

The member for Toowoomba South is safe in his portfolio, by default. What is the member for Toowoomba South working on? He has the cuts lists going; that is what he is doing. He is working hard. He has talked about the debt reduction strategy. Remember that? I do not know for how many days, but almost as long as the crime strategy. It has been 1,000 days—

**A government member:** Eleven hundred.

**Mr DICK:** Eleven hundred days—I take the interjection—for the crime strategy. Still we do not have it. Of course, the shadow Treasurer is working on the debt reduction strategy. We know what that is. If you shred the revenue base of the state, if you give \$9 billion back to coal companies, if you say debt is not going to increase, you have one option, and that is to cut and cut and cut again. That is the plan. The Leader of the Opposition has no honesty. He is too busy running around calling himself the Queensland premier-elect rather than levelling with the people of Queensland that he will cut jobs, services and infrastructure and damage this state.

## Energy Assets



**Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.25 pm): It has been 994 days since the catastrophic explosion at the Callide Power Station which sent power prices through the roof. What has this government done? Absolutely nothing. They have sat on their hands. Today we have seen a highly

published, highly made-up video of how the explosion happened. We certainly have not heard why the explosion happened. After 994 days, all we see is a Hollywood video, but in this plot we know who the villain is. The villain is the Labor government. It is a government that has sent power prices through the roof. There has been a 19.9 per cent rise, higher than any other state in the nation. Just like the Leader of the Opposition said, this is triple the rate of other states. This is unacceptable.

We know that this would never have happened if the Labor government had maintained their assets. After 994 days, a vitally important report into the Callide C explosion has still not been released. We still have not heard from forensic engineer, Sean Brady, around what went wrong and why this happened. What we have seen is a sanitised video. Let's remember, two weeks ago Minister de Brenni stood up and said he had not seen and did not know anything about this issue. The minister has been called out today because of how long it takes to produce one of these highly sanitised videos to try to explain what happened at Callide. They have been keeping Queenslanders in the dark. Their prices are going through the roof. They are suffering from blackouts. They are suffering from brownouts. The question has to be asked: why? It is because the Labor government has failed to maintain its energy assets. It is only the LNP that is committed to a maintenance guarantee.

We know that the government has been completely silent. Let's also save the fake performance from the energy minister when he says he does not know anything: 'I can't see anything. Don't know anything.' The minister is the shareholding minister along with the Treasurer, and both of these jokers have no clue—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): I ask you to withdraw that.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I withdraw. The two ministers, who are the shareholding ministers of this vitally important energy asset, try to tell Queenslanders that it is not their fault; that they do not know what is happening. I would say to them: why do they deserve the pay cheque of a shareholding minister if they have no clue what is going on within the energy assets?


Let's have a look at what else has been happening on the national stage when it comes to the Queensland government's incompetence and inability to manage its power assets. There is not just one court case, but two court cases. The first court case sees the Federal Court tearing up the Labor government's excuses in and around what went wrong at that horrific, catastrophic explosion, but then we have the Australian Energy Regulator, the base energy police, basically dragging the Queensland government to court to say, 'Answer why you have failed every Queenslanders. This affects every Queenslanders with their energy bills going up.'

It is not just us saying that. The Queensland Competition Authority is saying that prices are increasing. The Auditor-General of Queensland is debunking what this incompetent minister has said. At estimates in 2021, the minister said that the catastrophic explosion at Callide would not increase power prices. That has been debunked. The Hollywood video that he put out today has basically caught him out because it says absolutely nothing about why. He refuses to explain to Queenslanders why their power bills have risen by 19 per cent. It is completely unacceptable.

We have heard Shane Brunker from the CFMEU calling out the government and saying that these assets must be maintained. We have to maintain them; more must be done. Let's not forget some of the other comments that the minister has failed to explain. When did CS Energy and Minister de Brenni first receive Labor's secret Callide report? I bet they have that report. I bet they are sitting on it and I bet they have spent thousands—if not hundreds of thousands—of Queenslanders' dollars releasing this highly sanitised video. What did he know and when did he know it? When will we find out that our power prices are going to reduce because Labor will try to maintain our assets and protect the workers? When did CS Energy start producing this Hollywood video? Why were Queenslanders kept in the dark? Queenslanders are trying to keep their lights on, but they cannot trust the chaos and confusion of this Labor government. They need to release the Callide report today.

*(Time expired)*

### **Liberal National Party, State Schools**

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice) (2.31 pm): What an honour it is to be sworn in as the education minister of the great state of Queensland. I pay tribute to my predecessor, the member for McConnel, who achieved such great reforms. This Labor government is all about education, as can be seen by our achievements. We have free kindy; we have a \$100 million student wellbeing program; we have hired over 5,500 new teachers and 2,100 teacher aides; we have \$3 billion in infrastructure; we have air-conditioned every school—the list goes on and on. It is fantastic to visit schools and see the impact of all of those great initiatives.

Teachers, parents and people from communities all over Queensland will be going to the election in October and they will be thinking, 'Do we want a Labor government that puts education as a top priority, or do we want an LNP government?'

We have seen the little book. Members opposite are still carrying that little book around everywhere. It is everywhere. It is 'same old, same old'. You delve into that little book and think, 'What are they actually going to do?' No-one can work out what they will do. The Leader of the Opposition gets asked all the time, 'What does that actually mean?'

**Government members** interjected.

**Ms FARMER:** I have to say that the LNP candidate for Hervey Bay is good value. I should ring him and see what they are going to do, because he always seems to be able to tell us what is happening in the various portfolios. It is quite handy!

All we have to go on is what they did last time. Let's have a think about infrastructure for a start. They say in the Right Priorities document—

An LNP government will prioritise lifting education standards and providing safe, high-quality education facilities for Queenslanders.

What did they do last time? They closed six schools: Charlton, Fortitude Valley, Nyanda, Old Yarranlea, Stuart and Toowoomba South. They planned to close another three that they talked about publicly: Coorparoo Secondary College, Everton Park High State School and Wyreema State School. What a lot of people did not know about, and what we were able to find out through right to information, is that they were looking at another 55 schools. They tried to blame it on a staffer and say, 'It wasn't our fault,' but the then education minister had on his list 14 schools in Far North Queensland; 10 schools in North Queensland; eight schools in the north coast, Darling Downs and south-west regions; seven schools in metropolitan areas; six schools in Central Queensland; and two schools in the south-east. What did all of those members do? Did they ever stick up for any of their schools?

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order, member for Southern Downs.

**Ms FARMER:** Did we hear one peep from them?

**Mr Lister** interjected.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Southern Downs, you are warned.

**Ms FARMER:** We have not heard one peep from any of those members who are here now, sticking up for their communities. Those opposite have their cuts list—and we know that it is a long list. If they ever come to government, we know that they will cut schools. They will close schools because they do not care about school communities. Which member opposite will step up? Who will say, 'Please don't close my school'? We did not hear a peep out of them in relation to these 65 or 70 schools.

What else do those opposite say they are going to do? They are going to improve student wellbeing. They are going to invest in new programs to help children with additional needs to reach their full potential. Again, it is difficult to know what that is because we cannot get an answer. I do not know if they have figured it out but do not want to tell anybody or if they have not figured it out yet. Let me tell members what those opposite did about student wellbeing last time they were in government. For the 1,264 state schools in Queensland they invested in 11 mental health and wellbeing professionals—11 for 1,264 schools. That equates to one wellbeing professional for every 100 schools. Not only did they do that but they also cut funding to all of those incredibly important organisations that help so much with student wellbeing—the Pyjama Foundation and the Triple P parenting program, and the list could go on. I have so much to say about the time those opposite were in government. We do not have many details, but we can fill in all the blanks because we saw what they were like between 2012 and 2015. These people cannot be trusted with our kids' education.

*(Time expired)*

### Hill Electorate, Speed Cameras

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (2.36 pm): There are major problems with the TMR unmanned trailer speed camera units known as Harmony TS1 devices. It has been reported to my office that over 400 people were issued with more than 600 infringement notices from a device stationed along the Malanda Atherton Road in September. The majority firmly believe that the device was dodgy. I have written three letters to the office of the Minister for Transport outlining these issues. To date I have had zero response.

In November I met with the then minister and the acting director-general of TMR and again raised these issues with them. The then minister was shocked to learn that the device was at the location for a two-week period, with no explanations or reasons provided. The only assumption we can make is that it was to save transport costs to Acusensus, which is contracted by TMR to manage the devices and to raise revenue at each location. The Queensland Police Union boss, Ian Leavers, agreed by recently slamming the state government's controversial rollout of extra unmanned speed cameras across rural and regional parts of the state, saying they were about revenue raising and not safety.

Queenslanders have been put under severe financial strain and mental health stress because multiple infringement notices—up to 10 per person—were issued demanding payment. I lodged a right to information request with TMR for calibration certificates or any other documentation showing that these devices have been tested in the field. The RTI I received from TMR states—

I am satisfied that all reasonable steps have been undertaken to verify the existence of the documents identified in section 2 to 6 of your application. I consider these documents are non-existent.

The only document provided is the manufacturing certificate issued by Acusensus Australia. I table that document.

*Tabled paper:* Document, dated 19 April 2023, titled 'Certificate of Test of a Speed Measuring Device' [173].

During the meeting with the former minister and TMR I was informed that TMR do have in their possession documents showing that the devices were calibrated and tested at each location. When I asked to be provided with these documents I was informed that they could not be provided as they were the property of Acusensus Australia. Why, if these documents are in TMR's possession, are they not being provided through the RTI request?

There is a significant number of people contesting these fines in court who will be arguing these tickets are unlawful according to the traffic regulations and the TO(RUM) Act. Between TMR, the Office of State Revenue and SPER, the process for contesting these fines is deliberately confusing to force Queenslanders to give up. An example of this is a person who received three fines in the mail after the expiry date, giving her the option to contest in court or pay the fines. The debt was sent to SPER, which informed her she could opt to have the matter contested in court and the payments of the infringement notice would be frozen until a court date was set. However, she was then informed by TMR that her licence was suspended. That should not happen, but, because two different agencies are involved, she is now left in the ridiculous situation of her licence being suspended before the matter goes to court.

The entire process of handling fines and contesting these fines between the three agencies is nothing short of a complete debacle. In closing, I demand the minister withdraw and refund all tickets from Harmony TS1 and remove all Harmony TS1s from Queensland roads until they comply with the government's own laws.

### White, Ms V



**Hon. LR McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (2.40 pm): It is with the heaviest of hearts that I rise to pay tribute to Vyleen White and offer my sincerest condolences and that of the Bundamba community to her family. Vyleen will forever remain a much loved and respected member of our community who was cruelly and violently taken from her family, her loved ones and our community on the evening of Saturday, 3 February when she was simply popping down to the shops. Like so many locals, I am shocked, horrified and still in disbelief that this has occurred in our community. This tragedy has shaken us to our core and the outpouring of care and compassion has been overwhelming. Thank you to all those who have laid flowers, lit candles, laid cards at Town Square shopping centre and to those who attended the community vigil or sent their thoughts and prayers to Vyleen and her family.

We are united in our grief for Vyleen and united in our support for her family. While our community is hurting, we are standing together. This was evident last Thursday night when, led by the White family and African community leaders, our community, police and other organisations came together in support of accountability, unity and healing. I would particularly like to thank and acknowledge Vyleen's daughter Cindy Micallef and Beny Bol for their moving and graceful words. I also want to acknowledge our mayor and the member for Surfers Paradise for their contributions.


It was a powerful and genuine show of togetherness: many people, many backgrounds, different organisations and different levels of government, nonpartisan, unified to honour Vyleen, her family and all that is good—and there is plenty of it—about our wonderful community. I want to place on record my thanks to our hardworking and dedicated police. It is their swift and relentless work that means those

accused of this heinous crime are now before the courts. While we have record numbers of local police, we need to do more. Increased patrols at Town Square are welcome as is the deployment of a mobile Police Beat. I back my community's call for more resources and will continue to advocate for more permanent local police resources. I would like to see shopping centres have more security measures, including better lighting, more CCTV and security guards.

There is no doubt that traumatic events such as this have long-lasting and long-term impacts for immediate family, witnesses and our community more broadly. I want to acknowledge the incredible work of the Victims of Crime community response team that has been supporting our community through this time of great individual and collective pain. They have been set up right outside the Aldi at Town Square providing support to anyone who has come to pay respects.

We are a strong, proud community that stands in support of Vyleen and the White family seeking accountability for those responsible and united in our journey towards peace and healing. Vale, Vyleen White.

### Health System

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.44 pm): It is a new year but it is the same old, tired Labor government mired in chaos and crisis. What has changed? Nothing! Nothing has changed. Queenslanders are rightly saying things are tougher, things are harder and things are getting worse. The issues of cost of living, youth crime and housing are getting worse. In the health portfolio it is no different. It is getting worse. The numbers, the facts, do not lie, and I will come back to that a little later. First and foremost, I want to talk through the explosive documents obtained by the opposition through right to information.

No-one would think that the Minister for Health might actually be focused on healing the health crisis: things like reducing ambulance ramping or driving down elective surgery waiting lists or keeping on top of the number of people spending more than 24 hours in an emergency department. Those are the things that Queenslanders should rightly believe and expect the minister would be addressing in her role. That is not happening and those documents prove that.

Instead of focusing on those things, the things that matter to Queenslanders, the minister is more focused on 'reviewing the existing narrative'. I would love to hear what the minister thinks that statement actually means. Let's face it, we will never get an honest answer so let's call it for what it is. It is the minister trying to fix the image rather than actually fix the problems causing the Queensland health crisis. It is as simple as that and I think any Queenslanders relying on the public health system who hears something like that would be appalled.

I say this to the minister: reviewing the narrative does not do anything for the patients waiting on the ambulance ramp for five hours. Reviewing the narrative does not do anything for the elderly patient waiting years for a knee replacement. Reviewing the narrative does not do anything for the dedicated doctors, nurses, paramedics and allied health professionals who are running our public health system, who are feeling stressed, exhausted and burnt out.

I cannot believe that I am having to spell this out to the minister, but I fear she is losing her grip on being able to objectively understand how dire the situation is across our public health system. I think I know the reason though. The minister is now deluded about the situation because she started to believe her own narrative. In her mind it is all fixed, it is all done, the problem is gone because she will review the narrative. Please! That is as offensive to the patients and the staff relying on and working in our hospital system as it is disturbing. It is disturbing because it gives an insight into the minister's priorities, her focus and her principles. It is the narrative that matters to the minister, not the facts and not the patients.

Let's just run through some of those facts now, the facts which make up the realities of the Queensland health crisis: 43 per cent ambulance ramping as far as we are aware, the worst December quarter on record in Queensland and the worst in the nation. There are now more than 60,000 people on the elective surgery waiting list—again another record. This is the first time in Queensland's history that the number of people waiting for elective surgery has surpassed 60,000 and there are now more than 291,000 Queenslanders waiting to see a specialist. It is again another unwanted record. For some perspective, in 62 days the number of patients on the waiting list to see a specialist grew by more than 15,500 Queenslanders. These are sobering figures. I have been a keen observer of our state's hospital performance for some time and I have never seen a December quarter quite like this.

Is it any wonder when there is a minister at the helm who is only interested in trying to make things look better than they are; a minister who wants to tell Queenslanders about the built bed numbers, not the ones that are operational; a minister who has the performance data and even gets it weekly according to this RTI, but will only provide it to Queenslanders when it is politically convenient like on a Saturday, hoping to hide, hoping that nobody was watching. We were watching. The narrative and the story that the Premier and the minister are writing is one of an unwanted broken record across Queensland's public health system. Changing the narrative will not heal the health crisis. Changing the government in Queensland will.

### Bribie Island Bridge



**Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (2.49 pm): Since long before I was elected, Bribie locals have been telling me that their top infrastructure priority is building a new Bribie bridge. Our Bribie bridge is a local icon. It was built in 1963 to serve only a few hundred locals and a modest tourist industry. More than 60 years on, Bribie has over 21,000 residents and our Bribie bridge needs backup. That is why in 2020 I listened to locals and I put our bridge on the agenda with a commitment to deliver the business case for the next Bribie bridge. As part of that business case, the concept designs for our next Bribie bridge have been released. I encourage every resident in Pumicestone to have their say.

I am really proud that these concept designs deliver on what Bribie locals told us matters to them. They told me that they needed reliable access to the island for work and school, to care for their elderly family members and for our first responders. They told me that they wanted better and safer active transport corridors. They told me that they wanted our environment considered, including our famous pelicans, and that they wanted roads on either side of the new Bribie bridge improved to keep traffic flowing. Our concept designs deliver on all of that and more.

The next Bribie bridge matters to locals, and the Miles Labor government is listening to our community and delivering the infrastructure that we need for Pumicestone's future, never more so than now as we work toward the next Bribie Island bridge. I have worked hard every single day since I was elected to deliver for the people of Pumicestone and I will not stop until I have delivered that bridge. I say a big thankyou to Minister Mellish for his strong support for our next Bribie bridge. On his very first day on the job I rang him to bend his ear about it. He took the time to listen, and it was great to stand with him beside our beautiful Pumicestone Passage to announce the concept designs.

Our proven track record is working hard every day to listen and deliver for the people of Pumicestone. What a contrast with the LNP. It certainly is not focusing on delivering our next Bribie bridge. Who can forget the very first press conference, where the weak Leader of the Opposition stood up and walked back the LNP's support for another Bribie bridge—and he has been weak and watery on this and every other issue ever since? The LNP is simply not focused on what Bribie locals need; it just blows in and blows out of Pumicestone, spreading its fake news. It terrorised Bribie locals with its desal scam. It spreads fake news about funding cuts to Bribie Island Road. It does not have a candidate. There is just nothing happening there but dysfunction and fake news.

At the end of the day, the LNP's actions are nothing but a smokescreen to camouflage its real plan for Pumicestone, because the LNP only has one plan and it is a plan for cuts. Its weak LNP leader will not support our progressive coal royalties and has blown a \$9 billion hole in his own budget. It cannot prioritise our next Bribie bridge because its top priority is sucking up to its multinational coal company mates. It will not be building bridges; it will be sacking roadworkers. Queenslanders remember the last time the LNP was in power, when it cut \$3 billion from local road projects. Long-term Bribie locals remember the LNP government, which sprang a last-minute toll on the current Bribie bridge when it was built, draining money from locals' wallets and draining our local economy. Only the Miles Labor government guarantees that there will never be a toll on our next Bribie bridge. Our record speaks for itself, and so does the LNP's. It will cut, it will sack and it will sell.

Queenslanders know what the LNP stands for because it has shown us time and time again, and now it has told us that it is going to do it all over again. Only our Miles Labor government will listen to people in Pumicestone and deliver the infrastructure we need and only our Miles Labor government has a plan to build Bribie's next bridge, whereas the LNP's only plan is for cuts. It has no ideas, no policies and no candidate. Its plan is to cut, gut and sell our satellite hospitals in Bribie and Caboolture. It has failed to plan for our next Bribie bridge. There is its fake news, its plan for cuts and the member for Glass House out there spruiking it every step of the way instead of standing up for his own community. The LNP is bad for Pumicestone and it is bad for Queensland. The people of Queensland know it and the people of Pumicestone know it—every single day of the week.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Callide Power Station, CS Energy Report



**Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs) (2.54 pm): Today CS Energy released its technical findings into the incident at its power station. Today I have been provided a copy of those technical findings into this matter for the first time. CS Energy has held a press conference and released a video and a technical report that provides a root cause analysis. Today I was provided a copy of its technical findings and I have also watched that video. Earlier today the member for Nanango described this information released by CS Energy using words like 'Hollywood' and she used the word 'fake'. This is an insult—an insult to the workers at the Callide Power Station. Furthermore—

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Member for Nanango, the minister is giving a ministerial statement. I realise there is some degree of provocation, but given that you have made contributions to the House in relation to this matter I think you would want to listen to this contribution. There will be ample opportunities for you to make comment on it at future times.

**Mr de BRENNI**: It is an insult to the chair of CS Energy, who has four decades of experience as an engineer and is regarded as a leader in the field. Further in her contribution earlier in this House the member for Nanango implied that Dr Sean Brady is somehow part of a cover-up, because for her to say that the government has a copy of the report—

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON**: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The minister with his statement is clearly misleading the House and I ask the minister to withdraw. I take personal offence at his comments, particularly pertaining to Dr Sean Brady, and I ask that he withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**: You will resume your seat. This is not an opportunity for you to make a speech. I will take some advice. Member for Nanango, firstly, if you believe that anyone is misleading the House, there is a process for responding to that and it does not involve taking a point of order. Secondly, you cannot take personal offence on behalf of somebody else. The matter has to be—

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

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**: I might finish my ruling before you rise to seek further clarification. On our hearing of that, the statements were not directed at you personally. You have taken offence on behalf of somebody else. I am happy to hear your thoughts.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON**: Thank you and I rise on a point of clarification, with the greatest respect, Mr Deputy Speaker. The minister was clearly stating that I said something, and that was where I took offence.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**: I will take some advice.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON**: I am sorry, Mr Deputy Speaker: to clarify, it was directed directly at me.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Thank you. Resume your seat. We would have to check the tapes to determine the validity of that, but in the interests of the orderly running of the House I would ask the minister to withdraw.

**Mr de BRENNI**: I withdraw. Earlier today we heard from the LNP, which implied that Dr Sean Brady is somehow part of a cover-up. For the LNP to allege that the government has a copy of his report insinuates that it has been provided to this government and therefore that he must be—

**Ms Simpson** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Order, member for Maroochydore. Order!

**Mr de BRENNI**: For the LNP to say that a copy of this report has been provided to government suggests that he is somehow complicit in the arrangements to which the LNP refer. The member for Nanango has made—

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

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

**Mr de BRENNI**: The member for Nanango has made some incredibly serious allegations. I place on record that the government has not received the Brady report and we have been advised that it is not yet finalised. Further, the member for Nanango and the LNP have, on multiple occasions, said that it is their policy to adopt what they call a maintenance guarantee. The shadow minister for energy ought to be aware that a maintenance guarantee already exists under the National Electricity Law.

**Mr Head** interjected.

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

**Mr de BRENNI:** Such legal obligations already exist under the National Electricity Law, the National Electricity Rules and the Electricity Regulation 2006. For the information of the LNP, those obligations are not a slogan; they are the law of this land.

**Mr POWELL:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There are longstanding guidelines for what constitutes a ministerial statement and they include not debating matters. I believe the minister has well and truly strayed into debating certain aspects of policy.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will take some advice. There is no point of order but I would ask the minister to come to the substance of the statement.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Before I go any further, my observations from the high-level briefing I received from the chair and the Department of Energy and Climate this afternoon are that the information contained in the video and the optics in that video are confronting. The video is thorough and it provides insight into how complex the identification of those issues has been. I would further like to reflect on the bravery displayed by a number of technicians portrayed in the video who were in the control room and did what they could to protect the lives of their colleagues. I have met with the workers who operate the facility, including those who were there on the day in the turbine hall and in the control room. I can assure members that there was nothing fake about their actions. There was nothing fake about their bravery. Members opposite should stand in this place and issue a public apology to the workforce for their comments.

I want to stress that the technical report released today is just the first piece of information that will be available. Dr Brady is yet to complete his report. The government will let Dr Brady, one of the nation's pre-eminent engineers, do his job and when his report is finished we will consider how we will respond. I have been advised by CS Energy that, firstly, the board and management of CS Energy have already taken on board and acted on the findings. Secondly, the replacement C4 generator is safe to be put back into service and the workforce is finalising the process of doing that now.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Minister, resume your seat. Members, in his ministerial statement the minister is outlining what the government intends to do. Rather than constantly interjecting and making suggestions, perhaps you should listen and there will be many opportunities for you to contribute in relation to this matter at points in the future.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Thirdly, according to the findings released today into the incident that occurred, the event was unforeseeable. It is vitally important that CS Energy has released these findings so that other power generators, both here in Australia and internationally, can learn from them. Whilst this is clearly of great interest to members of the opposition, there are a number of proceedings that are underway.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Deputy Speaker, I am not taking interjections. There are a number of proceedings underway and they include those instituted by the Australian Energy Regulator and matters of significant financial consequence related to insurance matters. There is a process underway by the special administrator in relation to the joint venture. It is my position that, given those proceedings are occurring in relevant courts, I am not to engage and I will not engage in a running commentary. Those processes should be allowed to happen without prejudice.

As we have heard today, some members opposite have sought to associate this with, in some cases, the rate of wholesale energy and energy bills being used interchangeably. I wish to place on record that I am advised by the Department of Energy and Climate that Queenslanders pay the lowest power bills of any state in Australia thanks to our nation-leading cost-of-living rebates. I can further confirm that reporting by the Australian Energy Regulator and the Australian Energy Market Operator demonstrate that the price path for wholesale energy in Queensland remains consistent with every other jurisdiction, notwithstanding the temporary impacts of the incident on the Queensland energy system in May 2021. Those independent market bodies have identified that the factors relating to wholesale energy prices in Australia have occurred largely as a result of the war in Ukraine and prolonged global demand and high prices for fossil fuels.




At this point in time, full return-to-service dates as opposed to partial ramp-up dates, as required to be reported to the Australian Energy Regulator, have not changed. I have personally inspected the reconstruction works of the C4 generator and the cooling towers onsite and I am satisfied that the workers onsite are doing everything they can to finalise the resolution of this matter. Since the incident, Queensland has brought on 3,400 megawatts of renewable generation. That is around four times the nameplate capacity of Callide C. This government has invested in new generation to ensure that we maintain our reputation as the jurisdiction that has the most reliable energy system in the nation.

## SUMMARY OFFENCES (PREVENTION OF KNIFE CRIME) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from p. 49, on motion of Mr Ryan—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (3.06 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. The bill was examined by the State Development and Regional Industries Committee and the committee tabled their report on 1 February 2024. Prior to that, and of particular significance, is the Community Support and Services Committee's examination, whilst I was chair of that committee, of the trial to expand police powers to search for knives. That culminated in the Community Support and Services Committee's report on the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill 2022 and the government's response to that Community Support and Services Committee report. That important preliminary work underpins the Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. There was one primary focus of that work: the prevention of knife crime in our communities—that is, reducing access to and, therefore, the number of knives that are present in our communities. There is absolutely no excuse for carrying a knife in public without a reasonable excuse.


I congratulate our local police, based at the Upper Mount Gravatt police station, for their commitment to preventing knives and other weapons being brought into my electorate of Mansfield. For many months they have consistently carried out wandering surveillance at the Garden City bus terminal. It is an important interchange and arrival point into our community. It is an important point at which police can intercept any people, particularly young people, who may be making decisions that are contrary to their life chances. That taskforce has prevented a large number of weapons from entering my local community and for that my community is incredibly grateful. A knife crime cannot occur if a person is not carrying a knife. I am thankful to the Jack Beasley Foundation for their work and the guidance that they have provided to the young people in our schools through their programs.

As we know, our young people sometimes make poor decisions, especially when they are influenced by their peers. This bill is specifically designed to reduce knife crime and associated youth offending and to enhance community safety by strengthening the legislative framework regarding the sale, possession and storage of knives and other dangerous items.

A key aspect of the framework under the bill is the prohibition on the sale of knives to minors. For the purpose of this new offence a controlled item includes knives, swords, machetes, axes, sickles or scythes, spear guns, spears and replica firearms that are considered a restricted item under the Weapons Category Regulation 1997. The latter captures, amongst other things, lifelike toy guns that are commonly referred to as gel blasters.

Although knives are broadly captured, a minor will still be able to purchase what are referred to as exempt knives, which are plastic or wooden knives designed to be used for eating, a knife with a rounded or dull edge such as a butter knife, or a knife designed for use as a cheese knife. Knives have myriad genuine uses. We know that, for example, a 17-year-old apprentice chef and other young people engaged in professions that use knives may need to purchase professional knives on occasions. Hairdressers with scissors is another example. They will continue to be able to lawfully use those knives and a person will be able to supply them to the apprentice. Only the sale of the knife to the hypothetical 17-year-old apprentice is prohibited. Therefore, that apprentice will be prevented from purchasing a knife personally and will be required to obtain the assistance of an adult in obtaining them.

I commend the Premier and the Minister for Police for their long work, starting with the work of the Community Support and Services Committee and Jack's Law. I commend the minister and the Premier for bringing this bill before the House and acknowledge the extent to which this law reform will reduce the number of and access to knives by young people across the Queensland community. Our responsibility as adults in our community is to provide guidance to ensure that the laws we make in this House not only represent and reflect the expectations of our communities but also are there to guide and assist our young people in making wise decisions when considering the possibility of buying and/or carrying a knife in our community. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (3.12 pm): It is a pleasure for me to rise and speak on the Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. As the shadow minister mentioned, we certainly support the bill although, as has been said, this government is missing a great opportunity. I thank my colleagues on the State Development and Regional Industries Committee for their work on this bill. I particularly thank my colleague the member for Burleigh for his serious deliberation and questioning through the inquiry process. I certainly want to give a shout-out to all the police out there—the police from Gatton, Laidley, Lowood and up at Helidon—for their great work in keeping our community safe.

It is very important for members of the House to know that this bill came about because in 2018 offences with a knife numbered 1,784—and that is terrible—but in the financial year 2022-23 offences with a knife rose to 2,177. That is just terrible. I commend the Jack Beasley Foundation and others who have been doing some really great work in this space. I was pleased to be part of the committee when Belinda Beasley and our colleague Sam O'Connor attended the inquiry and talked to us about the reasons for this and for the other work they are doing in that space in terms of preventing knife crimes from happening and certainly making it harder for young people to get a knife.

I recognise that that is something this bill sets out to do but, to be honest, from my past experience within the Police Service, I think knives and guns do not kill people; people using knives and guns kill people. This bill enables a conversation to occur about the dangers associated with a knife—it is good to see that happen—but I am very pleased that our committee in recommendations 2 and 3 suggested an education process and educational efforts for small businesses as well as significant guidance and resources by the police in the implementation of this bill. We made those recommendations in light of the very large fines for small businesses that may have made an error and not complied with the new legislation. The fines are in the thousands. For some small businesses, that could make a difference in being able to keep the doors open or not. I appreciate that the recommendations have been accepted by the government and look forward to seeing that investment put in place.

During our inquiry the issue of wand was raised. Wanding has been very effective across the state. In fact, the police asked for the wanding trial to be extended and it was extended to railway stations and shopping centres. Again, from personal experience, my recommendation is that police are given the power to wand anywhere. The reason is that it is a very non-invasive use of power. We all choose to be subjected to it every time we go to an airport or into different secure environments. The use of a wand in a public place by police would be very non-invasive. Unless someone is carrying a knife, a gun or some other significant metal object which could be used to do harm, they have absolutely nothing to fear. It would be a very quick and very simple non-invasive process.

I commend our shadow minister for police on the foreshadowed amendments that he has outlined today. I look forward to those amendments being moved by our other shadow ministers in due course. I ask the government to support those amendments. If it does not, I do not think it is fair dinkum about fixing the issue of crime. Those foreshadowed amendments seek to unshackle the judiciary and see detention as a last resort removed from the Youth Justice Act. That does not mean that detention will happen on every occasion; it means that the judiciary will be able to make sentences appropriate to the crime that has been committed by the youth offender without having to go through a linear process of issuing more cautions, more diversions and other avenues. This is something a magistrate must do because of precedent, the Youth Justice Act and decisions of the Queensland Childrens Court, which is the higher court and the authority on that matter.


I challenge the government to accept our proposed amendments regarding removing detention as a last resort and regarding opening the courts—not to everyone but to family, victims and the media as appropriate to the circumstances of the case—so that we can make sure justice is done and is seen to be done. I challenge the government to accept the amendments that will be moved either today or tomorrow. If the government is fair dinkum about fixing crime, it can take this opportunity to get on the front foot and put those policies in place.

Through the committee inquiry a number of concerns were raised about the overseas purchase and electronic purchase of items and goods. I was satisfied with the police answer in terms of seeing some security on the front end of some of those websites selling goods of that nature to our youngsters in Queensland in that they would have to jump through the under-18 hoop. Apparently, that will satisfy the legislation.

The main concern I have, as has been outlined, is the impost it is going to have on some of our small businesses. I recognise that the minister said this is going to take some time to implement, although it will be a short period of time. There are some businesses out there that have meagre operations and any investment of \$100 or \$200 in additional security is a real challenge for them, and this is just another impost. As I said, I think there are better opportunities for the government to take in terms of making a real effort in regard to knife crime, particularly the extension of wandering powers for police.

I also recognise the challenges that are going to be faced by the police in the operationalisation of this legislation, particularly in regard to the definition of a knife. We heard through the inquiry about the challenge of even a scalpel sold in a newsagency fitting the definition of a knife. Are we going to see those things exempt in regulation or are they going to be included? In my community I have to recognise that for many farmers and graziers it is part of their dress to have a pocket knife on their belt because it is a tool of trade that is used every day. I trust that the police will use common sense in applying these new offences. I also recognise that young workers such as butchers who might use knives that fit the definition will see relief from this bill and not suffer undue prosecution.

Again, I commend this bill and we support the intent of this bill. There are other opportunities that I think the government could very easily take up. I know that the police and the Police Union are asking for additional powers. Importantly today, when we move amendments, as foreshadowed already, to see detention as a last resort removed from the Youth Justice Act and to see the courts opened, here is an opportunity for this Labor government to get on the front foot, to be fair dinkum about crime and attend to the problems of crime. Removing detention as a last resort does not mean detention on every occasion. It just means that the magistrate and judiciary are unshackled and able to put in place proper penalties that fit the crime. That is something that the magistrates would appreciate, having compulsion for offenders to undertake certain things that will help them improve their lives and not be recidivist offenders.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice) (3.21 pm): I rise to speak to the Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I begin by acknowledging the tragic death of Mrs Vyleen White and I pay my respects to her family. It is inconceivable to all of us that this should happen to someone as they are going about their business. We send our deepest thoughts to her family. I want to commend all the people working at Redbank Plains for putting their arms around the community and helping people heal.

I also want to acknowledge Brett and Belinda Beasley, who are in the gallery today, for all the work they have done to bring us to this point already with the passing of Jack's Law last year. I can only imagine how hard it is to be sitting in the gallery as we speak about knife related crime again, reminding them of what happened to their beloved Jack. I am very much looking forward to meeting Belinda and Brett this week so we can talk about the foundation and how we can support the foundation even more.

This bill goes to the heart of Jack's death and Mrs White's death. It goes to the fundamental principle that we all hold to—that we all should feel safe in our homes and that we all should feel safe out in the community, including feeling safe from violent offences such as knife crime. One victim of knife crime is one victim too many. This bill addresses knife crime particularly committed by minors. We know from the evidence that was presented by the deputy commissioner to the State Development and Regional Industries Committee that knife related crime in Queensland has increased by 18 per cent since 2019. We see this increase particularly reflected in offences committed by minors. Anything we can do to remove the opportunity for a dangerous weapon to be sold to a minor is a great step forward.

We know that the bill will prohibit the sale of knives and other weapons, known as controlled items, to minors; make it an offence for a person to falsely represent themselves as being over the age of 18 years for the purpose of being sold a controlled item; and require retailers to display signage advertising the legal prohibition against the sale of controlled items to minors. We know that those controlled items include knives, swords, machetes, axes, sickles or scythes, spear guns, spears and replica firearms including gel blasters.

The bill also prohibits controlled items from being sold or advertised in a way that suggests the item is suitable for combat, intended to be used for violence, or likely to stimulate or encourage violent or criminal behaviour involving the item. We are talking about images such as machetes with blood dripping from the edge of the blade or marked with words such as 'headsplitter' or 'killer' or 'slayer'. This sends shivers down the spine of all of us.

The bill also imposes obligations upon the suppliers of particular controlled items to safely secure the items at retail locations and makes consequential amendments to support these reforms. On that last point I note the recommendations of the committee around awareness and education and support for retailers. I commend the minister for accepting those proposed amendments.

I know that these changes are going to better align Queensland with other jurisdictions such as New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia—in fact, I think every jurisdiction in Australia. It is going to send a strong message that people should not be carrying knives in public and gives courts the tools they need to keep the community safe. It comes on top of existing strategies to prevent knife crime including Jack's Law, which we passed last year. Again, I acknowledge the work of Belinda and Brett.

I think it has been confronting for all of us but certainly for members of the public to see the images of how that law was rolled out. We were seeing images of young people carrying machetes, axes and scythes in their backpacks. What are young people doing going on a day out or a night out with those sorts of implements in their backpacks? I think it has been confronting for everybody to understand that that happens and how much it happens. It is great to hear the statistics that 435 weapons have been seized. That is 435 possible instances of violence against another person that could have been perpetrated in a knife related offence.

This bill will also complement the strong laws we put in place last year with the support of the LNP—and I thank the LNP—that target serious repeat offenders. Those laws have been in place now for almost a year. We are starting to see some strong figures. For example, on the breach of bail changes, nearly 1,700 child defendants have been charged with new breach of bail offences for a total of just over 4,000 charges.


It is also important for us to understand why young people opt to use knives. Tom Allsop from PeakCare presented to the committee how some of those things could be addressed. Of the almost half a billion dollars of investment in our early intervention and prevention programs, we are starting to see outstanding results from some of the programs that we put in place that address the reasons that young people are of that mind. We have our intensive case management program. We have seen a 51 per cent reduction in the frequency of offending and a 72 per cent reduction in the proportion of crimes. Our youth co-responder team has had 92,000 engagements across the state. Our on-country program is showing great promise. We are addressing matters like disengagement from school.

We know that nearly every young person in the youth justice system has disengaged from school, and we have committed almost \$300 million to address the reasons those young people are disengaged and in the youth justice system. With our Putting Queensland Kids First strategy we are starting from scratch and saying that we have to get it right from the beginning of a child's life—from conception. I hope that every member in this House, regardless of what side they are on, will look at that document and give feedback, because it is so important that we get that right.

I recognise, as I think the committee reflected on and a number of people have talked about, that this is a lot for retailers, and I thank them for their involvement in the committee. I very much value the presence of the National Retail Association on my Youth Justice Reference Group. They are a constant reminder that they and their members are often very vulnerable to the impacts of youth crime, so I really welcome those comments.

Quite aside from the impact of these laws on crime itself, one of the things former police commissioner Bob Atkinson said in his report to me when I was previously youth justice minister was that everything we do in youth justice has to be bookended by community safety and community confidence. It is important that we have these laws and we are deterring young offenders. It is also important that the community can see we have strong laws in place and that police are discovering these weapons and they are acting on that, particularly after the horrific incident that occurred only last week.

In conclusion, I want to acknowledge my local police, Senior Sergeant Dave Buttram, the officer in charge, and all of the officers at Morningside police station who have been magnificent in their efforts to increase community confidence in my community. They do amazing work and it is a privilege to work alongside them. I thank them and all of the police for the work they are doing. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (3.32 pm): I listened with interest to the member for Bulimba in relation to what she had to say about what this government is doing regarding the youth crime crisis that is pervasive throughout Queensland. I reflected on what she said, because I had the same note down about what Bob Atkinson said in 2018 when he reviewed the youth crime laws. He said, 'Community safety is paramount, along with community confidence.' I have a message, Minister: the community does not have confidence in this government to fix the youth crime crisis.

Every day when we go out we hear reports from members of the community. Every day on our local community Facebook pages we see film, photographs and video of young offenders trying to break into people's houses. Whether they are kicking down doors, whether they are breaking into cars, or whether they are scouting out premises, it is happening every day. Fundamentally, the reforms this government has brought in since 2015—and I have counted all of the changes—have weakened the laws in the state of Queensland. Most importantly, they have weakened the laws in the state of Queensland since 2015-16 when the Attorney-General, who is still the Attorney-General, came into this place and said, 'The changes we are making will make the community safer.'

There is one question you need to ask: do the community feel safer today than they did eight or nine years ago when these changes were brought in? They weakened the laws in relation to bail. They said that bail was almost a right and courts were obliged to grant bail to youth offenders. They removed detention as a last resort. They took other steps to wind back the changes that had been made in the final 12 months of the LNP government. The Childrens Court report of 2014-15 showed a five per cent reduction in the number of individual offenders turning up to court. What have we seen? We have seen almost a doubling of recidivist repeat youth offenders. These are the ones who are getting bail. These are the ones who are not being sentenced to a term of imprisonment for the offences they are committing time and time again.

The youth justice minister, the Attorney-General, the Premier and the Deputy Premier were all in that cabinet. They all sat around that table. Those ministers all approved every one of those changes to the legislation as it came through, as it was being put forward and as the youth crime crisis got worse year after year. When those opposites come in here and say, 'Don't make a political thing of it. We should all work together. It should be all sweetness and light and harmony,' I say balderdash! I say that is a complete and utter load of rubbish. The Labor government has been caught out, and the people of Queensland are seeing straight through all of their pleas.

We have supported sensible changes since early 2020 and the term of this government under the leadership of the former member for Inala, Annastacia Palaszczuk. My, hasn't she been airbrushed out of the last nine years of history! Has anyone even mentioned her name? Apart from a less than one-minute spray by the new Premier this morning, she has been airbrushed out of history. In 2021 we supported the changes and suggested introducing breach of bail as an offence. We circulated the amendment, moved it outside the long title, and this government refused to allow debate on it. In 2022 we supported further changes to the legislation. In terms of the electronic monitoring of offenders, we said that we would support it but we had real doubts about its effectiveness. Now we find out there have been 33 devices in total. It has not worked. Now the Premier is going back to it. He has nowhere else to go because we know—

**Mrs Gerber:** His cupboard is bare.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I would like to thank my colleague for taking my line: because we know his cupboard is bare. On this side, the LNP works collectively together for the common good. We do not leak against each other. We agree and support each other all the way through. We are a team. We are not split up by the Blocker faction, the Old Guard faction and the Kate Jones faction from outside. We are not like that. We are all in it together to deliver the right priorities for Queensland, including making Queensland safer.

We supported that legislation. We said that we had problems with aspects of it but we did not want to stand in the way of making the community safer. We will say the same thing in relation to this legislation, which we are also supporting, but we will highlight the issues in relation to it, including the issues that are going to affect small and family businesses and that will increase costs for small and

family businesses. I am not talking about Bunnings or BCF; they can afford it. They can manage it. It is an imposition but they will manage. In terms of the small camping store, the small bait and tackle store and the small local store like the guy up at Rainbow Beach who sells just about everything from tent pegs to knives and forks in case you left them behind at home—I happen to know—what are they going to do?

It is interesting to note page 12 of the committee report, which states—

The QPS clarified the provision of financial assistance to support the training of staff regarding verifying proof-of-age requirements is a decision for government.


That means there is no money and the QPS is not going to do anything about it, so small and family businesses will end up paying for the training for the work that is being imposed on them by the government because this government's legislation so far has failed to curb the incidence of youth crime, particularly knife crime.

We have heard people talk about the incidence of youth crime and the increase in youth crime. There has been a 22 per cent increase since the 2018-19 financial year, when youth crime laws were weakened by this government. No-one is saying, 'That's horrendous. What's happened in the four years that's led to this fascination with knife crime? Why has this been allowed to occur under this government?' This government is responsible—not the opposition, not the police, not the magistrates, not the judiciary. It is the government that passes the laws that set the standard. It is this government that has presided over an increase in knife offences from 1,784 offences in 2018-19 to over 2,170 reported offences in 2022-23. That is a 22 per cent increase or a net 300 more offences being committed.

I was gobsmacked to hear the Premier this morning come in and say, 'We're going to do everything we can. We're going to open up the courts and we're going to pass legislation.' Only a week ago, he said that there was no need to change the legislation. Premier, here is the test for you and your government, because later today amendments will be circulated outside the long title of the bill which will open up the courts to media scrutiny. It was Magistrate Power who said that the legislation demands the courts be closed. Here is the opportunity to fix that—right now, right here, today. The legislation can be amended.

I heard the Premier say, 'We will have a full and robust debate.' He said that at 10.19 this morning. Let us have the debate. We are ready. Is the Labor Party ready to debate? We are ready to talk about removing detention as a last resort—and that is the other thing—so that you unshackle the hands of the judiciary so the punishment can fit the crime. As the member for Lockyer so eloquently put it, it does not mean that every young offender will be going to a detention centre. What it means is that those who commit crime after crime after crime will face a penalty commensurate with what the community demands, because at the moment that is not happening. We read all too often about a tragedy that has occurred and the offender has been out on bail or has been let out on some other sort of program other than a term of detention. The first obligation of any government is to protect the current law-abiding citizens, and this government is failing.

Fifteen people have lost their lives at the hands of young offenders—15 people. All the fine words and the sympathetic statements mean little if no concrete action is being taken to address the issue. We know the government can do it. They did it with breach of bail. They overrode their own Human Rights Act in less than 48 hours, so do not come in here and say, 'We can't do it,' or 'The rules prohibit it.' It can be done. It is not as if opening the courts is a new idea. It has been done and it has been spoken about. The current Attorney-General is the one who changed it and the Premier said that he was going to speak to her. That is not going to do the trick. The law needs to change. Allow reporting of the courts and remove detention as a last resort. Make Queensland safe again.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (3.42 pm): The member for Clayfield exhorts us to work together. I am going to go out on a limb here and I am going to speak on behalf of my colleagues. If working together involves cutting the police force, gagging community groups, cutting Child Safety and shutting down the court diversion programs—just to name a few things—I reckon you can count us out over here. That is not the way we are going to tackle making Queensland safe. I support the Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This bill is dealing with an increase in knife crime which has seen greater increases amongst young offenders.

I read a number of articles in relation to knife crime around the world to prepare for this debate. It is well documented that there are increases in knife crime worldwide. It varies country to country depending on a range of factors, but what can be said is that, because of ease of access to knives, the

cheapness of knives compared to other weapons and the lack of regulation generally in relation to knives, they tend to be used more for crime. We have seen an increase in knives as there has been greater regulation of other types of weapons. This bill seeks to deal with that access issue, particularly for youth.

In Australia and Queensland, that rise in knife crime might actually be a result of the effect of firearms bans and the reduction in the number of firearms in circulation. While it is not good to have an increase in knife crime, we certainly should not lose sight of the fact that we have had to update legislation because we have taken other steps to keep the community safe. I will go on record as saying that I think one of the greatest acts of leadership of any Australian parliament was when John Howard banned firearms after the Port Arthur massacre.

I also want to acknowledge the work of the Jack Beasley Foundation. It is thanks to their advocacy that we have introduced Jack's Law which means we now have extensive wandering. We know that this led to a reduction in knives, particularly in those safe night out precincts. We know this because of the evaluations that were done. I recognise that they were done during COVID, but I believe if we continue these evaluations they will continue to show similar outcomes.

Today in question time the Premier outlined the priorities of the Miles government—prevention, intervention and detention, in that order. This bill very much fits into the prevention and intervention space. The member for Ninderry referred to a lost opportunity in this bill, lamenting the fact that this bill does not change behaviour. The bill clearly states the objective of the bill is to 'promote community safety, reduce youth offending and minimise the risks associated with knives and other dangerous items' by prohibiting the sale of knives and other controlled items to minors, making it an offence to make false representations about age and requiring retailers to display signage, amongst a number of other provisions.

I am a bit surprised that the member for Ninderry, who is apparently the shadow police spokesman, has missed the point of this bill. He seems ignorant of the things that are actually being done to change behaviour, and that is certainly not the intention of this bill. This bill is about reducing access to knives. The change in behaviour is coming about because the government, the police and the community sector are already working in other areas to change that behaviour to prevent the desire to commit knife crime in the first place. We also have to work on preventing access to knives if we really want to change this. The 'I live my life ... without a knife' campaign is a great example of that behavioural change. I would have thought the shadow police spokesman would have known about that. If the shadow police spokesman had actually listened to the minister's speech today, he would have heard him outlining that there will be a further advertising and awareness campaign rolling out in relation to the 'I live my life ... without a knife' campaign.

I would also like to note a couple of other things that are happening in our community not specifically in relation to knife crime but in that space of trying to change the behaviour of young people in particular. On Thursday night in this parliament, we will welcome the Inspiring Brighter Futures Foundation, which is a great organisation that kicked off in my electorate. I encourage all members to come along to the President's veranda to hear about the different path that young people can take, particularly those who are having a few challenges in life. We have to get those young people and intervene early, and that is exactly what the Inspiring Brighter Futures Foundation does. I would like to acknowledge the fantastic work of John Godwin and his team.

I would also like to give a big shout-out to all of those Neighbourhood Watch volunteers in our community who try to educate the community on not just knife crime but all sorts of crime to make people understand. I was with a group a few months ago just before Christmas where we were handing out information around the 'I live my life ... without a knife' campaign.

Like all parents in this state, I am extremely grateful for the leadership of the Jack Beasley Foundation on this issue that has led to this bill and the other interventions I have mentioned this afternoon. I know that my teenagers are much safer now thanks to Jack's Law, and I know that this bill will build on that important work. I commend the bill to the House.



**Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (3.48 pm): A young offender's decision to carry a knife can have far-reaching consequences and rock an entire community. This is the chilling reality for the Gold Coast after we faced the senseless death of Jack Beasley in 2019 at the hands of a young offender carrying a knife. It is the horrific reality for communities right across Queensland who have lost loved ones at the hands of a young offender with a knife. These deaths are a stark reminder of the devastating impact of knife violence and youth crime on the families and the communities left behind. I want to

personally thank Brett and Belinda Beasley for their advocacy in this area. Because of their strength and courage, we have Jack's Law—a two-year wandering trial targeting youths with knives. The LNP has committed to making this permanent, and we are calling on the state government to do the same. Queensland is in the grips of a youth crime crisis, and the increase in knife violence is just one aspect of the youth crime crisis ripping through our state because this state Labor government watered down our Youth Justice Act nine years ago. In fact, knife crime has risen by 22 per cent in the most recently reported data.

The bill before the House today proposes to ban the sale of knives and other weapons to those under the age of 18 and make it an offence for a juvenile to falsely represent themselves as being over the age of 18 to try to buy a knife or a controlled item. The LNP will definitely not stand in the way of this bill, because Queenslanders are suffering under the scourge of youth crime as a result of this state Labor government watering down the laws when they came to power nine years ago. Any step to prevent youths from picking up a knife is a step we will not oppose, but I want it on the record that this change is not going to the root cause of the problem and it is not giving police the powers they need to curb the youth crime crisis that this Labor government has started.

While I am sure we can all agree that preventing youth knife crime should absolutely be a priority of this state government, this bill does not correct the behaviour of youth criminals or change the escalating mindset of youths around arming themselves with knives. What is more, it does not give police the additional powers they need to prevent knife crime. If this government were serious about cracking down on youth crime, it would give police the powers they need to actually make our community safer. Once again, this Labor government is failing to take decisive action to tackle the youth crime crisis that it created when it watered down the laws nine years ago. That is why our shadow police minister will be moving critical amendments to both the Youth Justice Act and the Childrens Court Act to make our community safer. I table a copy of those amendments.

*Tabled paper:* Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, amendments to be moved by Mr Dan Purdie MP [174].

The amendments will remove detention as a last resort from the Youth Justice Act and reopen the Childrens Court to media and, most importantly, to victims and their families. Nine years ago, this Labor government closed the Childrens Court and nine years ago this Labor government inserted the principle of detention as a last resort into the Youth Justice Act. Tell me: as a result of these changes, do our community feel safer today than they did nine years ago? The answer to that question is a resounding no. They are living through this youth crime crisis.

Will Labor put politics aside and accept that it has created a generation of untouchable youth offenders with bad policy when it watered down the Youth Justice Act and enacted detention as a last resort? Will it admit it got it wrong when it decided that it was preferable for a youth offender to remain in the community? Will it now take action to undo the harm this has caused our community and support the LNP's amendments? If this government fails to support the LNP's amendments, to undo the damage and the harm it caused to our community nine years ago by watering down the Youth Justice Act, then that should signal to every single Queensland that this state Labor government puts politics before people.

The Premier was asked this morning if he would support Queenslanders and remove detention as a last resort. Instead of addressing the substance of the question and committing to making our community safer, he tried to confuse the issue by talking about mandatory sentencing. Premier, the LNP has done the work for you. The changes this government needs to make are before the House today. Decisive action on the youth crime crisis could be taken today. The question is: will this Labor government listen to Queenslanders and fix the Youth Justice Act after it broke it so terribly, or will it put politics first? Let's face it, if this state government were serious about cracking down on youth crime, it would back these amendments today.

It is the highest mandate of any state government to keep our community safe. That certainly does include from knife crime. Instead of giving police the powers they need to stop youths with knives, this bill is putting the onus on small and family businesses, making small and family businesses the gatekeeper of youth related knife crime. If you are a small or family business in my beautiful electorate of Currumbin, a retailer selling knives—this includes kitchen knives and other utility knives but excludes plastic knives, wooden knives or cheese board knives or a butter knife with a round edge—or you are selling controlled items, here is what you need to know. This bill requires you: to display signage advertising the legal prohibition against the sale of controlled items to minors; to check the age of young



people before purchasing a knife; to prohibit these items from being sold or advertised in a way that suggests the item is suitable for combat or intended to be used for violence; and to ensure controlled items are safely secured. If you are a small or family business that stocks controlled items, which includes knives, swords, machetes, axes, tomahawks, sickles, spear guns, spears and replica firearms, you must ensure they are safely secured, so behind a locked cabinet or tethered to the bench. As a business owner or commercial seller, you will have the responsibility to instruct your staff about these new restrictions, their responsibilities and the potential penalties. You will be required to obtain written acknowledgment from your employees that confirms they have received these instructions and warnings. During the committee process, the Queensland Small Business Commissioner noted that they were concerned about the administrative burden this requirement places on small and family businesses and called on the state government to fund specialised training because, as it stands, small and family businesses will have to wear the cost of this training.

There are some further issues with this bill that warrant mentioning. The bill prohibits the sale of knives to minors, but the definition of 'sale' includes sales made online as well as outside Queensland. While this broad scope theoretically ticks the box, in practice there are no tools to enforce this. All a young offender needs to do is to get online, tick the box 'Yes, I am over 18' and it will be next to impossible to prove a prosecution of an online sale or, for that matter, a purchase made outside Queensland. It is just another example of a government more interested in the announcement than in actually making our community safe.

While we will definitely not stand in the way of this bill, this is a missed opportunity. It is a missed opportunity to address the root causes of the youth crime crisis, it is a missed opportunity to correct the behaviours of these youth criminals and change the escalating crime culture, and it is a missed opportunity for this Labor government to undo the harm it caused almost 10 years ago when it made detention a last resort and when it locked victims and families out of the Childrens Court. These are the laws Queenslanders want. The LNP has brought them; Labor should support them.

Today the LNP has taken critical action to make our community safer with changes to crime laws because Labor has failed to act on the crime crisis it created. Queenslanders are living in fear. They are worried they will be the next victim of the youth crime crisis while Labor fails to act. Failing to support these critical changes to the Youth Justice Act and the Childrens Court Act will be a clear message that Labor cares more about politics than people. The Premier has already admitted their cupboard is bare when it comes to tackling youth crime. This government is in a constant state of chaos and crisis.

The LNP has put solutions on the table today. We have taken the steps necessary in parliament to enact them. This government must support it. If this government is serious about fixing the harm it caused when it watered down the Youth Justice Act, when it enacted detention as a last resort, when it closed the Childrens Court to victims, to families and to the media, then it will support the amendments put forward by the LNP. Our policy to remove detention as a last resort will unshackle the judiciary and police, putting consequences for action at the heart of the Youth Justice Act. By reopening the Childrens Court to media, we will be restoring transparency and openness to the youth justice process. Only the LNP has the right priorities for Queensland's future, including making our community safer.

*(Time expired)*



**Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (3.58 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the bill before the House. In doing so, at the outset I want to place on record the condolences of myself and my beautiful Mount Ommaney community to Vyleen White, who recently lost her life, and note that the entire House joins every single Queenslander in sharing their sorrow. I also want to note that we have in the gallery today the Beasley family, who have worked tirelessly because of their hard experience to reduce knife crime in our community, and I once again thank them. I had the opportunity to meet with them briefly when we passed Jack's Law—many members of the House took that opportunity to meet them—and I was very touched and moved by their story and by their commitment to seeing a reduction in knife crime, not just here in Queensland but right throughout Australia, and that unfortunately will be Jack's legacy.

I also take this opportunity to acknowledge my fantastic local Mount Ommaney and Sherwood police stations, whose officers work very hard to keep our communities safe. They are also providing me with feedback, and it is in large part because of them that I am speaking on this bill today. I will speak around the provisions that increase the police powers and, of course, any challenges that might exist. I might even start with those.

As everybody knows, I come from a hospitality family.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Ms PUGH:** Thank you, member. I appreciate the praise for my family business. In our restaurant we had a lot of apprentice chefs and many of the chefs, including the apprentices, carried around their knives. In fact, as my father would travel backwards and forwards from work he would rarely be without his. This legislation bans minors carrying knives. Therefore, we have provisions in place to ensure young people who do have legitimate reasons for carrying knives are able to do so. Firstly, a minor will still be able to purchase the exempt knives that have been previously outlined: plastic or wooden knives; knives with a rounded or dull edge; or knives used as a cheese knife. As I have said, knives have lots of genuine uses. A lot of apprentice chefs are minors when they start their apprenticeships and they will be able to continue to lawfully use those knives. Of course, somebody will be able to supply those knives to an apprentice; however, they will need the assistance of an adult to obtain those knives. There are certainly plenty of 17-year-old apprentices throughout Queensland who will continue to purchase knives. The apprentice will be prevented from purchasing that knife personally. They will need the assistance of an adult, but I am sure that will be no impediment to the purchase of those knives because most 17-year-old apprentices, of course, are still at home with a parent or a loving carer who is supporting them through that trade.

Further to the legitimate reasons for young people carrying knives for work-related purposes, which I am sure every member of this House supports, these amendments will allow police officers who reasonably suspect that a person under the age of 18 has been sold a controlled item such as a knife that is not one of the exempt knives will be able to check. In that situation, the police officer may ask that person to show acceptable evidence of their age and require that person to produce the suspected controlled item. If that occurs, the officers may seize the item if they suspect that the item is evidence of an offence under this new legislation.

These provisions are consistent with an existing framework that is relevant to the offences that prohibit the sale of other items like spray paint to minors. They are necessary to ensure the new offences can be appropriately enforced, because, at the end of the day, what is important to every single member of this House—I think we all stand united on this—is ensuring the safety and confidence of the community and that we can minimise knife on this crime. I commend the bill to the House.

## MOTIONS

### Suspension of Standing Orders



**Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.03 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That standing orders 87 and 150 be suspended in relation to the passage of the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, the Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

### Amendment to Standing Orders; Portfolio Committees, Transfer of Responsibilities



**Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.03 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

1. That schedule 6 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly be amended in accordance with the amendment circulated in my name, effective immediately;
2. That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders, the inquiries listed in the document titled 'Transfer of Committee Inquiry Responsibilities' circulated in my name shall transfer from the previous portfolio committees listed to the new portfolio committees listed; and
3. That the transfer of the inquiries becomes effective immediately.

Schedule 6—

*Omit, insert—*

#### SCHEDULE 6—PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

- (1) In accordance with s.88 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, the following table establishes the Portfolio Committees of the Legislative Assembly and identifies their primary areas of responsibility; and

- (2) A reference to a Minister is deemed to include departments, statutory authorities, government owned corporations and other administrative units reporting to the Minister and parts thereof that report to the Minister with respect to the Minister's responsibilities as set out in the Administrative Arrangements.

Portfolio Committee	Area of Responsibility	Ministers	Oversight Responsibility
Cost of Living and Economics Committee	Premier and Cabinet	Premier	Auditor-General Integrity Commissioner
	Treasury, Trade and Investment	Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment	
Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee	State Development, Infrastructure, Industrial Relations and Racing	Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing	Independent Assessor
	Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works	Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works	
	Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water	Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water	
Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee	Health, Mental Health, Ambulance Services and Women	Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women	Health Ombudsman
	Agricultural Industry Development, Fisheries and Rural Communities	Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities	
	Environment, Great Barrier Reef, Science and Innovation	Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Innovation	
Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee	Justice and Attorney-General and Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	Electoral Commissioner Information Commissioner Ombudsman Queensland Family and Child Commission
	Police and Community Safety	Minister for Police and Community Safety	
	Fire, Disaster Recovery and Corrective Services	Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services	

Portfolio Committee	Area of Responsibility	Ministers	Oversight Responsibility
Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee	Energy and Clean Economy Jobs	Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs	
	Resources and Critical Minerals	Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals	
	Transport, Main Roads and Digital Services	Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services	
Community Support and Services Committee	Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts	Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts	Family Responsibilities Commission
	Child Safety, Seniors, Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs	Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Multicultural Affairs	
	Tourism and Sport	Minister for Tourism and Sport	
Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee	Education and Youth Justice	Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice	
	Employment, Small Business, Training and Skills Development	Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development	

#### Transfer of Committee inquiry responsibilities

Previous Committee	Current Inquiry	Committee to take on responsibility for inquiry—effective immediately
Transport and Resources Committee	Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs Bill) (Reporting date 1.03.24)	Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee
Transport and Resources Committee	Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) (Reporting date 8.03.24)	Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee
State Development and Regional Industries Committee	Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (Reporting date 8.03.24)	Housing Big Build and Manufacturing Committee
Community Support and Services Committee	Emergency Services Reform Amendment Bill (Reporting date 15.03.24)	Community Support and Services Committee
Community Support and Services Committee	State Emergency Service Bill (Reporting date 15.03.24)	Community Support and Services Committee
Community Support and Services Committee	Marine Rescue Queensland Bill (Reporting date 15.03.24)	Community Support and Services Committee
Legal Affairs and Safety Committee	Forensic Science Queensland Bill (Reporting date 19.02.24)	Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee

Previous Committee	Current Inquiry	Committee to take on responsibility for inquiry—effective immediately
Legal Affairs and Safety Committee	Criminal Code and Other Legislation (Double Jeopardy Exception and Subsequent Appeals) Amendment Bill (Reporting date 19.02.24)	Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee
Education, Employment and Training Committee	Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (Reporting date 23.02.24)	Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee
Health and Environment Committee	Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) (Reporting date 8.03.24)	Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee
Economics and Governance Committee	Pharmacy Business Ownership Bill (Reporting date 8.03.24)	Cost of Living and Economics Committee
Education, Employment and Training Committee	Education (General Provisions) (Helping Families with School Costs) Amendment Bill (Reporting date 11.04.24)	Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee
Legal Affairs and Safety Committee	Crime and Corruption Amendment Bill (Reporting date 11.04.24)	Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee
Education, Employment and Training Committee	Education (General Provisions) (Extension of Primary Schools in Remote Areas) Amendment Bill (Reporting date 25.04.24)	Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee
State Development and Regional Industries Committee	Planning and Other Legislation (Make Developers Pay) Amendment Bill (Reporting date 15.05.24)	Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee
Community Support and Services Committee	Auditor-General Report 1: 2022-23—Delivering social housing services (Referred 18.08.22)	Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee
Community Support and Services Committee	Inquiry into the provision and regulation of supported accommodation in Queensland (Referred 26.10.23)	Community Support and Services Committee
Economics and Governance Committee	Auditor-General Report 12: 2022-23—Growing ecotourism in Queensland (Referred 25.05.23)	Community Support and Services Committee
Economics and Governance Committee	Auditor-General Report 13: 2022-23—Managing Queensland's debt and investments 2022 (Referred 16.06.23)	Cost of Living and Economics Committee
Economics and Governance Committee	Auditor-General Report 17: 2022-23—Implementing machinery of government changes (Referred 24.08.23)	Cost of Living and Economics Committee
Economics and Governance Committee	Inquiry into prehistoric, dinosaur and paleo tourism in Outback Queensland (Committee resolved 18.09.23)	Community Support and Services Committee
Economics and Governance Committee	Auditor-General Report 3: 2023-24—2023 Status of Auditor-General's recommendations (Referred 30.11.23)	Cost of Living and Economics Committee
Education, Employment and Training Committee	Inquiry into the delivery of vocational education and training in regional, rural and remote Queensland (Committee resolved 24.10.22)	Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee
Education, Employment and Training Committee	Auditor-General Report 16: 2022-23—Education 2022 (Referred 24.08.23)	Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee
Health and Environment Committee	Auditor-General Report 9: 2022-23—Protecting our threatened animals and plants (Referred 23.02.23)	Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee
Health and Environment Committee	Auditor-General Report 10: 2022-23—Health 2022 (Referred 16.03.23)	Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee

Previous Committee	Current Inquiry	Committee to take on responsibility for inquiry—effective immediately
Health and Environment Committee	Auditor-General Report 14: 2022-23—Health Outcomes for First Nations people (Referred 16.06.23)	Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee
Legal Affairs and Safety Committee	Auditor-General Report 5: 2022-23—Keeping people safe from domestic and family violence (Referred 10.11.22)	Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee
Legal Affairs and Safety Committee	Auditor-General Report 4: 2023-24—Deploying police resources (Referred 30.11.23)	Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee
State Development and Regional Industries Committee	Auditor-General Report 7: 2022-23—Major projects 2022 (Referred 1.12.22)	Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee
State Development and Regional Industries Committee	Inquiry into the impact of climate change on Queensland agricultural production (Committee resolved 24.01.23)	Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee
State Development and Regional Industries Committee	Auditor-General Report 15: 2022-23—Local government 2022 (Referred 24.08.23)	Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee
State Development and Regional Industries Committee	Auditor-General Report 1: 2023-24—Managing invasive species (Referred 24.08.23)	Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee
State Development and Regional Industries Committee	Auditor-General Report 2: 2023-24—Improving asset management in local government (Referred 24.08.23)	Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee
Transport and Resources Committee	Auditor-General Report 18: 2022-23—Queensland Regional Accommodation Centre (Wellcamp) (Referred 24.08.23)	Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee
Legal Affairs and Safety Committee	Corrective Services (Promoting Safety) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (Referred 13.02.24)	Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee
Health and Environment Committee	Environmental Protection (Powers and Penalties) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (Referred 13.02.24)	Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

### Parliamentary Committees, Membership



**Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.04 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

1. That all current members of the portfolio committees, the Ethics Committee and the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee be discharged; and
2. That the order of appointment circulated in my name for the membership of the portfolio committees, the Ethics Committee and the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee be agreed to.

### ORDER OF APPOINTMENT TO PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

That the following appointments for the membership of the Portfolio Committees, the Ethics Committee and the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee be agreed to:

- (a) Cost of Living and Economics Committee—Mr Linus Power (Chair), Ms Amanda Camm, Mr Michael Crandon, Mrs Melissa McMahon, Mr Ray Stevens, Mr Adrian Tantari
- (b) Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee—Mr Chris Whiting (Chair), Mr Don Brown, Mr Michael Hart, Mr Robbie Katter, Mr Jim McDonald, Mr Tom Smith
- (c) Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee—Mr Aaron Harper (Chair), Mr Stephen Andrew, Mr Craig Crawford, Mr James Martin, Mr Rob Molhoek, Mr Sam O'Connor
- (d) Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee—Mr Peter Russo (Chair), Mr Stephen Andrew, Mr Mark Boothman, Ms Jonty Bush, Mr Jason Hunt, Mr Jon Krause

- (e) Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee—Ms Kim Richards (Chair), Mr Bryson Head, Ms Joan Pease, Mr Les Walker, Mr Trevor Watts, Mr Pat Weir
- (f) Community Support and Services Committee—Mr Adrian Tantari (Chair), Mr Stephen Bennett, Mr Michael Berkman, Ms Cynthia Lui, Dr Mark Robinson, Mr Robert Skelton
- (g) Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee—Mr Mark Bailey (Chair), Mr Nick Dametto, Mr Joe Kelly, Mr James Lister, Mr Brent Mickelberg, Mr Barry O'Rourke
- (h) Ethics Committee—Mr Stirling Hinchliffe (Chair), Mr John-Paul Langbroek, Mr Andrew Powell, Mr Linus Power, Ms Kim Richards, Mr Ray Stevens
- (i) Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee—Mr Jon Krause (Chair), Mr Don Brown, Mr Michael Crandon, Mr Stirling Hinchliffe (Deputy Chair), Mr James Martin, Mr Lachlan Millar, Ms Jessica Pugh

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

### Amendments to Sessional Orders



**Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.05 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the sessional orders for the 57th Parliament circulated in my name be agreed to and effective immediately.

### SESSIONAL ORDERS—57TH PARLIAMENT (FIRST SESSION)

EFFECTIVE 13 FEBRUARY 2024

#### Days and Hours of Sitting and Order of Business

1. (a) The House shall sit on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
- (b) The House shall sit each day from 9.30am until the automatic adjournment is declared in accordance with Sessional Order 2(2)(c), unless adjourned earlier in accordance with Sessional Order 2(3).
- (c) The Order of Business for each Sitting Day shall be as follows—

#### ***Tuesday***

***9.30am—10.15am—Preliminary Business \****

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***10.15am—11.15am—***

Question Time

***11.15am—11.20am—***

Business Program Motion (in accordance with Sessional Order 4)

***11.20am—1.00pm—***

Government Business

***1.00pm—2.00pm—***

Lunch break

***2.00pm—3.00pm—***

Matters of Public Interest

***3.00pm—5.30pm—***

Government Business

***5.30pm—7.00pm—***

Disallowance Motions, Private Members' Bills or Government Business (in accordance with Sessional Order 1(d))

***7.00pm—7.30pm—***

Automatic Adjournment

*\* (If completed before 10.15am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)*

**Wednesday****9.30am—10.15am—Preliminary Business \***

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Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

Notice of motion for debate during Crossbench Members' Motion (4.30pm—5.00pm) (Notice may be stated in the House and delivered to the Clerk)

Notice of motion for debate during Private Members' Motion (5.00pm—6.00pm) (Notice may be stated in the House and delivered to the Clerk)

**10.15am—11.15am—**

Question Time

**11.15am—12.30pm—**

Government Business

**12.30pm—1.00pm—**

Introduction of Private Members' Bills #

**1.00pm—2.00pm—**

Lunch break

**2.00pm—3.00pm—**

Debate of Committee Reports (in accordance with Sessional Order 5) if no reports to debate, Government Business

**3.00pm—4.30pm—**

Government Business

**4.30pm—5.00pm—**

Crossbench Members' Motion (motion for which notice was given during Preliminary Business)

**5.00pm—6.00pm—**

Private Members' Motion (motion for which notice was given during Preliminary Business)

**6.00pm—7.00pm—**

Government Business

**7.00pm—7.30pm—**

Automatic Adjournment

*\* (If completed before 10.15am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)**# (If there are no Private Members' Bills to introduce, or any introduction to complete, the next item of business to commence with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusted accordingly.)***Thursday****9.30am—10.15am—Preliminary Business \***

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Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

**10.15am—11.15am—**

Question Time

**11.15am—1.00pm—**

Government Business



1.00pm—2.00pm—

Lunch break

2.00pm—3.00pm—

Private Members' Statements (Total time 60 minutes, 20 members x 3 minutes each)

3.00pm—6.00pm—

Government Business

6.00pm—6.30pm—

Automatic Adjournment

*\* (If completed before 10.15am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)*

(d) On a Tuesday afternoon—

(i) if there are no Disallowance Motions or Private Members' Bills to debate (in accordance with the requirements of Standing Order 59 or Sessional Order 7), the adjournment may be either moved immediately or otherwise continue with Government Business until automatic adjournment;

(ii) if there are Disallowance Motions or Private Members' Bills to debate (in accordance with the requirements of Standing Order 59 or Sessional Order 7), the House will commence with Disallowance Motions, Private Members' Bills or Government Business until automatic adjournment.

(e) If the House sits on any day other than a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, then unless otherwise ordered, the order of business shall be as follows:

*From 9.30am—10.00am—*

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Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

*10.00am—10.30am—*

Question Time

*10.30am—1.00pm—*

Government Business

*1.00pm—2.00pm—*

Lunch break

*2.00pm—until adjournment moved—*

Government Business

#### **Budget Week—Days and Hours of Sitting and Order of Business**

**1A.** The days, hours of sitting and order of business for budget sitting weeks (as identified in the sitting calendar) are as follows:

##### ***Tuesday***

*9.30am—10.15am—Preliminary Business \**

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Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

*10.15am—11.15am—*

Question Time

*11.15am—1.00pm—*

Government Business

1.00pm—2.00pm—  
Lunch break

2.00pm—until adjournment moved  
Government Business

*\* (If completed before 10.15am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)*

### **Wednesday**

9.30am—10.15am—Preliminary Business \*

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Notice of motion for debate during Crossbench Members' Motion (4.30pm—5.00pm) (Notice may be stated in the House and delivered to the Clerk)

Notice of motion for debate during Private Members' Motion (5.00pm—6.00pm) (Notice may be stated in the House and delivered to the Clerk)

10.15am—11.15am—

Question Time

11.15am—11.35am—

Business Program Motion (in accordance with Sessional Order 2B)

11.35am—12.00pm—

Introduction of Private Members' Bills #

12.00pm—2.00pm—

Lunch break

2.00pm—4.30pm—

Government Business

4.30pm—5.00pm—

Crossbench Members' Motion (motion for which notice was given during Preliminary Business)

5.00pm—6.00pm—

Private Members' Motion (motion for which was given during Preliminary Business)

6.00pm—7.00pm

Government Business

7.00pm—7.30pm—

Automatic Adjournment

*\* (If completed before 10.15am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)*

*# (If there are no Private Members' Bills to introduce, or any introduction to complete, the next item of business to commence with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusted accordingly.)*

### **Thursday**

9.30am—10.15am—Preliminary Business \*

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Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

10.15am—11.15am—  
Question Time

11.15am—1.00pm—  
Government Business

1.00pm—2.00pm—  
Lunch break

2.00pm—6.30pm—  
Government Business

6.30pm—7.30pm—  
Dinner break

7.30pm—until adjournment moved (no adjournment debate)—  
Government Business

*\* (If completed before 10.15am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)*

### **Friday**

From 9.30am—10.00am—

Prayers

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Matters concerning privilege

Speaker's Statements

Appointments

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Citizen's Right of Reply

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Ministerial Papers

Ministerial Notices of Motion

Ministerial Statements

Any other Government Business

Personal Explanations

Tabling of Reports

Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

10.00am—10.30am—  
Question Time

10.30am—1.00pm—  
Government Business

1.00pm—2.00pm—  
Lunch break

2.00pm—6.30pm—  
Government Business

6.30pm—7.30pm—  
Dinner break

7.30pm—until adjournment moved (no adjournment debate)—  
Government Business

### **Change to sitting date or time**

- 1B. (1) Notwithstanding Standing Order 49, Sessional Order 1(a) or the House having already adjourned to a specified time and date, the Speaker, upon advice from the Government of the State, may set an alternative day or hour for the next sitting, and must notify each member of any change.
- (2) The Speaker's notification to each member may be by electronic means.

### **Automatic Adjournment**

2. (1) Standing Order 56 is suspended for this session.
- (2) At the time specified for the Automatic Adjournment in the Order of Business for each Sitting Day, the Speaker shall:
  - (a) notify the House that it is the time for the Automatic Adjournment of the House;
  - (b) shall call on up to 10 members to speak for no more than three minutes each to make an adjournment statement; and
  - (c) at the conclusion of the members' statements in 2(b) above, shall declare the House is adjourned to the date and time previously agreed to by the House.
- (3) Notwithstanding Sessional Orders 1(b) and 2(2), the motion "That the House do now adjourn" may be moved by the Leader or Acting Leader of the House at any time despite the order of business, in which case there will be an Adjournment Debate for 30 minutes and then the question shall be put.

### **Business Committee**

3. (1) A Business Committee comprising the following members is established:
  - (a) the Leader of the House (or alternate);

- (b) Premier (or alternate);
- (c) the Manager of Opposition Business (or alternate); and
- (d) the cross-bench member nominated by the cross-bench.
- (2) The role of the Business Committee is to discuss how the House will deal with business.
- (3) Any decisions made by the Business Committee in accordance with (2) are not binding on the House and a Business program motion in accordance with 4 is required.
- (4) In this Sessional Order "alternate", in relation to a member, has the same meaning as in section 81 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*.
- (5) At a meeting of the Business Committee a quorum is the Leader of the House (or alternate) and one other member.
- (6) A meeting of the Business Committee is chaired by the Leader of the House (or alternate).

#### **Business program motion**

4. (1) At the time specified in the Sessional Orders, the Leader of the House may move a motion without notice, to be put without amendment or debate, that provides for the allocation of time for any business.
- (2) The motion may include, that:
  - (a) Bills be declared cognate in accordance with Standing Order 172;
  - (b) Bills or other business on the Notice Paper be reordered; or
  - (c) Time for government motions and time limits for speeches.
- (3) The motion may include a requirement that at the expiration of time specified in (1) all remaining questions necessary to pass the Bill, a stage of the Bill or any other business be put, without further debate, which is taken to include any of the following:
  - (a) the second reading question;
  - (b) clauses and schedules en bloc;
  - (c) any amendments to be moved by the Minister or Member in charge of the Bill; and
  - (d) the third reading and long title.
- (4) Completion of all questions necessary to pass the Bill, a stage of the Bill or any other business in accordance with (1) and (2) shall take precedence over all other business, including the automatic adjournment, with the Order of Business adjusting to recommence after necessary questions are completed.
- (5) Any agreed Business Program may be amended by a motion without notice, moved by the Leader of the House.
- (6) Any amendment agreed to in (4) above is to take effect one hour after the House agrees to such an amendment.

#### **Debate of Parliamentary Committee reports**

5. (1) If a committee report is tabled that is not:
  - (a) a report on a bill pursuant to Part 5 of the Standing Orders;
  - (b) an annual report of a Committee;
  - (c) a report on travel undertaken by a Committee;
  - (d) a report of the Ethics Committee; or
  - (e) a report by a Committee on subordinate legislation
 then a motion shall be set down on the notice paper by the Clerk that the House is to take note of the committee report.
- (2) Motions that the House take note of committee reports will be brought on for debate in the time set aside each Wednesday in the order in which they are placed on the notice paper.
- (3) A debate of a motion in (2) not completed may be adjourned to the following Wednesday.
- (4) A motion in (2) cannot be amended.
- (5) A motion in accordance with (1) is set down on the notice paper regardless of whether the report is tabled whilst the House is sitting or not sitting.

#### **Consideration of Ethics Committee reports in regard to Citizen's Right of Reply**

6. When the Ethics Committee reports to the House regarding a Citizen's Right of Reply in accordance with Standing Order 283, the committee's recommendation will be considered by the House on the next sitting day following the tabling of the committee's report and at the time in the Order of Business as specified in Sessional Order 1.

#### **Private Members' Bills**

7. (1) A member who is not a Minister may introduce a Bill during time set aside in the Order of Business for Private Members' Bills. In such a case the Member introducing the Bill may either complete the speech in the time allotted or, if not completed, adjourn their speech to the next period allotted.
- (2) A Private Members' Bill which has been reported on by a portfolio or other committee, will be brought on for debate on the sitting Tuesday evening next following the passage of three calendar months after the tabling of the committee's report on the Bill.

- (3) The House will continue to debate the Bill on each following sitting Tuesday evening until consideration of that Bill has been finalised.

#### Condolence Motions

8. (1) A motion of condolence may be moved as the first item of business after Speaker's Statements in the Order of Business.
- (2) After a motion of condolence is moved, debated and resolved in accordance with (1) and (2), the Order of Business for the day shall then resume, with Question Time commencing 45 minutes after the motion of condolence was resolved and with starting times for all other items, except lunch and dinner breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.

#### Private Members' Motions—amendments

9. For this session, in relation to Private Members' Motions and Crossbench Motions, direct negative amendments may be moved.

#### Matters of Public Interest, Private Members' Statements and adjournment statements

10. During the time set aside for Matters of Public Interest, Private Members' Statements and adjournment statements, no questions can be put nor divisions called.

#### Incorporation of material—Address in Reply and Annual Appropriation Bills

11. During the Address in Reply debate and the debate on the Annual Appropriation Bills, it is not necessary for Members to seek leave of the House to incorporate material in the Record of Proceedings, provided members have shown the Speaker the material sought to be incorporated and have obtained the Speaker's consent as per Standing Order 25.

#### Address in Reply debate timeframe

12. So much of Standing Order 47 is suspended for this session to enable debate for no longer than 31 hours.

#### Maximum time limits for debates, speeches and statements

13. The maximum time limits that apply to debates, speeches and statements are contained in the schedule below.

Subject	Relevant Sessional Orders	Standing Orders	or	Time
<b>Address in Reply Debate</b>	SO 47, Sessional Orders 11 and 12			
— Total time				31 hours
— Mover				20 minutes
— Other members				20 minutes
— Mover in reply				30 minutes
<b>Adjournment Statements</b>	Sessional Order 2(2)(b)			
— Total time				30 minutes
— Each member				3 minutes
<b>Adjournment Debate</b>	Sessional Order 2(3)			
— Total time				30 minutes
— Each member				3 minutes
<b>Bills—Government Bills</b>				
Introduction of Bills (explanatory speech)	SO 129			1 hour
First reading	SO 130			No debate
<b>Government Bills reported on by a committee</b>				
Second reading debate	SO 138			
— Minister				30 minutes
— Leader of the Opposition (or nominee)				30 minutes
— Other members				10 minutes
— Minister in reply				20 minutes
Consideration in detail	SO 146 & SO 147			
— Mover (Minister)				No limit
— Other members (on each question)				3 minutes

Subject	Relevant Sessional Orders	Standing Orders or	Time
<b><i>Government Bills declared urgent and not referred or not reported on by a committee</i></b> Second reading debate — Minister	SO 129, SO 137 & SO 138		To speak once only as per SO 129 for 1 hour
— Leader of the Opposition (or nominee) — Other members — Mover in reply Consideration in detail — Mover — Leader of the Opposition (or nominee) (on each questions)  — Other members (on each question)	SO 146, SO 147 & SO 156		1 hour 15 minutes 30 minutes  No limit 1 x 20 minutes; or 2 x 10 minutes; or 1 x 10 minutes & 2 x 5 minutes 1 x 10 minutes or 2 x 5 minutes
<b>Bills—Private Members' Bills</b> Introduction of Bills (explanatory speech) First reading Second reading debate — All members — Mover in reply Consideration in detail  <b><i>Where Bill has been considered by portfolio committee</i></b> — Mover — Other members (on each question)  <b><i>Where Bill has not been considered by portfolio committee</i></b> — Mover — Other members (on each question) — Minister responsible for policy area (on each question)	SO 129 & Sessional Order 7 SO 130 SO 138  SO 146, SO 147 & SO 156		1 hour No debate  10 minutes 30 minutes  No limit 3 minutes  No limit 3 minutes 1 x 20 minutes; or 2 x 10 minutes; or 1 x 10 minutes & 2 x 5 minutes
<b>Debate of Committee Reports</b> —each member	Sessional Order 5		5 minutes
<b>Disallowance of statutory instruments</b> — Total time — Mover — Other members — Minister in reply	SO 59		1 hour 30 minutes 15 minutes 10 minutes 20 minutes
<b>Dissent to ruling of Speaker</b> — Total time — Each member	SO 250		1 hour 10 minutes
<b>Election of Speaker</b> — Each member	SO 39		5 minutes

Subject	Relevant Sessional Orders	Standing Orders or	Time
<b>Extension of Time, by consent of a majority of the House, without debate</b> — Motions and Second Reading Debates — Question Time			5 minutes 2 minutes
<b>Matters concerning privilege</b>	Sessional Order 1, & SO 248 & 267		At discretion of Speaker
<b>Matters of Public Interest</b> — Total time — Leader of Opposition or nominee — Other members	Sessional Order 1 & 10		1 hour 10 minutes 5 minutes
<b>Motions</b> — Mover — Other members — Mover in reply	Chapter 15		10 minutes 10 minutes 15 minutes
<b>Motions—Business Program Motion</b> (11.15am Tuesdays)	Sessional Order 4		Question put without amendment or debate
<b>Personal Explanations—each member</b>	Sessional Order 1		At discretion of Speaker
<b>Crossbench Members' Motions</b> (Wednesday 4.30—5.00 pm) - Total time - All member			30 mins 5 minutes
<b>Private Members' Motions</b> (Wednesday 5.00—6.00 pm) — Total time — All members	Sessional Order 1		1 hour 5 minutes
<b>Private Members' Statements</b> — Total time — Each member	Sessional Order 1 & 10		1 hour 3 minutes
<b>Tabling of Reports</b> — Chairperson of Committee on presentation of committee report — Member tabling report	Sessional Order 1		5 minutes 2 minutes
<b>Questions Without Notice</b> — Question time (total time)  — Member asking question  — Minister answering question	Sessional Order 1 & SO 113		1 hour, Tues, Wed, Thurs. 30 minutes on Friday At discretion of Speaker 3 minutes

**Dress standards**

14. Dress standards in the parliamentary chamber should be appropriate to the Queensland climate and reflect general community standards. All members and staff are expected to dress in business attire.
- Male members and staff may wear a long-sleeve business shirt and tie or coat and long-sleeve business shirt without tie.

The motion before the House is to ask the House to accept a revised and updated set of sessional orders for the remainder of this, the 57th Parliament. As was clearly evident from ministerial statements and question time earlier today, the Miles Labor government is a government of passion for Queenslanders. It is a government that is getting on with the job of delivering for Queenslanders. One way we do that is via the actions that we take in this very chamber. The motion before the House makes minor amendments, but a main focus is to give time back to members to debate important legislation before this House. Giving time back to members will ensure members of this chamber have avenues available to them to hold the government to account.

I do not propose to spend long debating this motion—and that is consistent with its intent and its function—but I do want to set out its key changes. The first is that the business program motion will be put without debate. This means that the discussions that occur in the Business Committee at the commencement of each week on Monday night are important. It is via those discussions that the business program motion can be crafted and we will look for opportunities to enhance it, where possible. Members, in particular non-government members, will be required to turn up to that meeting and engage in a meaningful way. We look forward to their views being considered and taken into consideration when the motion is moved in this House.

What we have seen—it was evident this week—was that those contributions were not helpful. The majority of the contributions to the debate on the business program motion this morning were effectively a personal attack. What I have already observed is that the Manager of Opposition Business failed to circulate information to the crossbench as he should have, so the crossbench representative on this occasion was not prepared for that meeting. That is disappointing. It is not how we want this House to operate. It is not how Queenslanders want this House to operate, and I expect to see better from the Manager of Opposition Business. This is not a reflection on the crossbench; it is not a reflection on the Manager of Opposition Business personally. It is a reflection on the way in which this parliamentary process has previously been used, in our view, to waste important time and to provide a vehicle unfortunately to bring their whingeing from the street into this House. This government has a very strong legislative agenda. We have already seen that from the new ministers who have introduced legislation here today. I congratulate them for rolling their sleeves up and for getting that work done on behalf of the Queenslanders we all represent.

The business program motion is a powerful tool to ensure we are using this chamber to its full effect. The key point is that members will still have real clarity. They will now have that real clarity even earlier; they will have a clear picture of what this House will debate. It remains to be seen if the opposition will continue to divide, thereby removing opportunities for members of this House to speak by consuming that time in that futile division.

The other change is the movement of debate of committee reports from Thursday at 3 pm to Wednesday after the lunchbreak. To ensure crossbench members have the ability to be heard and have their say too, the Miles government is updating the sessional orders to allow the crossbench to have a 30-minute motion debate each sitting week at 4.30 pm, immediately before the non-government motion. The crossbench is made up of seven members, all of whom have, as we all do, the great honour and privilege of representing their various constituencies—constituencies which are as diverse and equally important as the constituencies we all represent. They should have the ability to articulate and to ventilate their views and issues in this chamber, and that is what the Miles government will deliver. This does not preclude the crossbench leading a non-government motion, though, because the very fact they are on the crossbench means they are non-government members. We would hope that the Manager of Opposition Business would continue to work closely with the crossbench regarding the allocation of the non-government motions. That is our expectation. These are considered, sensible and sound amendments that we believe will be welcomed by Queenslanders. They are enhancements which will see an increase in the time available for debate. They are enhancements that will see greater scrutiny of the executive government by the crossbench.

Today we move to modernise portfolio committee titles, and titles matter: they demonstrate the focus of this government. We on this side of the House are focused on what matters to Queenslanders: cost of living, housing, a clean economy and jobs, community safety—the things that matter to Queenslanders. We have new, fresh portfolio committee membership. We have talented members from all across Queensland represented on those portfolio committees and I am confident they will deliver an outstanding job for citizens.

Crucially, we will deliver more time doing what Queenslanders want this House to do: more focus on Queenslanders, less focus on talking about ourselves. That is why we are here: to debate the issues that are important to Queenslanders. I commend these amendments to the House.





**Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (4.12 pm): It will come as no surprise that the opposition will be opposing these changes to the sessional orders for the 57th Parliament. In so doing, let me refute a couple of the points made by the Leader of the House. He used the term 'discussion' to describe what occurs at the Business Committee. There is no discussion. The members of the opposition and the crossbench who are at that Business Committee meeting are told what is going to be occurring. As for the preparedness of any of the non-government members, if that is a reflection on the fact that we refused to hand over the exact number of opposition members who want to speak on each bill, I reserve the right to continue that practice.

I informed the Leader of the House that just about every single member of the opposition—and the member for Noosa did likewise in terms of the crossbench—wanted to speak on the integrity bill. There was no opportunity—zero opportunity—for any compromise in terms of time allocation. Indeed, when the suggestion was made that the members of the opposition shorten their speaking list on the summary offences bill and the transport bill, we asked the Leader of the House whether, if we were to do that, the government members would filibuster and fill the remaining time, and there was no answer. So please do not try to paint what occurred last night as some form of discussion or that in some way the non-government members turned up unprepared.

I also turn to the point made about the newly allocated time slot for the crossbench motion each week. I welcome that. I think the crossbench should have an opportunity, and indeed they have. This is where the Leader of the House has demonstrated his unpreparedness. He is not aware that, on the basis of proportional representation of non-government members, members of the crossbench are already allocated motions, questions without notice, speeches, private members' statements and adjournment speeches. Every single one of them is carefully worked out by the whip and done in negotiation with members of the crossbench. To suggest that up until this sudden change to the sessional orders the Manager of Opposition Business, the whips or indeed the LNP were not providing proportional representation to the crossbench is farcical. It is absolutely and utterly farcical.

I do note that committee reports will be moving to Wednesday. I also note the words of the Leader of the House that there is fresh committee membership. If the Leader of the House is referring to the members for Miller and Sandgate, they are hardly fresh. If that constitutes fresh faces in terms of the committee membership, then I am sorry: Queenslanders have been sold a pup once again.

Let me come to the most controversial aspect of this motion—and we spoke about it this morning when it was alluded to by the Leader of the House—that in effect the government is gagging the gag. The business program is a gag on all members of this House. It restricts who can speak and for how long on each piece of legislation. It is not only the members of the opposition who are gagged but also members of the government. I know that they shared this with the previous leader of the House and I do not doubt they are sharing it with the current Leader of the House: they are missing out on opportunities to represent their communities as well.

We had a gag in operation under the Palaszczuk Labor government and now under the Miles Labor government. However, the Miles Labor government is going one step further. We are not even going to be able to debate the elements of the gag. That 20-minute debate at the end of question time on a Tuesday is now going to be cast aside and the motion is going to be put and a decision made immediately. That is, as I have said, a gagging of the gag. They have sunk to a new low.


The people of Queensland know that the government are not listening. Now they are ensuring that they do not have an opportunity to listen to the people of Queensland's representatives. The people of Queensland's representatives sit in this chamber. We are elected to have input on every aspect put to this parliament and now we are being told we cannot. They might think they have a decisive agenda. What it shows is that they are going to ram through whatever is in their political interests to try to save their political livelihoods. They do not have any interest whatsoever in the people of Queensland. They have given up listening to the people of Queensland, and that is evident in what is being moved here this afternoon. It is a shame.

Members of the government have talked about the fact that this is in operation in other jurisdictions. As far as I am concerned, it is one step too far for any jurisdiction that they would stifle debate on the very thing that is stifling debate; they are gagging the gag. We in the opposition cannot and will not support this aspect of it.

In conclusion, I want to reflect on the words of the Leader of the House that he is giving back time to the members for debate. We are getting 15 minutes back, but we are losing 30 minutes each week because of the crossbench motion. If they want to give back time to members of this House for debate, take up the LNP's proposal, which is to sit later every single night. A simple hour each night

would give us three extra hours of debate, and that would largely mean that this debate, the business program motion, becomes unnecessary because there is extra time for everyone to debate. In fact, we could sit an extra two hours. We could go back to having a dinner break. I am sure the Clerk would appreciate the extra business that would come through the dining room if we were to have a dinner break and then sit for two or three hours afterwards.

The government uses the phrase that it is 'family friendly' for us to pull up stumps at 7.30 pm. I again reflect on the fact that there is barely anyone on this side of the House who is getting home to see their family. It is not friendly for those of us here who do not live within the Brisbane City Council surrounds, so let us sit. Let us throw away this sessional order change that the Leader of the House has proposed. Let us vote it down and come back with another one that truly gives members of this House the opportunity to have their say on the legislation that matters to the people of Queensland—legislation that will fix the housing crisis, that will fix the health crisis, that will fix the youth crime crisis, that will fix the cost-of-living crisis. For all of those reasons—and I have just shot down every single one of the arguments the Leader of the House made on this matter—I implore members on both sides of the chamber to vote against this motion.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (4.20 pm): Just when you think this government cannot get any lower, it comes out with this motion that the Leader of the House has just moved. Over the last couple of months those opposite have tried to show that they are different from when they were under the Palaszczuk government. These people are no different whatsoever. In fact, in the words of the Manager of Opposition Business yesterday, they are worse. I should not give insight to some of our behind-the-scenes conversations, but I am going to this time and I hope that the Manager of Opposition Business does not mind, because he was quite encouraged yesterday when he had his first interaction with the Leader of the House. He said, 'I think things are going to be different. We've actually been given an early indication of what the bills might be.' He then went to the five o'clock meeting and he came back to the party room looking very downcast and he was sort of admonishing himself for being so silly for daring to hope that things would be different. He said, 'It's not the same. It's worse!'—it is worse—and that proved that the Leader of the House is not controlling anything.

At some stage during the day he got his orders that this is the way we are going to operate and, like a puppet, goes into that Business Committee meeting and does not have a discussion, as the Manager of Opposition Business has already said. He does not have a discussion but tells the non-government members what will be happening this week. The irony of that particular meeting I believe—of course we have seen the results of it—was that the government looked at the allocation of time for debate this week and allocated so many hours to the transport bill.

**An opposition member:** Summary offences and transport.

**Mr MANDER:** Yes, the summary offences bill is a very important one. The transport bill is an important one as well, but I would not call it top of the pops when the integrity bill is allocated a lousy two or three hours, or whatever it may be. It is the one that we are going to have the least debate on. I can understand how those opposite do not want any focus on integrity. I can understand that, because what has happened over the last couple of months with the new Miles government—which is the old government with a new name, because the previous government was the Palaszczuk-Miles government and now it is the Miles-Dick government—is that it is no different. It is trying to make out it is different, but it is no different. In fact, it is worse.

We want to talk about the very democratic principles of this House in that there should be open debate. Every single member should be able to speak on every single bill that enters this House, and if that means staying here until two o'clock in the morning then that is what you do. But, no, those opposite have truncated that debate and now they are truncating the debate about truncating the debate. That is what they are doing so we cannot have that anymore because they have decided that they are going to be generous and allow us not to debate bills. Those opposite might as well chuck out everything. They might as well just have an hour debate on every bill. In fact, they may as well just have the minister speak and then vote. That is what should happen—have the minister speak and then vote because that would save time.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** Have I given them an idea? If it were not so serious it would be funny, but it is serious and to try to portray this as being something positive for the House is insulting to every member here, particularly the non-government members, because we have come here to debate those things that are important to Queenslanders, and I will tell members what the most important thing at the moment is—integrity. Can they trust the government? This motion shows once again that this government cannot be trusted, and that is why you have to show Labor the door in '24.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): Under the provisions of the business program, the time for debate of this motion has expired.

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

**AYES, 54:**

**ALP, 49**—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

**Grn, 1**—Berkman.

**KAP, 2**—Dametto, Knuth.

**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

**NOES, 34:**

**LNP, 34**—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

Resolved in the affirmative.

## **SUMMARY OFFENCES (PREVENTION OF KNIFE CRIME) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

### **Second Reading**

Resumed from p. 70, on motion of Mr Ryan—

That the bill be now read a second time.



**Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (4.31 pm): I rise to speak to the Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 and to speak in support of the amendments tabled by the member for Currumbin and to be moved by the member for Ninderry during consideration in detail. Here we are, yet again, debating a bill regarding juvenile crime in this state. Here we are, yet again, witnessing this government attempting to do something to address an issue that is spiralling out of control and tearing this state apart. On many occasions in this place I have spoken about the devastation that is being wreaked on communities such as Townsville and Cairns in the north. It continues to be committed on a daily basis in those particular communities. The calls from residents and business owners in those communities have not stopped. In fact, they have increased. People are fed up. The residents are fed up and the business owners are fed up. When they see this bill come before the parliament, we get a shrug of the shoulders and a roll of the eyes: here we go again. Here we go again, dragging this government kicking and screaming to the table.

Who can forget the manner in which those opposite treated our calls to have breach of bail reinstated in the state of Queensland? I brought before this parliament an amendment that was not supported by those opposite but subsequently adopted word for word. Here we are again, talking about removing detention as a last resort. Today is an opportunity for this government, if they are fair dinkum, to step up to the plate. The amendment has been tabled. We can have the debate and we can have it finalised this week.

Let us think for a moment about what that would mean for the judiciary. When young offenders come before the courts on serious offences such as burglary, dangerous driving and arson, the judiciary look at those juvenile offenders and their heads ring with the calls from the community to do something about it. Then they look down at section 150 of the Youth Justice Act, which says that detention is a last resort. They put their hands behind their backs because yet again they are shackled when it comes to the penalties they can impose on juvenile offenders. Members must make no mistake: the community is calling loudly and clearly for something to be done so that young offenders are held accountable for their actions. All the way along we have said that there needs to be consequences for actions. If they are committing serious offences then they need to be held to account.

Last week in my office a constituent asked me, 'Is it true, Dale, that they have to front court 20 times before the judiciary will even consider a term of imprisonment?' I said, 'I certainly hope not.' However, it appears to be the case that we are allowing juvenile offenders so much latitude before a term of imprisonment is imposed. We are allowing juvenile offenders to wreak havoc on our communities and to turn people's lives upside down. Then we turn to the judiciary, expecting them to impose a sentence of imprisonment when they are shackled.

The member for Currumbin tabled an amendment relating to who may be present at a proceeding. The amendment proposes that, for a criminal proceeding against a child, the court must permit a representative of the media to be present in the room. Further, the amendment proposes that, for a criminal proceeding against a child, a person may be present if, in the court's opinion, they have a proper interest in the proceeding and if, in the court's opinion, the person's presence would not be prejudicial to the interests of the child. I think that is fair enough. Victims and the media deserve the right to go to court and witness what occurs in that jurisdiction. The very least we can do is permit the media and victims to attend court and see firsthand just how an offender is dealt with, to hear what they have to say and to hear what their legal representative has to say. For too long they have operated behind closed doors and the public has been none the wiser.

I note that the objectives of the bill include prohibiting the sale of knives and other weapons, known as controlled weapons, to minors and requiring retailers to display signage advertising the prohibition on the sale of controlled items. Of course we want knives, machetes, axes et cetera off the street. Absolutely we want those items off the street. However, in 25 years of policing I never intercepted a juvenile offender who had a knife or machete that they had bought at a shop. In almost every case it had come from home, they had found it in the street somewhere or they had made it themselves. Therefore, whilst in some way this may reduce the incidence of those types of weapons being carried around, I do not think this bill goes far enough. I am not convinced that it goes far enough in preventing juvenile offenders from roaming our streets while carrying these types of weapons.

It concerns me that we are seeing an increase in violent crime across the state. It concerns me that innocent people are losing their lives because of the actions of juvenile offenders. A lot more needs to be done than what is proposed in the bill before us today. We know that under the watch of this Labor government the number of recidivist offenders has doubled and it is continuing to rise. It is all well and good to come in here and say that 50 per cent of offences are committed by recidivist offenders and then shrug your shoulders as if to say, 'There's not much we can do about that,' but that is where the work needs to start. We need to reduce the number of serial recidivist offenders if we are serious about addressing the juvenile crime problem that is gripping the state at the moment.

No doubt, this bill will have an impact on small and family business. It will have an impact on businesses like Albert's that sell axes and on hardware stores such as the small corner hardware stores scattered throughout my electorate. It will have an impact on those businesses. The jewellery shop at Moranbah, which sells knives, will no longer be able to sell those unless they are locked away inside their store. There will be far-reaching consequences when this bill is passed this week. I am not convinced that the support has been or will be forthcoming from this government to ensure a seamless transition in terms of this bill and the relevant regulations enacted in Queensland.

A lot more work needs to be done in the juvenile crime space. If we are serious about addressing juvenile crime in this state—and we all have talked about it many times in this place—we need to be doing a lot more than this. I certainly hope that this government has taken on board the feedback from the community. There is an opportunity this week, when the amendments are moved by the member for Ninderry tomorrow, for this government to support those amendments. Make no mistake, this will be a test. Queenslanders will be watching to see whether or not this government is fair dinkum about doing something in relation to these offenders and the offences that they are committing. The ball is in their court. We are all watching.



**Mr SKELTON** (Nicklin—ALP) (4.42 pm): I rise in support of the Miles government's Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. Knife crime poses a serious risk to community safety. Since 2019, reported offences where a knife was identified as the most serious weapon have increased by 18 per cent. That number is too high. Like all members, I offer my deepest sympathies to all victims of knife crime. The Queensland Police Service are on the front line and has implemented various policies and tactics to combat knife crime, including in schools teaching the risk of carrying knives. It also includes the passage of Jack's Law last year, giving police

officers the power to conduct wandering in safe night precincts, on public transport and at public transport hubs across the state. I thank my Nambour police officers for their wandering efforts at Nambour train station.

I would like to thank the chair, deputy chair, members of the committee and of course the tireless secretariat and Hansard. I note that this bill is the result of the advocacy of our communities and is informed by numerous submitters with a dearth of knowledge and experience in crime prevention. We know that a stronger response is needed to tackle the risk of knife crime in our communities. Alongside knives, something else that this bill considers is the use of gel blasters—or replica firearms—that despite generally not being a physical risk to people are used in the commission of serious offences. It can be difficult to tell a gel blaster apart from a real firearm.

This bill seeks to further combat youth crime and promote community safety by: prohibiting the sale of knives and other weapons referred to under the bill as ‘controlled items’ to minors; making it an offence for someone to lie about their age in an attempt to purchase a controlled item; requiring retailers to display signage banning minors from buying controlled items; banning controlled items from being sold or marketed in a way suggesting the item is used for combat, violence or likely to stimulate or encourage violent or criminal behaviour involving the item; requiring suppliers of controlled items to safely and properly secure said items at retail locations; and making consequential amendments to support these reforms such as allowing a police officer to request to see proof of age if they see or reasonably suspect a person under the age of 18 has been sold a controlled item and authorising the police officer to seize the item under certain circumstances.

This bill amends the Summary Offences Act 2005 and the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 1999 to introduce new offences. A controlled item will include: knives, swords, machetes, axes, sickles, scythes, spears, spear guns and replica firearms including gel blasters, that I mentioned before. By prohibiting the sale of knives and other dangerous items to minors, we are taking another step forward in enhancing how police can stop knife crime and in getting items like knives and machetes out of the hands of young people and off our streets. Notably, to avoid any manifestly absurd outcomes, the prohibition on controlled items does not include things such as knives made of plastic or wood that are designed to be used for eating.

Retailers of controlled items will be required to display signage at their stores advertising the prohibition of sale to minors. They will be required to instruct their staff on how to adhere to these new obligations—for example, sighting a customer’s ID when they look younger than 25. These laws will apply to retailers regardless of their location or set-up—whether they are in a permanent shopfront, a market, temporary stall or are even selling online.


All sales involving knives, swords, machetes and other controlled items to minors will be prohibited. A new storage requirement will apply to particular controlled items including double-edged blades, double-ended knives, swords, machetes, axes, sickles, scythes, spears, spear guns and any other bladed item prescribed by regulations. To securely store the item, retailers can store controlled items in locked rooms, cages, cabinets or containers or have them securely tethered so that they can be held and inspected but not removed from the display without the assistance of a sales attendant. The bill will prohibit controlled items from being sold or marketed in a way that suggests the item is suitable for combat, violence or is likely to encourage such behaviour on the part of their purchasers.

There is a growing trend internationally of knives, machetes and other items being sold that possess words, images or markings either on the item itself or its packaging, on a related accessory or in an associated advertisement that encourage its use for violence. Commonly known as ‘zombie knives’, these items are deliberately designed to look menacing and replicate elaborate weaponry often seen in horror films. This is achieved by stipulating that the features of a controlled weapon, or the way in which it is sold, must not indicate or suggest the item is suitable for combat or intended to be used for violence, whether actual or threatened, against a person or fictional creature—for example, a zombie—or be likely to stimulate or encourage violent or criminal behaviour that involves using the item.

Prohibited features of a controlled item or the way in which the item is sold includes images, words or markings on the item, or images or words in an advertisement for the item. For example, a knife which possesses an image of blood on the blade or contains words such as ‘killer’ or ‘slayer’ anywhere on the knife, packaging or associated items such as a sheath would be prohibited. These kinds of weapons I have talked about serve zero practical purpose, particularly in the hands of our youth, and exist purely to encourage violent acts. The Miles government takes the threat of knife crime

and violent offences involving these kinds of weapons very seriously. We are taking action in collaboration with and on the advice of QPS to better equip our world-class police service with the powers needed to combat knife crime in our communities.

The Miles government is tough on crime. We need comprehensive and coordinated intervention to address youth crime. This bill is one step towards achieving that end. On a personal note, with regards to understanding the threat of bladed weapons and how quickly things can turn, I did serve in border protection. I boarded many fishing vessels and illegal people smuggling vessels where there were always plenty of knives. I actually have at home something I confiscated off an Indonesian gentleman. Taking a knife out to attack somebody can take a very short time. I am pleased that the Queensland Police Service has commissioned those new ballistic vests, because a knife can come out before anything else. I hope this will enhance our community safety. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (4.48 pm): I too rise to contribute to the bill before the House. I congratulate the two new shadow ministers who have contributed to this bill—the member for Ninderry and, of course, the member for Currumbin; their contributions to the House have been huge—in relation to the problems that we Queenslanders face in relation to juvenile crime.

Once again we find ourselves in this House talking about the insidious problem of juvenile crime. I take members back nine years to when this government changed our strong laws. I heard the previous speaker trying to tell the House and whoever was listening to him that the government is tough on crime. What a load of bunkum. Everyone knows that this problem Queensland is facing stems from the first decision the Palaszczuk government made all those years ago. Now the new Premier, Premier Miles, has backed every single decision. In fact, one would say, given his Left nature, that he was happy to go further—further the wrong way.

I am pleased to note that we in the opposition are going to move two essential amendments to this legislation. I am talking about our amendments in relation to breach of bail and our amendments in relation to the Childrens Court. It is common sense. I will get to breach of bail in a moment. The amendments to the Childrens Court remove the provision that excludes victims and their families from the court on the basis of prejudice to offenders. That is what the Labor government brought in. It beggars belief. We know from evidence and from history that it is the Labor government that continually put the offenders before the victims—not on this side of the House. We will stand with the victims.

I will get to my electorate and the rest of Queensland in a moment, but I will say this: in Ipswich the crime rates are absolutely out of control. Along with every member who has spoken about this in this House, I send my heartfelt condolences to the family of Vyleen White. I do not think anyone disagrees that this senseless murder should never have happened. What began as a simple trip to the shops turned into a nightmare, particularly for her six-year-old granddaughter. The community of Ipswich is rightfully outraged—and it should be.

I have spent much time in Ipswich. As recently as late last week I spent some time with the LNP candidate for Ipswich West, Darren Zanow. What an incredible local champion, fighting for the people of Ipswich West on issues of crime. Those opposite can laugh and joke about it, but this is what Ipswich West needs. They need a hardworking local who is out there listening. They need someone who understands that assault in Ipswich has gone up 402 per cent since 2015. That is a national shame. Assault has gone up 402 per cent since 2015. That is why we need Darren Zanow, the LNP candidate for Ipswich West, in the seat of Ipswich West. The LNP candidate for Ipswich West, Darren Zanow, also knows that in Ipswich unlawful use of a motor vehicle has gone up 94 per cent. These are shameful figures.

**Mr McDonald** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I take that interjection: people are angry, they are scared and they want change. There is red-hot anger in the seat of Ipswich and in the seat of Ipswich West because they are living these figures—unlawful use of a motor vehicle is up 84 per cent; assault is up 402 per cent. Like I say, these figures are a national shame. I really congratulate Darren Zanow for putting his hand up to fight the good fight for the people of Ipswich West. He knows that it is only the LNP that has the right priorities for tackling the crime issues here in Queensland.

This government is not tough on crime. How embarrassing for that member to stand in this chamber and tell his local constituents that his government is tough on crime when their houses are being broken into, when their cars are being stolen, when their kids are waking up in the night with a knife held to their throat. That brings me to this bill.

I know that Brett and Belinda Beasley have headed home this afternoon, but they have just sent me another message with the lovely certificate they gave me. Thank you, Brett and Belinda. I know you are champions. You fight each and every day on behalf of Jack's legacy and his memory. It was less than 12 months ago that the passing of Jack's Law, which I note again was an LNP-led policy and finally years later adopted by the Labor government, introduced a trial to give police the power to use wandung devices to search for weapons in safe night precincts and on public transport. In the seven months since that law came into effect we have had more than 3,400 scanning operations and 400 weapons have been seized.


I want to get to the nub of this bill, which is to ban controlled items including knives other than exempted knives, swords, machetes, axes including tomahawks, sickles, spear guns, spears and replica firearms. The member for Currumbin rightfully mentioned the impost on small and family businesses. Just to let my local Nanango retailers know, this impost does include kitchen knives and utility knives. It excludes plastic and wooden knives designed and used for eating, a knife with a rounded or dull edge such as a butter knife or a knife designed to be a cheese knife. Retailers will be required under this legislation to display signage advertising the legal prohibition against the sale of controlled items to minors as well as to securely store those controlled items.

The great electorate of Nanango takes in the Somerset region, so it borders the Ipswich policing region in terms of the figures I talked about. Let me give the House some statistics from just three towns at the South Burnett and Gympie end of my electorate—Kingaroy, Wondai and Murgon. Across those three towns, since 2015 unlawful use of a motor vehicle has increased 556 per cent. Let me say that again: if you live in the townships of Kingaroy, Wondai or Murgon, since Labor changed the laws—since they wound back our tough-on-crime laws—unlawful use of a motor vehicle has gone up 556 per cent. Yes, that includes all of the vehicles that are stolen in and around my street and taken for a joy ride and never returned or returned trashed. Unlawful entry is up 97 per cent since 2015. Assault in Kingaroy, Wondai and Murgon is up 81 per cent since 2015. Theft has increased 62 per cent.

In Murgon itself, we have gone from just two car thefts when we were last in government in 2015—just get your head around that: just two car thefts—to 44 car thefts last year, in 2023. That is 44 car thefts in one year! Car thefts have increased from two to 44—that is an increase of 2,100 per cent. Who is to blame? The Labor government is to blame. Premier Miles can try to walk it back all he likes, but at the end of the day it was Premier Miles who took all of the decisions along with former premier Palaszczuk. The buck stops with them.

Youth crime is out of control. There is only one side of this House that has the right priorities for Queensland, and that is the LNP. That is why I would call on every member of this House to consider and support the sensible amendments that will be brought before this House. Seriously think about it and support them. Do something about youth crime in this great state.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (4.58 pm): I rise to support the Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. Before I go through sections of the bill, I need to respond to the previous speaker, who spent half of her contribution talking about things outside the long title of the bill, I would suggest. If the member wants to politicise a bill that I believe we have bipartisan support for that is fine, but to put it into the context of the by-elections is pretty strange and pretty telling. I fear she is misleading the House because she described the LNP candidate as a true 'local', I believe she said. She just missed one little detail: he does not even live in the electorate! In fact, Wendy Bourne, the great Labor candidate for Ipswich West, is the only candidate who lives in the electorate. She has been a true local for 30 years. If those opposite want to talk about true local champions, we will take up that fight every day of the week and back Wendy in. Good on her.

I thank the minister and the committee for progressing this bill to the House. I thought the process and engagement was pretty useful, including the opposition or crossbench members who were involved. I think it is a bit of a shame that it has been politicised in the House today by a few members. Some have not. Some have spoken to the bill in some detail, which I welcome. I think it is a shame, because I think there are times when people should just get on with the job and be responsible parliamentarians.

I believe this bill is an important step in the continued approach to reducing knife crime offending. In particular, it is an important step in reducing the possession and use of knives by young Queenslanders. This is an important step in practice and in nature. It sends a very strong message about what I think is the main point of this legislation: changing the culture of Queenslanders, especially

the culture of knife use by young Queenslanders. When it comes to young offenders, this is in line with the government's priorities which the Premier articulated this morning: prevention, intervention and detention. If we are talking about sentencing criminals after knife attacks or supporting victims of knife attacks, then by definition it is already too late to prevent crime and injury.

This bill takes it back several steps to get ahead of the game. It prohibits the sale of knives and similar weapons to underage youth. It also prohibits stores advertising the sale of those items in a manner that promotes the items being used in a violent or criminal manner. In terms of young people, it goes a long way to prevent knives and associated weapons from being in the hands of young people to start with. It includes what are collectively known as controlled items such as knives, swords, machetes, axes, sickles or scythes and spear guns as well as realistic replica firearms which are colloquially known as gel blasters.

The restriction on the sale of items to minors should not be criticised. We see it all the time—for example, with the sale of liquor. We can see this legislation closely reflects the regime that already applies to the sale of spray paint to minors. It is a worthwhile pursuit to increase public safety, and I think the faux outrage of those opposite who suggest there is some supposed huge burden to business is silly. Those opposite cannot even stop whingeing when they support the bill. The LNP playing politics with an issue like this is pretty disgusting but, sadly, not surprising. Let me put it this way: I am not angry; I am just disappointed. When it comes to weapons, including weapons like knives and the associated weapons we have outlined, which are far cheaper to access and easier to obtain, culture and narrative matter. We need to change that culture, and anything we can do in schools, the family home and of course in the retail setting we should do.

I also want to pay my respects to the White family. In my new role I want to thank officers of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General who stood up their community response team out at Redbank Plains. It was a great partnership between DJAG officers, the Queensland Police Service, the Red Cross, the community and the government's ready reservists. I think it showed good engagement with a community that had suffered trauma. It was based effectively on our experience as a government in terms of natural disaster community response, recognising that in certain circumstances early community engagement and intervention is really important. I thank all of our departmental colleagues who went out there and had those important conversations with the community.

I want to give particular credit to the local member, the member for Bundamba, who wrapped his arms around the community and showed us what community leadership is all about, so congratulations to him. I again thank the minister for his work in getting this bill to where it is today and the committee chair and members. I know it was a bit outside the wheelhouse for that committee, but congratulations and well done. We thank you for all of your hard work. Thank you to the stakeholders who engaged in a genuine manner and those who will continue to be engaged as we roll out this regime, which I think will be important. I would particularly reference the recommendations of the committee which suggest that this is not just 'pass the legislation and we're done'. We need an education program and we need an engagement program, and I look forward to seeing that being delivered. I commend the bill to the House.



**Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (5.04 pm): As we have heard, this bill represents a response from the government to the ongoing issue of knife crime in our communities. As relayed in the State Development and Regional Industries Committee report, the Deputy Commissioner of the Queensland Police Service said that knife related crime had increased 18 per cent since 2019 and 22 per cent for persons under 18 in five years, with 2,177 reported offences in 2022-23. As chair of the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee, I am very aware of the importance of addressing violence in an effort to achieve greater safety.

This bill makes it an offence to sell a controlled item to a person under the age of 18 and applies irrespective of whether the item was sold privately, at a local market or by a commercial seller at a retail outlet. It also prohibits a person from falsely representing themselves as 18 years or older to purchase one of those items. As we have heard, these controlled items are knives, swords, machetes, axes, sickles, scythes, spear guns, spears or replica firearms. The last item captures lifelike toys known as gel blasters, which Queensland police say have been used to commit serious offences, including armed robberies.

As was raised in the committee's inquiry, a new law will apply to many commercial businesses and comprehensive guidance will be needed. The Queensland Small Business Commissioner gave the example of local newsagents which sell all types of giftware and said that some small businesses



struggle to stay across emerging regulatory requirements and may inadvertently not comply due to a lack of awareness or misunderstanding. The Shopping Centre Council of Australia recommended that the government develop educational material to provide clarity with a community awareness campaign. The QPS has undertaken to work alongside the retail sector to communicate these reforms to customers and the public and support the respectful treatment of retail workers, which is essential.

Other organisations raised issues with the new laws, including the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service and Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service, with the Queensland Law Society noting that the law will lead to more young people and police interactions which could further entrench young people in the criminal system. The Queensland Police Service noted these positions and stated that the bill represented government policy. This bill is also designed to complement other legislative strategies to prevent knife crime such as the Police Powers and Responsibilities Amendment Bill and legislation, known as Jack's Law, that was passed last year. The act extends police powers to allow officers to use handheld metal detectors to detect knives—called wandering—in safe night precincts, on public transport and in public transport hubs throughout Queensland. At that time, I highlighted that the restriction to only certain designated areas was insufficient and that wandering powers should be extended to all Queensland, as knife crime knows no boundaries.


At the end of 2022 we had the horrific stabbing death of a mother in North Lakes and this year a beautiful grandmother in an Ipswich shopping centre. Our hearts go out to all. As I relayed in my statement of reservation to the committee report on Jack's Law, knife crime is not constrained to just public transport or safe night precincts. As I have raised in this chamber, my own community has experienced violence, with visiting youths rampaging in Hastings Street, jumping on cars and terrorising all. Last year there was a stabbing that thankfully was not fatal. I want to re-emphasise my original point from two years ago: wandering powers must be extended to all of Queensland so that police have these powers when they need to use them.

It takes many steps to end violence, and this bill is just one of those. Addressing the contributing factors is key, as knives can be replaced by other lethal weapons such as we saw in Noosa with broken bottles, pieces of four-by-two or rocks. We need to remedy the underlying causes of the rage, including mental illness and childhood abuse. Until we do, there will continue to be danger in our communities.

Regarding one of the proposed amendments being discussed in this chamber, I must admit that I am confused. Nowhere yet has it been put forward as to how removing detention as a last resort—which is standard in other jurisdictions nationally and internationally—will reduce offending or create safer communities. Magistrates are currently unshackled—I do not know why it is said that they are shackled—with no restrictions to detain dangerous offenders, with the sentencing principles underpinned by two fundamental principles: that public safety is paramount and that community confidence is critical.

What we have heard is that to create safer communities we must intervene much earlier with mandatory compliances that are for longer periods for rehabilitation to be effective, with transitional programs and an appropriate residential component to reduce the current unacceptable percentage of those reoffending after they leave detention, which is well above 90 per cent. We must stay with evidence-based decisions, as ones that are ad hoc and part of what appears to be politicking can be detrimental to all, including the work currently being undertaken by the select committee, IMAC and the Victims' Commissioner.

We are all very serious about seeing an end to this violence, and to say otherwise is offensive and inappropriate. I thank the minister and departmental staff, the committee and its members and all who contributed to the inquiry into this bill. May these efforts provide at least one element of reprieve whilst we continue working to remove the reasons Queenslanders want to harm one another.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (5.11 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill—a bill that continues to demonstrate our government's commitment to reducing youth crime, to reducing the number of victims of crime and to ensuring young people themselves do not end up committing a heinous personal crime which they cannot come back from. While we in here are politicians, we are also members of our communities. We have all seen footage of people carrying weapons in public in a way intended to cause fear, and it has caused fear. Knives scare me too, so I wholeheartedly support legislation that prevents people from accessing and carrying weapons. It is an important bill and, as others have done, I commend Brett and Belinda Beasley and all those involved in the Jack Beasley Foundation. I have had the opportunity to

speak with the Beasleys. Like many parents who have tragically lost a child through violence, their ability to work with government to change the laws so that others do not have to experience what they have is so admirable.

The committee oversighting this bill heard from the Queensland police that the prevalence of knife crime and youth offending is a serious concern to police. The QPS reported a 21 per cent increase in knife crimes over the past financial year and a 33 per cent increase over the past five years, with a significant portion of that increase attributed to young men charged with carrying knives in public. The concern amongst stakeholders and submitters was unanimous. This concern, coupled with the prevalence of knife crime in public settings, underscores the need for effective prevention and intervention strategies. Crime prevention strategies like these are critical to disrupting crime, to stopping it before it escalates. Unlike the LNP, whose only solution is mandatory sentencing after a violent crime occurs, our government will keep its attention on preventing crime so that lives are saved.

The bill amends the Summary Offences Act 2005 as part of a broader reform suite designed to promote community safety, reduce youth offending and minimise the risks associated with knives and other dangerous items. The bill is designed to strengthen the legislative framework regarding the sale, possession and storage of knives and other dangerous items by: prohibiting the sale of knives and other weapons, including machetes, axes, spear guns, spears and replica firearms, to minors; making it an offence for a person to falsely represent themselves as being over the age of 18 for the purpose of being sold a controlled item; requiring retailers to display signage advertising the legal prohibition against the sale of controlled items to minors; prohibiting controlled items from being sold or advertised in a way that suggests the item is suitable for combat or intended to be used for violence or in a way that might stimulate or encourage violent or criminal behaviour; imposing obligations on suppliers of particular controlled items to safely secure the items at retail outlets; and allowing a police officer to request to see proof of age if they reasonably suspect a person under the age of 18 has been sold a controlled item.

The bill is designed to complement existing strategies to prevent knife crime in Queensland. Last year the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill was passed which extended police powers to allow officers to use handheld metal detectors to detect knives in safe night precincts, public transport and public transport hubs throughout Queensland. Some of the weapons discovered through those activities are absolutely shocking and simply not fit for sale to minors or in fact anyone.


There is a bit of confusion in the community about what this bill will and will not do. This bill is not about restricting people from buying kitchen knives to cut up their meals. It deals directly with: banning the sale to minors of knives and weapons that are primarily bought for causing pain, harm or fear; imposing greater regulations to retailers on how those items can be marketed; and ensuring retailers are containing those knives and weapons in a way so they cannot be removed undetected by minors. It is important that the bill is complemented by a clear education campaign both for the community and for retailers. These formed two of the committee's three recommendations.

Like the member for Noosa, I am inclined to comment on the proposed amendments from the LNP that have been circulated. I have not read them, although I get the gist of what they are about. In terms of removing detention as a last resort, it is incredulous to me that the LNP is still continuing with this line. We have now had weeks of open hearings on the select inquiry into youth crime, and wherever we go, whether it is Townsville, Brisbane or Cairns, and whomever we speak to, whether it is people in QPS, the legal fraternity or victims of crime, it is unanimous that that proposal is simply not going to function and it is not going to achieve what we want to achieve. I do not know how that can be reiterated further. Anyone who is capable of googling and looking at those transcripts can find that out. I think it is the height of arrogance for the LNP to suggest that they somehow know more than everybody else on this issue.

On the second issue of allowing victims into courtrooms, again I have not looked at that particular amendment, but I do absolutely support that victims should be given greater access into courts, and the Premier has foreshadowed that already this week. I will not support the amendment without consultation. It is something that needs to go further and to be consulted on for victims of crime. Whilst I acknowledge that, I obviously cannot be supporting that here.

I want to acknowledge the work of Sam O'Connor, the member for Bonney. As members of parliament, we have the privilege of coming into people's lives for a range of reasons, including the tragic way in which the member was introduced into the lives of the Beasleys. I am inspired by the

member's dedication to the Jack Beasley Foundation—a dedication that is clearly genuine—and I thank the member for that. Recently at a public hearing a submitter remarked about youth crime that there is no silver bullet, just silver buckshot. This bill represents part of that solution and I commend it to the House.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (5.17 pm): It is my pleasure to rise to speak on the Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. I was interested to follow the member for Cooper, who was talking about LNP policies that those opposite have adopted. I am referring to the breach of bail issue that those opposite said for a long time did not work and would not work, and then they subsequently introduced it. She also commented on whether detention as a last resort should be introduced. We have the article by Lydia Lynch in the *Australian* on 5 February last week regarding this. The article said—

Townsville Labor Mayor Jenny Hill—

and we all know she is Labor—

says youth crime is the “No.1” issue facing Queensland and urged the state government to remove the requirement for detention to be a last resort in sentencing juvenile offenders.

It sounds like we are getting selective quoting from the parliamentary committee hearings. She also said that it would ‘remove one avenue magistrates and judges use to avoid issuing sentences commensurate with public expectation’. That is what I think about that from the member for Cooper, who was selectively quoting from the parliamentary committee hearing—just choosing the bits that she likes—when we have a Labor mayor who clearly is championing what we are proposing in this amendment. That is typical of those on the other side. We are supposedly the arrogant ones, but they are the ones who have all the knowledge and then eventually take our policies anyway.

As we have heard from the outset, the opposition does not oppose this bill and we welcome long overdue measures towards addressing the escalating issue of youth crime impacting Queenslanders every day. It is unfortunate it takes another tragedy in our community for the Miles Labor government to act.

Members will recall the introduction of Jack’s Law in March last year, and I note the acclaim for the member for Bonney, my colleague, along with advocacy from the Jack Beasley Foundation which continues to campaign tirelessly for restrictions on the sale of knives to minors. Since the passing of Jack’s Law, when police officers were able to utilise a metal detecting wand, 450 weapons have been seized, 1,200 people have been charged with almost 1,900 offences, and more than 39,000 people have been scanned in safe night precincts and on public transport. These figures highlight the gravity of the issue of youth crime and knife violence in Queensland and emphasises the importance of restricting access to weapons, particularly for young people, as a crucial step in supporting law enforcement efforts to address these problems.

In my electorate of Surfers Paradise, home to two of the 15 safe night precincts throughout Queensland, trial wandering operations by police officers have been welcomed and the success of this initiative by the Jack Beasley Foundation underscores the importance of helping to curb knife crime and the significantly bolstered efforts to enhance safety in my community.

Objectives of the bill include prohibiting the sale of knives and other weapons to minors, making it an offence for a person to falsely represent themselves as being over the age of 18 years for the purpose of being sold a controlled item, and requires retailers to display signage advertising the legal prohibition against the sale of controlled items to minors. Amendments to the Summary Offences Act 2005 will introduce a new division prohibiting the sale of certain items labelled as controlled items to individuals under the age of 18. Controlled items include knives, excluding exempted ones, swords, machetes, axes, sickles, guns, spear guns, spears and replica firearms categorised as restricted items under relevant regulations.

Despite existing restrictions, certain items like gel blasters have been misused in serious offences. This bill aims to impose additional safeguards regarding the acquisition of gel blasters and limit their accessibility to young offenders. I note in today’s news there has been an issue involving a gel blaster, I think at Robina on the Gold Coast.

In addition, the bill introduces secure storage requirements for specific controlled items, mandating sellers to store them in locked rooms, cages, cabinets or containers, or securely tethered to prevent unauthorised removal.

A new offence under section 19M of the Summary Offences Act will prohibit the sale of controlled items that suggest or encourage violent behaviour, aiming to prevent the glamorisation of such items as weapons. Prohibited features include indications for suitability for combat or violence, and images or words likely to encourage criminal behaviour. The bill also includes an amendment to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, replacing the section concerning the unlawful sale of spray paint to minors with a broader provision covering the unlawful sale of controlled items or spray paint to minors.

Queensland Police Service Deputy Commissioner Cameron Harsley during the committee hearing said—

The prevalence of knife crime and youth offending is a serious concern and poses significant risk to our community throughout Queensland. Overall, knife-related crime within the community has increased by 18 per cent since 2019 with 12,865 reported offences in the 2022-23 financial year where a knife was identified as the most serious weapon, and overall the number of offences perpetrated by young offenders involving a knife is rising.

We know that this legislation has been expedited by the Miles Labor government in an attempt to save face for the inaction over the past 10 years on crime issues. I will table an article from *ABC News* from yesterday where Police Commissioner Katarina Carroll asked for increased police powers at her representation to cabinet, asking for more search powers and the government bringing forward a ban on selling knives to minors which, of course, is what we are debating here. We note, too, that the commissioner has asked for expanded criteria for GPS ankle monitoring and we know the uptake of these devices has been limited, and there is cynicism about whether offenders will attempt to cut them off and recharge them or do any of the things that are appropriate. I table a copy of that article.


*Tabled paper:* Article from ABC News online, dated 12 February 2024, titled 'Queensland police ask for more search powers, government to bring forward ban on selling knives to minors' [\[175\]](#).

Stakeholder feedback, including from the Queensland Small Business Commissioner, expressed appreciation of the intent of the bill; however, it raised concerns about the time and financial impost on small business retailers, along with concerns around the high first-offence penalties of selling a knife, and recommends the QPS take an education-first approach to enforcement. The Queensland Law Society has indicated that there is insufficient evidence to suggest that this legislation will achieve its intended effectiveness. It emphasises the necessity for further actions to tackle the underlying causes.

As with other rushed legislation, the Miles Labor government has yet to examine a number of issues relating to this bill, including the reality that it would be next to impossible to secure a prosecution for online purchases made outside Queensland. There is no evidence this will deter offenders from carrying knives and no evidence it will do anything to change the current knife culture.

Penalties for 19G, sale to a minor, and 19I, sale by employees, are very high. The penalty for selling a controlled item to a minor, except by an employee, ranges from 140 penalty units, \$21,672, for a first offence to 420 penalty units, \$65,016, for a third or later offence. The sale of a controlled item by an employee of a commercial seller could attract a penalty of 25 units, \$3,096, for a first offence, and 40 penalty units, \$6,192, for a second or later offence. It is noted that the Queensland Police Service appeared to distance itself from the penalties, stating the penalties were a policy decision of the government.

Queenslanders do not want to see a repeat of the tragedies that have occurred in Queensland where innocent victims have lost their lives or been seriously injured at the hands of offenders with knives. The impact of these measures on preventing a knife from reaching the wrong hands could potentially save a life and spare families and communities from the devastation caused by such violence. The top priority of the LNP is restoring safety to our communities.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (5.26 pm): I rise to offer my support for the Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I support this bill because I think, as has been discussed by a number of contributors earlier, the issue and the prevalence of knife crime, particularly among young people, is concerning. It is concerning as someone who spent a significant period of time working on the front line of policing in such areas as the Gold Coast, Logan and Oxley.

The prevalence of knife crime has a number of factors, particularly in young people. A lot of that comes down to the peer group culture, the idea that carrying a knife comes with a level of street credibility, and there is a lot of popular culture, media portrayal, both social media and mainstream media, that has to take responsibility for that, as well as people who would otherwise be deemed role models for our young people. Unfortunately, those are things that we cannot necessarily legislate against in this House. However, one thing we can do is address the other issue which increases the prevalence of knife crime and that is the ease of access to knives. I remember when—and it has been

mentioned before—the Howard government introduced the national ban on a number of weapons and the sale of weapons, and that was a good thing, but I think we all, and certainly for those of us in the policing space, understood that it would likely just end up in a different type of weapon being carried and used. I do not think anyone could have predicted the type of knife crime that would really flourish amongst our young people.

What we do here today and the purpose of this bill is to address the issue of the access that our young people have to knives, particularly knives that have no purpose in society, other than to perpetrate violence and to carry a sense of violence and street cred that young people crave so much. They serve no purpose. You are not going to eat your steak dinner with them. The fact that there is actually a type of knife called the zombie killer tells me that it is not designed or manufactured or sold for any purpose other than to glorify violence.

When I started my policing career, there was no offence ‘to carry a knife’. The only offence that we had was ‘going armed as to cause fear’. That meant you could actually carry a knife, but it was how you used it or how you brandished it which generated it, and you actually had to prove the intent to cause fear. It was a very difficult charge to prove.

As I started my policing career, there was a change to the Weapons Act which introduced the offence of possessing a knife in a public place. This did not actually require someone to be holding the knife visibly but just to have it on their person for no lawful reason. At the time, there was a range of debate and discussion about what was a lawful reason. Everyone from the local boy scout to the fisherman and the apprentice butcher was used as an example as to why someone would carry a knife in public. Thankfully, because the caveat in the offence is without a reasonable—

Debate, on motion of Mrs McMahon, adjourned.

## QUEENSLAND CLIMATE TRANSITION BILL

Resumed from 15 March 2023 (see p. 449).

### Second Reading



**Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (5.30 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

Last week the Labor state government, under freshly minted Premier Steven Miles, approved a new coalmine in Queensland. It was their second new coalmine in just two weeks. Whitehaven Coal plans to extract 17 million tonnes annually for 30 years from its Winchester South greenfield coalmine in the Bowen Basin. That mine will create not only more than 14 million tonnes of fugitive emissions right here in Queensland but also an estimated of 567 million tonnes of emissions elsewhere in the globe. That is more than Australia’s total domestic greenhouse gas emissions annually.

In assessing the project’s environmental impact statement last year, the Coordinator-General determined that approval would limit human rights including the rights to life, property and freedom of movement and the particular rights of children to be protected and of First Nations people to preserve and practise their culture. Like other coalmines in Queensland, the proponent has no plan to reduce fugitive methane emissions, which we know are consistently underestimated and under-reported.

Late last year the Queensland Conservation Council and Lock the Gate released findings that fugitive methane emissions from current and proposed coal and gas projects could top 26.6 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year. This Labor government, led by self-proclaimed environmentalist Steven Miles, had that information and it approved the mine anyway. Where is Al Gore’s protege now? Where is the bright-eyed, climate-conscious progressive leader who promised to put the environment front and centre as Premier? The Miles government did not even make it two months without approving new coalmines. What a disappointment—at least it would be a disappointment, if any of us still trusted the Labor Party on climate policy.

Their friends at the federal level have been busy approving new coalmines since they inched into power promising to end the delay and denial typical of the Liberal-National coalition, but keeping power is clearly all they care about. They lie to the public and do just enough to keep their seats while the temperature continues to rise. I do not think they are ignorant of that fact. I think calling the Labor Party ignorant of the climate crisis and their part in it is far too kind. They know that mining and burning coal and gas leads to more CO<sub>2</sub> and methane emissions, which trap heat and warm the climate. They

approve them anyway. They know that a warming climate means more heatwaves, cyclones, floods and bushfires. They show up after the fact to offer their sympathies and handshakes and at press conferences they spruik grants that can never replace what has been lost in these disasters.

The Labor Party knows that climate change means the death of the reef, countless other species and thousands of jobs. The flow-on effects of sea level rise and more extreme weather will destroy livelihoods and kill innocent people. They will create more forced migration, more disease, more uninsurable homes, more expensive food and more global conflict. But unless it affects them and their jobs and their power, they appear to just not care. Honestly, I do not know how we are expected to reach any other conclusion. They know that they are responsible, but they are looking us right in the face and telling us that they are not. It truly is psychopathic behaviour.

Labor wants to blame anyone but themselves for the climate crisis, as though they could not possibly know when they signed off on a new coalmine that the coal would be dug up and burned, simply because it is not going to be burned in Queensland. I am not buying it and it is, frankly, absurd that they are still peddling that nonsense. You do not have to be a specialist climatologist to know that the Earth's atmosphere does not include divisions along border lines or jurisdictions. There is no great authority in the sky diligently allocating the proportional impacts of global warming back to the countries responsible according to international carbon accounting standards.

Queensland's coal and gas are heating up the entire globe; that is a plain truth no matter how Labor spin it. Their spin is particularly galling when they know that Queenslanders will be hit hard—they are already being hit hard—by climate change. We here in Queensland are particularly vulnerable to extreme weather disasters. In fact, our economic losses from these events are almost double the national average on a per capita basis. Insurers are deserting Queenslanders because of the level of climate risk here.

We just sweated through months of rolling heatwaves, which may seem invisible but are in fact the deadliest of all weather disasters, especially for the most vulnerable people in our communities. The year 2023 was the hottest year on record globally, and experts are already warning that 2024 is likely to be even hotter. For the first time, the 12-month global average temperature increase has breached the 1.5-degree Celsius threshold that was specified in the Paris Agreement, to which Australia is a signatory. Experts project that it will exceed the permanent 1.5-degree increase above pre-industrial levels within 10 years. That is what the Paris Agreement was premised on avoiding. I do not say that to be defeatist. There is no doubt that action has been too slow and that the impacts of 1.5 degrees of warming will be grave, but we know from the work of hundreds of scientists that two degrees will be even worse, which is why the Paris Agreement said that if we cannot avoid 1.5 degrees we must at least keep warming below two degrees.

I try to take some comfort in the government's change of heart regarding certain aspects of this bill. When I introduced the bill last year, the state's emission reduction targets were on a par with those of the former Morrison Liberal-National government. The government had committed to just a 30 per cent reduction in emissions on 2005 levels by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050. This bill includes provisions to increase our emissions reduction target to 75 per cent by 2030 and to reach net zero by 2035. That is what leading climate scientists say needs to be met if we are going to meet our Paris obligations. Late last year, the new Premier finally announced that Labor will increase its target to 75 per cent by 2035. While it falls a bit short of the science-based targets in this bill, it is a big step up from Morrison and Palaszczuk targets.

Make no mistake: these big steps from Labor seem to follow a pretty predictable pattern. They come close to elections, whenever it is apparent that Labor might be threatened by the Greens. Right after the 2022 federal election, when Queenslanders elected four new Greens representatives to federal parliament, the government released its Energy and Jobs Plan. Again, the government inched really close to Greens policy—a big build of publicly owned renewable energy and a job guarantee for energy workers negotiated with unions—but their big blind spot remained. They still will not touch coal and gas extraction. We still have a government that claims to take climate action while it is still committing Queensland's biggest mining crimes—namely, the continued mining and export of fossil fuels.

They can put domestic commissions and renewable energy numbers on a press release and pretend that they are doing Al Gore proud but the inconvenient truth is: the arbitrary distinction between emissions from Queensland coal burned in Millmerran or Mumbai is the one of the biggest lies this government has ever told. It is a bald-faced lie. It is also a lie for the government to pretend that they are supporting workers—

**Mr LANGBROEK:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is using unparliamentary language and should be asked to withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Member, I did not hear any—

**Mr LANGBROEK:** He is using the word 'lie'.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, it would assist debate if you said you would withdraw.


**Mr BERKMAN:** I withdraw. It is also misleading for the government to pretend that they are supporting workers on a climate transition while the resources industry is totally excluded from their plans. This bill would create the Queensland climate transition authority as a new independent statutory authority to develop the Queensland climate transition strategic plan by the end of the 2024. The authority would be a central coordinating body to support government departments and existing agencies to implement the plan.

In addition to setting out strategies and policies for Queensland to meet the emissions reduction targets and phase out fossil fuel exports by 2030, the plan would need to ensure employment stability and income security for affected resources workers and communities. The transition authority would be explicitly tasked with taking a collaborative, place-based approach to consulting with stakeholders like unions, employers and community members on the local transition plan—a plan for retraining, redeployment opportunities, a job guarantee and new opportunities like expanding critical minerals mining and processing as well as local green manufacturing and exports.

The government has made no such commitment for resources workers. They are misleading communities about the impacts of coal and gas mining on our climate and they are misleading those same communities about the longevity of jobs in the fossil fuel sector. They know this because their own experts have told them. I refer to the Deloitte report on the climate transition and the resources industry that the government commissioned in 2021 which found that fossil fuel demand is declining globally, and jobs growth productivity and wellbeing will go with it.


The state government must begin planning now to protect Queenslanders from sudden job losses as a result of unplanned declines in investment, from global penalties and sanctions, and from stranded assets. It must stop contributing to the tension and confusion in communities where new fossil fuel projects are approved with little long-term viability.

The Premier has acknowledged that it is his job, the government's job, to convince Queenslanders that there is a future beyond coal and gas in the energy sector. It is also their job to work towards a future for the resources sector beyond coal and gas. The government wants to act like coal and gas mined here is someone else's problem. They use the 'drug dealer's defence' and any number of other excuses. Tonight I am asking them to take some responsibility for what we do here in Queensland.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs) (5.41 pm): I table the government response to the State Development and Regional Industries Committee report No. 45.

*Tabled paper:* State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 45, 57th Parliament—Queensland Climate Transition Bill 2023, government response [\[176\]](#).

I can inform the House the government accepts the committee's two recommendations. Furthermore, tomorrow the government will introduce into the House a superior bill in relation to these matters. We look forward to a fulsome debate of that bill at the appropriate time.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (5.41 pm): I will begin my contribution by confirming that the Liberal National Party will not be supporting the Greens political party's legislation. Blunt instruments like this which would severely impact our economy and the lives and livelihoods of many Queenslanders are not the way to achieve genuine climate action. There is no debate on the trajectory our state is heading in. Net zero is the end goal. Both Labor and the LNP agree with this. In fact, over 140 nations around the world, representing 92 per cent of global GDP, have set a target of net zero as well.

This bill proposes radical action. It was not supported by stakeholders who represent the agriculture industry and local government, and I will quote from the Local Government Association of Queensland, who submitted as part of the committee's inquiry. They stated—

Implementing this provision in the timeframe suggested in the Bill would wreak economic and social havoc on many local communities across Queensland—displacing thousands of local workers, destroying the foundation of regional supply chains and significantly impacting families in the middle of widespread cost of living challenges.

The Queensland climate transition authority would have unchecked powers including being able to overturn the decision of a minister. The committee found the parliament would not even be able to restrain this body, completely trashing the principles of responsible government. The general idea of an authority is not without merit, but what is in this bill is extraordinary. Regional communities are essential partners in our economic transition. There are enormous opportunities. We need to make sure social licence is secure and that they are taken on the journey. This bill would not achieve that. It would trash countless local economies across our state.

The department said the bill, if passed, would greatly risk the provision of affordable, reliable and secure electricity to Queenslanders. Slugging people who are struggling with the cost of living with potentially massive power price increases is not what I call an orderly transition. The government has flagged updated emissions reduction targets, which will apparently be introduced tomorrow. I will be looking closely at the legislation they will be introducing and in particular the modelling underpinning those targets. I will say I was surprised to see in those targets a 30 per cent reduction by 2030 followed by a significant increase to a 75 per cent reduction just five years later in 2035. I will be seeking further details on that legislation as it goes through the committee process before outlining the Liberal National Party's response. We need to see the modelling and the assumptions the government has relied on to produce these targets.

As soon as the Energy and Jobs Plan was released we called for clarity on our emissions reduction targets. It should not have taken over a year for a response. It simply reeks of politics. I am serious about Queensland playing our part to take action on climate change, but it should not be done through radical proposals like what the Greens are suggesting. Our pathway to net zero should be achieved by working with the market, by empowering individuals and by showing how environmental action is an opportunity not an impost.

At the end of last year I had the great privilege of joining the Environmental Leadership Australia delegation to the COP28 United Nations Climate Change Conference. It reinforced for me the opportunity our state must harness with climate change, both with clean energy and increasing our conservation estate to protect and safeguard biodiversity. It will not occur through economy destroying bans and mandates like this bill proposes. Barriers and bans block innovation.

Investment is happening. The International Energy Agency reported that five years ago for every dollar spent on fossil fuels there was an equivalent dollar being spent on clean energy. That ratio is now US\$1.70 being spent on clean energy for every dollar being invested in fossil fuels. Imagine where that ratio will be in the next five years. Roughly 40 per cent of global capital is within a 1½-degree of warming framework—the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero. This is market driven and proposals like the one before us would undermine our economy.

Put simply, global capital has already reached the tipping point towards clean energy compared to fossil fuels and the transition is now well and truly underway. The challenge for our state is enormous. Queensland's carbon emissions are the highest of any jurisdiction in the nation. Our state can harness the opportunity before us, but it will not happen if we shock the market and spook investors. That is without even mentioning the sudden impact this would have on our state government's revenue, which is essential to so many things and not just our investment in renewable energy.

Taking a sledgehammer to our resources sector like this bill proposes could put at risk the investment we need to see in critical mineral extraction and refining. Queensland's resources industry is world leading and we need to partner with them to achieve our transition to net zero.

To sum up, we support action on climate change, but this proposal is just far too radical. It would not lead to a properly managed and phased transition.



**Mr BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (5.46 pm): When we came to power we had only a four per cent renewable energy mix here in this state. We are now in the mid 20 per cent and beyond—a phenomenal outcome in terms of acting on climate change. We now have the Queensland energy and jobs bill introduced by the Minister for Energy. That is the most thorough and comprehensive transition of an energy system in this nation as a second part of the renewable energy target brought in by me as the energy minister in the first term of the Palaszczuk government. There has not been a state government that has done more in terms of acting on climate change and energy transition than this government. That is good for a state that has traditionally been a coal state. Honourable members need only to get out to North Queensland, the Darling Downs, Central Queensland or Hervey Bay to see the extent of the energy transition that is happening. I say to the member for Maiwar that he needs to get out of West End and Auchenflower and go to the Darling Downs. He should go and see the massive wind farms that are going ahead and the solar farms going on.




**Mr Lister:** We need a dam there, weather events.

**Mr BAILEY:** I will not take the interjection of the member for Southern Downs and we all know his proclivities in this regard, which are very 20th century.

What we have is a transition in response to climate change. It has been thoroughly researched by industry specialists. To go from four per cent renewable energy in Queensland to be hitting a 70 per cent target at 2032 and then 80 per cent by 2035 is a thorough piece of governance by a government that is committed to the principles of acting on climate change.

It is very easy for a member of the crossbench, like the member for Maiwar, to stand in here and one-up the government—‘It should’ve been done yesterday’, ‘The target should just wind back a few years’. It is all about political positioning rather than the responsibility of delivering the transformation of a power system, which is a very complex piece of infrastructure. The Energy and Jobs Plan brought down by the member for Springwood and backed by this government and cabinet is a well-researched plan that deals with the transition, that deals with the intermittency and that brings in pumped hydro. If we want to get gas and fossil fuels out of the system, what is the answer? We have to have pumped hydro in this state. It is a vast state and the answer is that plan. Is there any acknowledgement of that thorough piece of work by the Greens party? No, zero, not a skerrick of it. There are a lot of scare tactics in the speech and emotional pleas by the member for Maiwar, but there is no fair dinkum acknowledgement of the substantial progress that this government has made and will continue to make. It is about the actual implementation of the transition by a responsible government versus the vibe that is being promoted by the Greens party, and I know which one I will choose as a responsible member of this parliament.

We deal with the real world of managing a complex issue, but we are making phenomenal progress. We have seen billions and billions of dollars invested in solar and wind and we are heading towards pumped hydro as well. I support the comments from the Minister for Energy and member for Springwood. This government’s commitment cannot be questioned when we look at its record. When we look at the record of the government that we succeeded and we see what we have been able to achieve, it has been a huge amount of progress. It is something that every member on this side of the parliament is proud of in that we are managing that transition to a low-emission economy. That guide forward is something that is envied by other states and territories right across Australia—that is, the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (5.51 pm), in reply: I was not expecting a long debate, but I thought perhaps there might have been a little more time or effort put into it by either side than we have heard. I will respond to a few points. There is an apparent inability in the room here to distinguish between whatever work the government is doing—and, yes, let us be clear: we welcome the increased ambition with the new renewables targets—but is it so hard to distinguish between the climate impacts of our domestic emissions being addressed through the expansion of renewables and those emissions that come when we dig up some of the biggest coal resources on the planet and ship them overseas? It is not difficult to understand that distinction, yet we keep seeing this deliberate blurring of these issues by government members and even more so from the opposition.

The distinction between the energy system and the resource sector is missed as well. The transition planning—very welcome transition planning that we have been pushing for many years now that is proposed within the Energy and Jobs Plan—again is great, but it is a different thing from a planned transition for the resource sector and for those resource workers, for the folks working on gas fields and in coalmines who do not have clarity about what their future looks like. All I can assume is that the government’s position and the opposition’s position is that we are going to continue to dig up coal and export it and to send our gas offshore in perpetuity.

The only outcome from that ongoing behaviour—from ongoing extraction, the opening up of new fossil fuel projects—is an unlivable climate. The IEA, the International Energy Agency—I do not know how many times I have said this in here—made clear some years ago now that if we were to have any chance of succeeding at meeting the objectives of the Paris Agreement we could not continue to open up new coal and gas projects. It could not be more pertinent for a country or a state than it is for Australia and Queensland. We understand—we have talked about this for many years as well—how Queenslanders should be getting a fairer share of the royalties coming out of our resource sector. We have said for years now that the royalties coming on account of our fossil fuel extraction need to hike up in a big way so that we are getting the revenue we need to support those communities through the transition and as we stage a decline in our production and our export of coal, and it needs to happen quickly.

The member for Miller—welcome to the nosebleeds by the way, member for Miller—made the observation that we are talking about unrealistic time frames. This government has been in power for 30 of the last 35 years. Labor owns responsibility for everything that has happened in the last few decades in this state, so to say that somehow the time frames are unrealistic and that it cannot be expected to move more quickly is an absolute cop-out.

**Mr Bailey:** You don't understand the power system, Michael, do you? You really don't.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Order, members! The member is not taking any interjections.

**Mr BERKMAN:** I will take the interjection: that is the level of ambition. That is the level of ambition from Labor: to understand the power system apparently is to truly understand that it is just not possible to actually reduce emissions, and again he is talking about the power system as opposed to—

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There was a comment there that was clearly misrepresenting what I was saying. I find it personally offensive and he should withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Maiwar, the member has taken personal offence. Do you withdraw?

**Mr BERKMAN:** Absolutely; I withdraw. He interjects and tells me that I do not understand the power system, the implication being that the positions we are proposing are impossible. They are not impossible. For years we have had organisations talking about a rapid decline in our domestic emissions, but again it misses the point. This is not a bill that is just about domestic emissions; it is a bill about supporting resource communities as we phase out our fossil fuel production and export. I would almost put money on the fact that any other interjections coming from that side are going to be based on that same kind of deliberately fallacious kind of misconstruing and combining of those issues. In terms of saying that it should have been done previously was too ambitious, we are literally talking about the livability of our planet in years to come. We are talking about our state as one of the biggest producers and exporters of fossil fuels in the world, and somehow we are just not supposed to act with any greater ambition than what the government claims is the best that we can expect.

We have seen how quickly we can move as a state. Overnight, at the stroke of a pen we have gone from an emissions reduction target of 30 per cent by 2030 to 75 per cent by 2035. This is not about what is possible and this is not about practical barriers to action; it is about political will—yes, I am glad to see some more political will and, yes, I am looking forward to seeing the legislation introduced—but the government has to do some work on the resource sector. We have to stop exporting emissions that are going to literally cook the planet. We have to see an end to the drug dealer's defence, this absurd argument that if we do not export our beautiful high-quality coal—which, again, is a complete fallacy if you look at the quality of the coal in the Galilee Basin across the board, but that is a different conversation—then someone else is going to do it so I guess we have no option. We might as well be the person standing on the street corner handing out the crack baggies.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, I will just caution you for unparliamentary language.

**Mr BERKMAN:** Sure; I withdraw. It appears that the committee in its work certainly did not go to any great lengths to consider or respond to the 100-plus individual submissions on the bill which I understand would have been sent to the local members of those individual submitters as well. It appears that there is no interest in reading or responding to them in the House here either, so I thought I would finish by putting some of those voices on the record. To everyone who intends to vote against this bill, remember these are your voters. These are the people who will continue to struggle through increasingly frequent and devastating natural disasters year on year on year. Many of the people who asked this parliament to support this bill were parents and grandparents and they spoke about their grave fears for their families' futures, and I have no doubt that those are fears shared by many people in here, despite the inaction.

Jessica said, 'As a mother of three young kids I want a brave, innovative outlook by my government and will vote accordingly.' Roy said—

There is no future for climate denialist politics. People can't close their eyes to reality forever. They will all be affected, one way or another. If we continue to sit on our hands, hoping the problem will go away, it will be too late to do anything about it. History will not condemn us. There won't be any history.

One parent spoke about mopping up water in her downstairs living area at Red Hill and how her kids learned nothing from the first term of 2011 because their school was flooded and they were forced to learn in the gymnasium of another school down the road. She said—

I already know people that have moved to either New Zealand or Tasmania, to get away from what lies ahead for Queenslanders. These are wealthy individuals who can afford to make this change. Most Queenslanders are not in this financial position.

Another submitter, Christine, laid bare the ridiculousness of ignoring exported fossil fuels and their impacts on climate. She said—

What we export as coal and gas, we import as the consequences of climate change—not only for us now, but forever. While it is great that within Queensland this government has planned to transition to renewable energy via the Energy and Jobs Plan, it seems incongruous and contrary—akin to Jekyll and Hyde, to continue to open new coal and gas—as though our exports have no consequence to us.

That is a distinction that Christine understands and she set it out in simple terms in a submission. Frankly, Christine, like so many of us, is probably fed up with the government continuously doing all it can to obfuscate that distinction.

There were submissions from many healthcare workers who are worried about the health impacts of climate change, from resources industry workers who acknowledge that we need to plan beyond coal and gas, and from farmers who spoke of the impacts of global heating on food supply. Elizabeth, from Central Queensland, said—

Back then, our farm could provide a living for a family from growing wheat, cotton and cattle without irrigation. Today, the same land relies on irrigation for cropping. Climate change is costing farmers big time, and meanwhile the dependency of the local district on mining jobs is providing a false sense of prosperity while the mining is causing the real decline in productivity.

I'm horrified every time I learn that the State Government is giving assistance to, and allowing more coal and gas exploitation with no plan to end these globally polluting businesses. We don't want our farms and communities to be destroyed by the increasing unreliability of our climate if we don't limit global heating to less than 2 degrees. This can only be achieved if governments stop approving fossil fuel extraction & export.

One young woman from Moorooka wrote about studying to be an agricultural scientist. She said—

.... the problems we face in feeding people for the future haunts me every day. You cannot be pro climate action and pro fossil fuels, it is not possible.

How can you justify risking the complete destruction of entire Pacific islands for the fossil fuel industry? Displacing millions of people in Africa for the fossil fuel industry? No economic justification can fly against these horrors; against the disappearance of entire nations and the threats we pose to all young people today.

I want members to really listen to her words, because as they make their decision on tonight's vote—I will suspend my disbelief for a moment and pretend that everyone has not already—I hope they ring in their ears. She said—

I am a young woman who should be allowed to dream, who should be able to hope that one day they will be a mother. This has been stolen from me. Until you stop damning my future, and the future of children today, I will not dream, I will not rest, and I will never stop standing up for what is right.

That is an appropriate note to finish this debate, but before I take my seat and before anything else I do want to thank all members who have expressed their concern for and reached out to convey that to Amy. All of our thoughts are with her. I know that. We have a very small and tight-knit team and it is very difficult to see one of that team go through such a tough ordeal. I will leave it there. Get well, Amy. We are thinking of you.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

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

Resolved in the negative under standing order 106(10).

## MOTION

### Order of Business



**Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (6.09 pm): I move—

That general business order of the day No. 2 be postponed.


Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

**SUMMARY OFFENCES (PREVENTION OF KNIFE CRIME) AND OTHER  
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL****Second Reading**

Resumed from p. 97, on motion of Mr Ryan—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (6.10 pm), continuing: Before the debate was adjourned, I was discussing the introduction of the offence under section 51 of the Weapons Act, which was 'Possession of a knife in a public place or school'. The section refers to a lawful excuse that allows someone to carry a knife in a public place. It extends to tradies and people who use knives for work. It even extended to someone who would ordinarily wear a little Swiss Army pocketknife on their belt. I call that the 'little grandfather provision' as it allows grandads who like to wear pocketknives on their belts to go shopping and still wear those pocketknives. We did not see an inundation of grandfathers being charged with possessing a knife in a public place, because the 'reasonable excuse' provisions are generally well canvassed and well known by operational police and by courts.

The first time I encountered juveniles carrying knives I must admit was a surprise to me. It occurred when I used to work at the blue light disco—Hyperage that used to be at the Hyperdome. It was the first time I had ever had to wand children, going into the blue light discos. That was something I had not experienced when I had worked at the PCYC's on the Gold Coast, but then I came to Logan. I remember the amount of knives and other weapons that were carried in the late 1990s—this is not a new thing—and the amount of sweeps and searches we would have to do of the vicinity. They knew they would be wanded, so they would go into the shopping centre earlier in the day and stash things in the cisterns of the toilets and so on. Eventually, a bit of environmental engineering made sure we reduced risks in those terms. Sadly, the Hyperage discos are no longer at the Hyperdome. As someone who had not come from a culture where there was a need to carry a knife or the need to prove some kind of reputation by carrying a knife, it was a big eye-opener for me in my early 20s.

Police officers have always had the power under the Weapons Act to stop, search, detain and seize weapons if they reasonably suspect that a person is carrying a weapon. I note the current debate happening in the public about wand powers and the legislation that we passed last year in relation to wand in safe night precincts. We have heard contributions about how many knives have been detected during those operations. There has also been discussion about the use of wand provisions in and around public transport. Public transport users need to have a sense of security and safety when travelling on public transport, given that is also largely the mode of transport of our young people.

This bill will prohibit the sale of controlled items. We have gone through what those controlled items are. They include knives other than exempt knives—timber and plastic takeaway knives and whatnot. It also creates the offence of knives being sold or advertised on the basis that they are purely knives for violence. As I said, these are not knives that you would be using to eat your steak dinner and to cut your cheese platter. These are knives, such as a 'zombie killer', that serve no logistical or legitimate purpose in our society—whether you believe in zombies or not, Minister! There is no purpose at all for selling them, let alone buying them—other than for promoting yourself on social media or whatever outlet people use to gain notoriety. By prohibiting the advertisement of these types of weapons in that context, we are doing what we can here to minimise the glorification of knives and knife violence. It also requires those who sell such items to make sure they are stored securely in the retail precinct.

I know that some contributions mentioned the impost on small business. Obviously, those who sell tobacco have prohibitions on selling to minors. They also must have it secured, and we have imposed restrictions and regulations on advertising. We also banned the sale of spray paints to minors. They are all locked up and purchasers have to show proof of age. Businesses are already doing this, be they the big Bunnings or the local hardware store. Locally in Brisbane city, you cannot buy aerosol spray deodorant. At Coles in the Myer Centre these items cannot be purchased, because we know that young people use them for dangerous activities. That is something that the businesses were happy to self-impose, because they knew it was a risk. At Coles at the Myer Centre you cannot buy a kitchen knife. Again, we have not regulated that, but that is what business is doing because it knows the risk. I am glad to see that there are businesses out there leading the charge in this respect, but we need uniformity. Even though you cannot buy it at Coles in the Myer Centre, you could go to Ashgrove and buy it at a Coles there. This bill introduces safe measures across the board and statewide to keep knives out of our young people's hands.



**Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (6.17 pm): I too rise to talk on the Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. The objectives of the bill are: to prohibit the sale of knives and other weapons, known as controlled items, to minors; to make it an offence for a person to falsely represent themselves as being over the age of 18 years for the purpose of being sold a controlled item; to require retailers to display signage advertising the legal prohibition against the sale of controlled items to minors; to prohibit controlled items from being sold or advertised in a way that suggests the item is suitable for combat, intended to be used for violence, or likely to stimulate or encourage violent or criminal behaviour involving the item; to impose obligations on suppliers of particular controlled items to safely secure the items at a retail location; and to make consequential amendments to support these reforms such as allowing a police officer to request to see proof of age if they reasonably suspect that a person under the age of 18 has been sold a controlled item and authorising police to seize the item under certain circumstances.

I was on the committee that considered this bill. I would really like to thank the Jack Beasley Foundation. Belinda Beasley appeared before the committee. I understand that Brett was not well that day and could not attend. Belinda explained why it is so important to pass this legislation to stop juveniles from obtaining weapons. Today we have heard from members on both sides of the House about the problems that come from this. I was a bit concerned about the issues this might cause some of our retailers with regard to having to secure these items and the cost involved in doing so—the cost involved in training staff et cetera. I think those concerns are outweighed by the opportunity to make sure that our youth, especially young thugs who are roaming our streets at the moment, cannot get a knife in one fashion. I totally agree with other members who have said that there are opportunities for young thugs to get knives from all over the place, but if we take away one of those opportunities then maybe we have done a good thing.

The committee made three recommendations: one is that the bill be passed; two is that the Queensland Police Service develop guidance and resource materials, in consultation with the retail sector, to support businesses implement new operational obligations introduced by the bill; and three is that the Queensland government consider undertaking an education campaign to inform the public and stakeholders about the changes introduced by the bill. I think that is something that needs to be moved along.

The Premier earlier today said they were bringing this particular legislation to the parliament quickly. That is not really the case. This bill was tabled last year. It has gone through the committee process. The only thing that has been accelerated today is that this bill was made the first order of the day on the *Notice Paper*. That is the only thing that has been accelerated today. I understand that the minister intends to move amendments that will mean that should some business decide they want to implement this straightaway, they can do so as they will not be discriminating against a minor if they refuse to sell them a knife. How many businesses do we expect will take this up? I do not think too many businesses will rush into it.

**Mr Power:** What about social pressure?

**Mr HART:** I take the interjection from the member for Logan. There may be some social pressure to do it. I tend to think that it might only be larger businesses that can move quickly to put these practices into place. I cannot see smaller businesses doing this quickly. The committee heard that this legislation will not be fully enacted for something like six months or maybe even longer. That is when we can expect these provisions to really kick in and for these knives to stop ending up in the hands of juveniles.

I have a bit of firsthand experience in that my daughter saw a young person buy a machete from a retailer on the Gold Coast from what seemed to be a friend of theirs and then unpack this machete and throw it on the back seat of a car. You have to wonder why they needed a machete. They did not look like they were going to instantly go and do a bit of gardening or something like that. One has to think that there may have been some criminal intent there. I think it is a good thing that we stop these young thugs from accessing these sorts of items.

As I said, I take onboard the extra cost of storage that some of our retailers are going to be faced with. They did suggest that the committee consider recommending that the government pay for that storage or pay for that impost on businesses. We were not of a mind to do that.

What concerns me is that these controlled items can be changed by regulation. The government tend to do this a lot where they give a head of power in legislation to make serious changes by regulation. Those regulations come in instantly and then can be disallowed in a period of time. That does not allow for good scrutiny by the parliament. It would be better for them to be placed in the legislation to start with.

As far as banning gel blasters is concerned—I will probably take a hit from my deputy leader—I agree that they should be banned, especially the ones that look like guns. They are placing our police officers in a very dangerous situation where, if somebody waves something at you that looks like it might be a gun, you have to react instantly to it. Then some terrible tragedy might happen that should not have happened. I think banning young people from accessing gel blasters is probably a good thing.

I wanted to tackle a couple of things that some members have said here tonight. I am particularly concerned with the comments from the member for Noosa tonight, who is the chair of the Youth Justice Select Committee and does not appear to understand the sentencing conditions in the Youth Justice Act. She said that there were a couple of primary concerns there. Yes, there absolutely are, but if she bothered to read section 150 of the Youth Justice Act titled ‘Sentencing principles’ she would understand why we want to omit detention as a last resort.

People I talk to in my electorate—and I am out there regularly talking to them—want there to be some consequences for the actions of these young thugs. When they break into somebody’s house or they break into a minister’s house in Townsville and take his car, there needs to be some consequences for that. For anybody who has had their house broken into or their car stolen recently, I am sure they would agree with me that they would like to see the people who did that face some consequences. A consequence can be a sentence of some sort.

Taking away detention as a last resort does not mean that someone will automatically be sentenced. Some members on the other side have tried to convince us that this is some sort of mandatory situation. That does not mean that at all. It just means that we are uncuffing the judiciary and allowing them to make a reasonable decision based on what has happened in each individual circumstance.

I also wanted to take the member for Cooper to task. She said that she agreed that we should be opening up the youth courts and that she would at some stage in the future support such legislation, but apparently she will not support it tonight. One has to wonder why it is that members on the other side of the House agree with something yet they will not vote to support it just because we suggested it. I remind members on the other side that they have copied a fair few of our suggestions—breach of bail being one. Word for word they copied our amendment that we put forward. For a couple of years they said it would not work and then they went and did it themselves. They love reinventing history. It is only the LNP that has the right priorities for Queensland.

*(Time expired)*



**Mr BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (6.27 pm): I rise to support the bill. Knife violence and crime is an abhorrent thing. It is an act of hatred and violence against other people that has no place in our community. For someone to be violated, to be hurt, to be permanently marked, and in some very tragic cases to die from being stabbed is a vile act. I acknowledge that people have died: Jack Beasley—and I acknowledge Brett and Belinda, his parents, who have campaigned so strongly on this issue—and Vyleen White from Redbank Plains recently. It is a terrible thing.

Sadly we have seen subcultures and cultures take a turn for the worse in terms of knife crime, particularly amongst some youth subcultures. That is why I support this bill to crack down on it. It is very important that we do so. No-one should be walking around our community carrying a knife. It is as simple as that. There is no reason to do that. This new bill toughens measures against that behaviour and the consequences of that behaviour becoming more prevalent in terms of people who commit crimes using such a weapon.

The bill prohibits the sale of knives and other knife-like weapons to minors who have no reason to have one or to use one. Of course, it will not affect those who have legitimate work purposes, as has well been outlined by other speakers. The bill includes amendments to increase the ability of a police officer to search and confiscate a concealed knife. It also prohibits advertising and marketing of knives and other weapons in a way that promotes combat or violence, including the manner in which it is advertised, as well as markings and words on the product itself.

Using provocative words or slogans that imply, depict or promote violence will be banned, and these are matters I support very strongly. Given how globally connected we all are these days, it is not surprising that this increase in knife violence and crime is happening in other jurisdictions. It is happening internationally and there have been various actions happening elsewhere as well. No doubt jurisdictions have been talking to each other, including our state. Retailers will have to lock away sharp

weapons like knives, tomahawks and other weapons, and ID checks will be required. The bill prioritises community safety, which is something I very strongly support on behalf of the people of Miller. We see increased penalties for both first offences and repeat offences, and we also see the ability for police to use metal wands to ensure searches are done quickly, non-invasively and effectively.

In terms of community safety this is a very good bill. This is a very positive step forward by government reacting to something that is in our community. It is disappointing to see that those opposite are trying to politicise this issue by moving amendments that are not evidence-based and which are more likely to promote a cycle of dysfunction and increase crime rather than prevent it. We have to work with the evidence base if we are serious about this, and I support the Premier's comments in that regard. We need to make sure what we do is effective. It is not just about the next media headline or grab; it is about breaking that silence—


**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** Those opposite in the LNP laugh at that comment. It is very disappointing that they think this is a laughing matter. This is a serious matter.

**Opposition members** interjected.


**Mr BAILEY:** We continue to get interjections from those opposite when they are trying to politicise and gain advantage on an issue. The evidence base is critical to us breaking that cycle. We know it is a difficult issue, but this legislation will mean greater intervention for young people. We know that at times young people get off the track, so we have to give our first responders, our police and others, the ability to intervene and get them away from dysfunction and onto a more productive path in life, being able to get to them early when they have made the mistake of carrying a knife around. It is important for them to understand the values of our community. Our values should be that people do not carry weapons around with them, and that is a way of getting to them earlier. I think that is a really positive thing about this bill. It is one of the many reasons I support it, and I thank the minister and the cabinet for bringing it forward.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Before I call the next speaker I would like to remind members that the following members are on a warning. They are the members for Kawana, Southern Downs, Nanango and Callide.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (6.32 pm): I rise to give my contribution to the debate on the Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I understand the bill aims to reduce the accessibility of dangerous items such as knives to young people, disrupt and deter violent offences and curb weapon possession. I will reluctantly be supporting this bill even though I believe it will make little to no difference to youth crime. According to the government, since 2019 reported offences where a knife was identified as the most serious weapon have increased by 18 per cent to 12,865, and the number of reported offences committed by a person under the age of 18 where a knife was identified as the most serious weapon has risen by 22 per cent since 2018-19 up to 2,177 offences.

If this is true and knife crime has been identified as a serious threat to public safety, then why is the government not introducing minimum mandatory sentencing for knife crimes? To me, this is more of a deterrent. This bill is about the government being perceived to be doing something about juvenile crime. If a youth is intent on stealing a car, robbing a house or committing a serious crime, they will get hold of a knife or another weapon regardless of this bill or they will simply get an 18-year-old, like it says in the bill, to buy a knife for them. I really believe this is going to be very difficult to police. Stopping the intent of youth to commit serious crimes is what we need to focus on. Unless the government gets fair dinkum and introduces mandatory minimum sentencing, removal of detention as a last resort and relocation sentencing, then they are not doing what the community expects and demands of them.

I have heard banter today by both parties about removing detention as a last resort. I just want to put on record and remind the ALP and LNP that back in 2021 when the member for Traeger tabled amendments to the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 they both voted against the KAP's amendments to remove detention as a last resort. This bill purely tinkers around the edges of youth crime. I call on the government to get serious on youth crime, adopt the KAP's policy of minimum mandatory sentencing, the removal of detention as a last resort, and introduce relocation sentencing as a third option for the courts. This will help solve this crime problem, and I want to bring that to the attention of the House.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (6.36 pm): I rise to speak on the Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The State Development and Regional Industries Committee Report No. 54, 57th Parliament, tabled on 1 February 2024, recommended that the bill be passed.

The objectives of the bill are to promote community safety, reduce youth offending and minimise the risks associated with knives and other dangerous items. The bill does this by: prohibiting the sale of knives and other weapons, including machetes, axes, tomahawks, sickles, spear guns, spears and replica firearms, known as controlled items, to minors; making it an offence for a person to falsely represent themselves as being over the age of 18 years for the purpose of being sold a controlled item; requiring retailers to display signage advertising the legal prohibition against the sale of controlled items to minors; prohibiting controlled items from being sold or advertised in a way that suggests the item is suitable for combat, intended to be used for violence, or likely to stimulate or encourage violent or criminal behaviour involving the item; imposing obligations upon suppliers of particular controlled items to safely secure the items at retail locations; and making consequential amendments to support these reforms, such as allowing a police officer to request to see proof of age if they see or reasonably suspect a person under the age of 18 has been sold a controlled item and authorising the police officer to seize the item under certain circumstances.

It is important to focus on the issue of crime associated with knives and other dangerous items. It is one part of the government's response to preventing crime, especially those crimes utilising knives and other dangerous items by prohibiting the sale of identified items to juveniles. We want to reduce the accessibility of these dangerous items. In addition to the recommendation that the bill be passed, the committee's investigation produced an additional two recommendations. Recommendation 2 states—

The committee recommended that the Queensland Police Service develop guidance and resource materials, in consultation with the retail sector, to support businesses implement new operational obligations introduced by the Bill.

Recommendation 3 states—

The committee recommends that the Queensland Government consider undertaking an education campaign to inform the public and stakeholders about the changes introduced by the Bill.

There was broad support amongst stakeholders for the objectives of the bill with several key issues identified. As stated in the committee report these include—

- definitions of what is and what is not a 'controlled item'
- the need for clear guidelines for sellers to assist with meeting any new legislative requirements
- operational and financial impacts on retailers and associated penalties for non-compliance with new requirements
- implementation of a community education campaign to build awareness in the community and with stakeholders regarding any new requirements.

I mentioned earlier that this legislation is a component of an all-encompassing approach by the Miles government to violent crimes, including knife crimes. This legislation is not a kneejerk reaction to violent crimes. It is a considered, progressive and ongoing approach to address an alarming and ever-invasive increase in crimes committed with dangerous items including knives. The bill defines a controlled item as any of the following: a knife; a sword, machete or axe; a sickle; a spear gun; a spear; and a restricted item under the Weapons Act that is a replica of a firearm under the act. It includes a thing prescribed by regulation to be a controlled item and does not include a thing prescribed by regulation not to be a controlled item.


In 2021 the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee reported back to this Assembly following our then inquiries into the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. At the time of our inquiries, and with regards to the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, the committee conducted extensive investigations which took us across Queensland. We received many submissions from interested parties and stakeholders, and we had many conversations, discussions and interactions with people from all walks of life.

The 2021 youth justice bill proposed the introduction of a two-year trial of handheld scanners in the safe night precincts of Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise with the object of minimising the risk of physical harm caused by knife crime. Data from this trial was recorded to inform a 12-month review of the operation to determine whether additional areas should be included in the scheme. As we all know, those wandering provisions were increased to take into account public transport and public transport hubs.



At the public hearing on 12 December 2023, the deputy commissioner of the Queensland Police Service advised the committee that the prevalence of knife crime and youth offending is still a serious concern and poses an increased risk to communities throughout Queensland. It was further stated by the deputy commissioner that knife related crime in Queensland has increased by 18 per cent, with 12,865 reported offences in the 2022-23 financial year. The Queensland Police Service is particularly concerned that knives are predominantly used in the commission of violent offences such as assault, robbery and other offences against the person.

The Queensland Law Society in their submission spoke of crime statistics and the importance of considering the demographic characteristics of offenders. These statistics are incredibly sobering and give pause for thought, especially as the father of boys, and they corroborate the views of the community that knife crimes and youth offending pose an increased risk to communities throughout Queensland. The bill is designed to complement existing strategies to prevent knife crime in Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (6.43 pm): In rising to speak to this bill on behalf of the people of Gregory, I would firstly like to express my sincere condolences and sympathy for the family of Mrs White. Like all Queenslanders, Gregory people were horrified at how she was fatally attacked while on a trip to the shops. For her six-year-old granddaughter who witnessed the attack and the horrible aftermath, this will leave a long-lasting trauma. This is heartbreaking. Sadly, this is just the latest trauma in a string of offences, including other fatalities, which Queenslanders have experienced under the Labor government.

I am sure every member of this House has been asked by their constituents how many more innocent Queenslanders have to die before something is done. For this reason, the LNP does not oppose this bill. I will vote to support it, but this is just the latest string of amendments and tweaks that this House is continually making as the government seeks to appear to be responding to Queensland's youth crime crisis.

I want to say very bluntly that this bill will achieve very little or nothing, and it will do so by imposing costs and red tape on innocent Queenslanders. All Queenslanders are very aware that a common modus operandi for juvenile offenders is to enter people's homes in order to steal car keys to take the car. This is our new normal. If they are going to break and enter for keys for cars, what is stopping them from taking the kitchen knife from the drawer or a tomahawk from the garden shed? There has been very limited evidence offered as to the sources of knives used by the knife crime offenders, which surely should have been the starting point for the architects of this bill. Instead, it has been treated as a 'beside the point'.

I would not go so far as to say that this bill is shallow window-dressing, but it seems poorly based in terms of hard evidence supporting its provisions. More seriously, it seems poorly aimed in terms of who will actually be punished by those provisions. The intent of the bill is to reduce knife crime and associated youth offending, but it does so not by addressing the offenders but by imposing major fines on retailers and their employees. In doing so, it is implying that retailers are somehow the cause of knife crime in Queensland. This is a classic red herring.

If we do not have the evidence for where juveniles are sourcing their knives, do we have any evidence that juveniles comprise a market demographic for retailers of these items? Retailers track these things in the normal course of business. It is called marketing and it is their bread and butter. I have seen no evidence that juveniles are a target market for these products.

As I have said, on the face of it, this legislation—while praiseworthy in its intentions—does not appear to be evidence-based. The bill will designate certain items as restricted for sale to persons under the age of 18 years. Such items will include knives, including kitchen knives, hunting knives and utility knives. In addition, it captures swords, machetes, axes, tomahawks, sickles, spear guns, spears and replica guns, including gel blasters. The problem is that there will be so much confusion among retailers as to what is restricted and what is not. For instance, are box cutters to be included? What about cooking scissors, which are sharp for cooks, including home cooks. The issue here is that what exactly constitutes a knife under this new division has not been defined, allowing the ordinary meaning of the word 'knife' to apply for the purposes of enforcement. The enforcement itself is applied to the seller, not to the criminal misusing the item. That is important.

At the very least, before enforcement of these laws commences, the government must ensure that it provides clear guidelines to all retailers—from homeware shops to fishing and camping retailers, hardware stores and chain stores. A very wide category of retailers will now have to display signage

announcing the proof of age requirements. The fines for failing to ask for such proof of age are not small. The penalties for 19G, which is sale to a minor, and 19I, which is sale by employees, range from 140 penalty units or \$21,672 for a first offence to over \$65,000 for a third offence. The sale of a controlled item by an employee will range up from \$3,096 for a first offence. This is a very significant penalty to impose on a shop assistant.

Presumably, Queensland police officers will be expected to police these laws by charging retailers and their employees. It does not surprise me that the Queensland Police Service appear to be distancing themselves from these laws by stating that the penalties for noncompliance are a matter of policy for the state government. Similarly, they see any education campaign as a matter of state government policy.


As a further financial impost on retailers, the bill also imposes secure storage requirements for sellers of particular controlled items. Retailers will have to ensure that any such item is stored in a locked container, cabinet, cage or room. Alternatively, it can be displayed so that it can be held and inspected as long as it is secured to the display stand so that assistance is required to remove it. This brings us back to the lack of definition of a knife. The new storage requirements will only apply to particular controlled items. These include daggers with a double-edged blade, knives with a blade at each end, swords, machetes, axes, tomahawks, sickles, spears, spear guns and—here is the really confusing bit—‘a bladed item prescribed by regulation’. I presume this is so the government can keep quietly adding to the list without returning to parliament. This will continue the confusion for retailers.

Indeed, the parliamentary committee considers there will be continuing requests by stakeholders for clarification of precisely what is covered. This says to me that Labor, once again, wanted to be seen to be doing something but did not have much left in the cupboard. The broad phrase of ‘a bladed item prescribed by regulation’ underlines the true size of the challenge of educating retailers, large and small, their employees and even our local police officers.

The Labor government must commit itself to an effective education and transition period to support this very confusing bill. The Queensland Law Society suggested there is no conclusive evidence that this legislation will be effective in its stated intention of enhancing community safety by reducing crime and associated youth offending. They correctly state that there is already an offence to carry a knife or other implement that is being used or is intended to be used to injure someone. We have seen the horrifying statistics that have resulted from police wandering for such implements. These tell us that there is a knife culture among young offenders, but this bill does not address that. Instead, it punishes legitimate retailers with no evidence to show that this will decrease the carrying of knives by young offenders. Apart from the kitchen drawers of their victims, youth offenders will be ready to obtain knives and other implements from online sellers with no enforceable proof of age.

Queenslanders are tired of being inconvenienced by empty bureaucratic responses to the real youth crime crisis unfolding right in front of our eyes. They will see this bill as more evidence that the Labor government has no idea of how to solve the problem which is solely of their own making. More and more Queenslanders will look to the LNP to rewrite the Youth Justice Act. They will look to the LNP to end the endless series of tragedies occurring across Queensland due to the increasing cohort of hardened repeat offenders.

I want to finish today by thanking all of the members of the Queensland Police Service in Gregory who work hard and work smart to keep our community safe. You do a dangerous and challenging job well, and we thank you. This parliament should assist you in carrying out those duties by offering strong, clear laws, not laws that are vague, complicated and lack evidence, and in this case there is very little evidence that young offenders are purchasing these knives.

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (6.51 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill following the member for Gregory, who is making a case that somehow this legislation is affecting shop owners and not actually reducing crime. I am just aghast, especially given that so many of those opposite have spoken in support of this legislation and about how it will make it harder for young people to get their hands on knives or other weapons. The member for Bonney himself said in this place that there is no silver bullet to stop knife crime, but this is another measure which will reduce access and availability, and access and availability absolutely play a role when it comes to reducing knife crime. Reducing access and availability will reduce knife crime. There is a direct correlation.

Yes, there are other layers and complexities with respect to knife crime and why this is a phenomenon that we are experiencing with young people, which is why I am particularly interested in the psychology behind young people carrying knives. Why do they carry knives and what do they intend

on doing with them? The research is very clear. There is global research which suggests that many young people carry knives with the deliberate intention to harm but also to protect themselves or gain respect from peers. It is important to decrease fear of crime and give young people alternative strategies to build their self-esteem. Although it is not possible to predict whether and when an individual will commit a violent crime, research into the psychology of violent behaviour has uncovered those individual and social factors that increase the likelihood of a violent act.


Norms of behaviour are acquired through social learning from family or peers. These norms can lead to automatic behaviour choices. When aggressed, retaliation is the only response that comes to mind. Adolescence is a period of increased sensitivity to peer pressure, heightened interest in risk-taking and decreased sensitivity to punishment. This all adds to the risk of getting involved in violent conflicts. To work on the adolescent brain, deterrent and corrective measures should be built on positive feedback for good behaviour instead of negative feedback for bad behaviour. Certainty of punishment and not the harshness of punishment deters young people from crime, and we know this from the research. To decrease recidivism, custodial punishment must be accompanied by appropriate long-term psychological and social interventions. It is possible to change a young person's social environment or give them the cognitive tools to diminish the impact of a negative social environment. To increase the efficiency, all interventions when it comes to violent crime and knife crime should be designed based on scientific theories and evidence, and that is what we should be talking about in this place. Certainly accessibility and availability are an incredibly important part of this discussion.

Looking at the psychological factors behind knife crime has revealed a complex phenomenon. Based on statements from young people who have been interviewed, young people carry knives because they want to protect themselves or because they want to be respected by peers. Deterring them from carrying knives requires decreasing fear of crime and giving them alternative strategies to build self-esteem. School suspension of those caught carrying knives may diminish other pupils' fear of victimisation but could also be seen as a medal of honour by those young people keen to raise their status amongst peers.

I was hosting a lunch with some young people at a cafe in my electorate not long ago. One young man of 16—let's call him James—decided to pull out a knife and show me then and there in the cafe that he was carrying a knife. Of course I was shocked. Why did James have a knife? What was he intending to do with it? It was very clear from his action that he was showing me because he wanted to gain my respect—that he wanted to show it off. He thought carrying it was a medal of honour. When I asked him why he was carrying it, he told me that he did carry it for self-protection. As a result of carrying this knife, he had been expelled from school and found himself then participating in a youth justice early intervention program. I could see how this knife had caused this spiral in this young man's life—taking it to school, getting expelled, then interacting with Youth Justice—and I could see it was having a really detrimental impact on his life, but at the same time he was sitting there thinking it was a badge of honour.

Young people trapped in cycles of violence carry knives with the intention of retaliating to previous verbal or physical attacks, and that is what James told me he was carrying it for. Although it is not possible to predict when and whether a violent crime will occur, research into the psychology of violent behaviour has uncovered the individual and situational factors that increase the likelihood of a violent act. James told me that his parents carried knives, that his dad had carried a knife his whole life as a means to protect himself, so it really was a case in this situation of 'monkey see, monkey do'. James had been raised in a family where carrying a knife was the norm, and this in turn impacted the way he was going about his own life.

With children and young people going through adolescence, we need to consider all of the social, family and economic impacts that lead to them committing crime, and I think about the importance of taking away the availability and accessibility of knives from our shops. I have seen knives for sale in shops in my electorate, and it scares me. It scares a lot of people in our community. I think removing them from these stores will give people some comfort that they are not readily available for children to buy at shops. As a parent, I would be absolutely shocked and horrified if I knew that my daughter had a knife or was carrying a knife. What would I do? I think these are all questions that a lot of parents in here might consider because it is a growing phenomenon. We are seeing more children buying knives and carrying them, and that is exactly why we have introduced this bill: to try to reduce the accessibility and availability of knives to young people in our community because they should not have knives—they do not need knives. I think our community will feel safer as a result of this bill being passed. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (6.58 pm): Knives, blades, machetes, axes—they all have no place on the streets of Queensland, let alone in the hands of young, violent thugs who unfortunately we increasingly see running riot across the state. I am sure all Queenslanders are appalled at the bloodshed and some of the incidents that have occurred and, to be frank, have occurred in most electorates across the state. The pain that victims' families must be experiencing can only be described as unimaginable.


The often forgotten sufferers in this escalating youth crime crisis are Queensland's small and family businesses. They are being robbed at alarming rates, and staff are being threatened with knives while just doing their jobs. In fact, the Leader of the Opposition spoke about one such business in his MPI earlier today. The physical harm that is caused by knives speaks for itself, but the ongoing psychological damage to employees who have had a knife waved in their face should be taken just as seriously.

Let's also talk about the financial costs of crime—the cost of paying for what has been stolen from businesses and the cost of fixing vandalism and damage to shops, smashed windows and broken doors. I know that many small businesses are having to employ security guards to protect their staff and belongings. At a time when the cost of living is escalating, this strain must be addressed. What Queenslanders want is for the government to get tough on youth crime. They want swift action taken to protect the innocent and to ensure there are consequences for actions. Getting tough on small business is not getting tough on youth crime.

Debate, on motion of Mr Mickelberg, adjourned.

## ADJOURNMENT

### Glass House Electorate, Bruce Highway Western Alternative

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (7.00 pm): Tonight I again rise on the matter of the Bruce Highway Western Alternative. I stand before you on behalf of the resilient and tight-knit communities of Moodlu, Caboolture East and Elimbah whose voices are raised, not in opposition to progress, but in defence of their homes, their farms, our environment and our heritage. These will all be impacted by the Department of Transport and Main Roads' proposed routes for stage 4. Moodlu, Caboolture East and Elimbah form a community of 4,500, with even more using the district for recreation. Members heard this morning during the tabling of petitions that over 10,000 voices have joined in opposition to the proposed routes. In addition, these 510 written submissions attest to the passion and considered approach of my communities. I table those.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of submissions from community residents relating to the Bruce Highway Western Alternative Stage 4 project [\[177\]](#).

Please treat those submissions with the respect and care with which they have been crafted. They urge ministers and government officials to recognise the vital importance of engaging with local communities in long-term state planning processes. The recent consultation process that was dropped on us weeks out from Christmas and scheduled during the holiday season has left the communities that I have the honour of representing—and neighbouring communities—feeling marginalised and distrustful. All of us question the timing and motives behind such decisions which seem designed to stifle meaningful community feedback. This is not how you treat people. In the community's interactions with TMR, they have encountered tactics that can only be described as bullying. Residents have been informed that engagement is a mere formality, with little room for genuine collaboration or transparency. This lack of respect for the community's input undermines the democratic process and erodes trust in government institutions.

Furthermore, they implore the government to consider the human cost of its proposed routes. In their words—

The land in question is not merely geography; it is the source of our collective history, the legacy of generations past. To pave over this heritage with asphalt is to erase a part of ourselves—a part that cannot be replaced or rebuilt.

The proposed route would result in the displacement of over 140 homes and farms, fracturing our once vibrant community beyond recognition. If there are alternatives that have smaller impacts—and there are—is progress truly worth the price of such devastation? Every Queenslanders has the right to own a home and they should be able to retain their homes, their investments, their dreams and their way of life, especially in the midst of a housing crisis. If that right is to be taken away, a corridor is protected and resumptions occur, those losing their property must be justly compensated. There should be no financial burden for any impacted resident. I thank the shadow minister for main roads for visiting

with the community to hear their stories. Both he and I—and most importantly, the community members—stand ready to work collaboratively with the minister and TMR to find solutions that balance progress with preservation.

### **Waterford Electorate, Social and Affordable Housing**



**Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (7.04 pm): The people of Waterford and the Logan community are among the most resilient, hardworking and kind-hearted people I have ever met. I am proud to represent them in this chamber because they inspire me to work harder and to deliver even better outcomes. The Miles Labor government is absolutely committed to supporting them, whether it be through extreme weather, rising cost-of-living pressures or housing.

Last month, the housing minister announced that the government has purchased the former Tanah Merah retirement village, in my electorate of Waterford, to turn it into social housing. This incredible announcement will mean 124 homes for vulnerable Queenslanders in need, including older Queenslanders, couples and small families. The 85 one-bedroom and 39 two-bedroom units will ensure stable, secure and affordable homes for people who need them as soon as possible. This is the fifth and largest purchase that our government has made of former retirement villages so far, and it complements a range of investments that we have made in social and affordable housing across Logan.

Last October we opened an almost \$6 million complex of 15 brand new social homes in partnership with Community Housing Queensland. The month before that, I was proud to join the housing minister to view the construction progress of 18 brand new social housing units in Loganlea. In fact, since 2015, our government has already delivered over 5,000 new homes across Queensland, including almost 500 new homes in Logan.

Together with our government's recently released housing plan, with a target of 53,000 social homes by 2046, our government is helping to deliver the housing and infrastructure that our growing community needs to thrive in the coming years. Our housing plan, importantly, introduces bold new measures to support those who are renting and who are being hit hard by increasing costs. We are cracking down on rental bidding, which is unfair and needs to end as soon as possible. We are establishing a portable bond scheme to allow tenants to transfer their bond when they are relocating from one rental property to the other, and we are investing \$160 million in rental assistance to help people receive the support they need and to keep a rental home.

I take this opportunity to thank our housing minister for everything that she and her hardworking staff and department have done to achieve these wonderful results for the Waterford community, and for Queensland more broadly. In the face of rising costs and housing pressures, our government will continue to fight to deliver for our Logan region and for the Waterford community by providing the support and resources they need to secure a home and to keep some of those rising cost-of-living pressures at bay.

### **Burdekin Electorate, Tropical Cyclone Kirrily**




**Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (7.07 pm): Queensland is a state of extremes. In recent weeks, we have seen extreme weather right throughout the state. In North Queensland preparations to celebrate Australia Day went on hold as Tropical Cyclone Kirrily bore down on the coast, crossing the coast at Townsville on the night of 25 January. The cyclone may have resulted in the delay or cancellation of Australia Day events, but, despite this, we saw true Australian character come to the fore as communities began the recovery process in an area that was littered with fallen trees and left without power. Estimates are that 66,000 customers, both residential and business, were affected by power outages. While lights may not have been working, North Queenslanders were. Within hours of daybreak on 26 January, volunteers from the SES were attending to dwellings that had sustained minor damage and it was not long until the sound of chainsaws echoed throughout the otherwise quiet suburbs and towns.

For some the assistance of volunteers, friends and families was a great help and for others it was essential. I would especially like to acknowledge those in our community who, in the aftermath of Cyclone Kirrily, took it upon themselves to assist the elderly and others who were unable to undertake recovery activities on their own. That is the true spirit of Queensland and they deserve to be recognised. The other sound that permeated North Queensland following Cyclone Kirrily was the sound of generators. Whilst answers are needed as to why our electricity infrastructure suffered such a big hit from a category 2 cyclone, there can be no doubt that our energy workers went above and beyond.

Some areas saw their power restored in 24 to 48 hours while for others it was a much longer wait. It is fair to say that for some it was a frustrating period, but the overwhelming consensus was one of thanks to the workers who had left their families to assist others.

In some areas, day time temperatures were in the high 30s and the humidity was above 90 per cent, but the men and women of Ergon and other energy companies worked tirelessly. The best illustration of the region's gratitude was the fact that residents were delivering cold drinks, food and even home-cooked meals to workers who, in some cases, were working around the clock. Queensland is a state of extremes, but Queenslanders are tougher. They look out for each other and believe in acknowledging a job well done. According to Ergon, 66,000 customers were reconnected in just six days. While a full recovery will take time, North Queenslanders will never forget those who came to their aid in the lead-up to and during the recovery from Tropical Cyclone Kirrily, which continues today in many suburbs right across that particular community.

### Weather Events

 **Hon. N BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services) (7.09 pm): The true test of strength is the ability to respond when already stretched. This was tested in my local community in the early hours of Tuesday, 30 January with extreme isolated rain inundation and subsequent flooding. Our frontline workers are always up to the challenge and they met it when the calls for assistance came.


Rainfall associated with ex-Tropical Cyclone Kirrily saw water inundate homes in the middle of the night and in the early hours of the morning. During this event QFES carried out 13 swiftwater rescues. I was on the ground and saw firsthand the considerable and unprecedented impact on homes and livelihoods that morning. Our SES volunteers moved in quickly to assist. It was followed by our amazing local rural fire brigades who gave up their time to wash out homes and help community members through the hard slog of the clean-up.

In Samford, the rain gauges clocked over 300 millimetres of rain in three hours. I am advised that that is a one-in-2,000-year event. The devastation can be seen in the damage assessment figures: 417 assessments were conducted, with 57 structures having minor damage, 91 with moderate damage and 26 with severe damage. Our disaster response here in Queensland is second to none. That is due to our well-resourced, highly trained first responders and dedicated Queensland Reconstruction Authority.

Only two years ago, many of the same houses in my community were hit with the 2022 Brisbane floods. What we saw in this event was even more water going through more homes and a quicker inundation. Following the 2022 floods, the Queensland and Australian governments developed the Resilient Homes Fund to make homes better equipped to deal with flooding events. While this program is now closed, some houses in Bray Park embarked upon this journey. I appreciate the invitation from Mayor Peter Flannery to QRA CEO Jake Ellwood and me to visit impacted locations. This year the DRF is funding the Leone Street drainage project, which will commence this year. I highlighted to the mayor the importance of also investigating the blocks to the east of this zone towards the train line to make drainage improvements there in a replica project. Additionally, I have expressed my strong support for a retention study for Four Mile Creek including natural detention basins.

While the state government financial assistance measures and grants were activated to support my community rapidly after the event, I was particularly happy to see that the federal government has activated disaster recovery payments to Bray Park locals commencing tomorrow, Wednesday, 14 February from 2 pm. I strongly encourage impacted locals to apply for this financial assistance. We are currently rebuilding and recovering from natural disasters. I will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with communities, including my own, in responding to their needs through this recovery process.

### Weather Events

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (7.12 pm): I wish to place on the record the huge devastation caused to parts of the Scenic Rim electorate by the Christmas Day storms and the weather that followed, especially around Tamborine and Tamborine Mountain, Cedar Grove, Cedar Vale and Mundoolun as well as some other areas. There was a huge impact but also a huge community effort to assist each other in the recovery from that horrific event. The event was so devastating that many people said to me words to the effect that this freak storm event was the scariest thing they had ever lived through.

A couple of people said that for the first time in their lives they felt afraid in their own homes due to the weather outside, such was the ferocity of that storm. Carpet was lifted from underneath in Queenslander houses, and in one case a ceiling was forced down into a living room due to the pressure from those storms. It was just an incredible storm—unbelievable. I saw this on Boxing Day, when I spent the day travelling around the electorate to see what had happened. The remarkable thing was the community initiative. By the afternoon of Boxing Day, many of the roads around these areas that were affected had been cleared by residents. The 'chainsaw gangs' got going. I can only imagine how much fuel was burnt in clearing roads.

I want to thank the 'chainsaw gang' in particular that was organised on Tamborine Mountain, Adam Chanter and others as well as the 'generator gang' that organised community donations to put together a pool of generators to help out people on Tamborine Mountain who were without power anywhere from nine to 12 days. I know there were so many volunteers who helped out: rural fires, SES volunteers and people in the community recovery centres. I also thank the department of communities staff who helped out our communities so much during that devastating time. I cannot fail to mention the Energex crews, many of whom were on holidays and many others who were in North Queensland. They mobilised pretty quickly to get power back on. Such was the extent of the damage it was basically a network rebuild at Cedar Grove, Cedar Vale and Tamborine Mountain. They did a great job and we thank them for that.

On the whole, the department of communities did a good job, but there were some technical issues with people getting their grants, which I hope has been sorted out now. People should not have had to prove they were without power for five days when it was blatantly clear to everyone that it was out for more than 10 days. That was an example of great community effort. I want to thank everyone who helped each other. Let's hope we do not have these weather events too often in the future.

### **Nicklin Electorate, Gambling Community Benefit Fund**



**Mr SKELTON** (Nicklin—ALP) (7.15 pm): I rise to speak about the Gambling Community Benefit Fund and what it means to the people in my community. Nambour Little Athletics received funding to upgrade their long jump facilities, located at the Sunshine Coast PCYC and long needed. The Nambour Blue Demons Hockey Club received funding to upgrade their clubhouse as their new season starts for the year. I wish them all the best.

I also encourage local parents to apply for FairPlay vouchers, another cost-of-living measure provided by the Miles government, providing \$150 off the cost of signing up their kids to sports clubs, Scouts and Guides, and Riding for the Disabled. Check eligibility as applications close on 1 May and vouchers must be used by 29 May.

The Range Community Kindergarten received funding to replace their playground. That is very important considering they have expanded their cohort recently to take on as many students as possible. I thank them and other community groups such as MADCA for also providing funding. This is important thanks to the introduction of free kindy, enabling parents to save up to \$4,600 per year by providing 15 hours per week for 40 weeks per year, a \$2 billion investment over four years.

Mapleton Community Library received funding to replace their ageing louvers. The new design will allow for much more light and natural ventilation for the dedicated volunteers to service the local community. Kenilworth Bowling Club received funding to install a rooftop solar system to reduce their overhead costs while increasing their commitment to sustainability. Nambour Heights Bowls Club also received funding for a new rooftop solar system and retractable shade cover, allowing them to take advantage of the sun's rays without having to expose themselves unnecessarily to the risk of skin cancer.

The Sunshine Coast Riding for the Disabled is a very important local charity assisting those with different lived experience to access equine therapy. Cooroy QCWA received funding to purchase new chairs to furnish their hall. It is a very important local organisation which advocates and assists the community wherever it can. I was delighted to attend their recent centenary celebrations in 2022. I hope additional furniture will help the group thrive for another 100 years.

Finally, I attended the Sunshine Coast Bunyas Rugby League carnival hosted at the Nambour Crushers' ground. I was very proud to be a sponsor of this event. It was an amazing three days of culture, community and Rugby League. Congratulations to Brad Beetson and the organising team for putting on such a successful event. I say well done to all teams who competed and of course Lyndon Davis and the Gubbi Gubbi Dance mob for their welcome to country. Thank you to Crushers for being such great hosts and everyone who attended for making the carnival the success it was.

## Australia Day



**Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (7.18 pm): In the electorate of Moggill Australia Day is always an important opportunity to acknowledge and recognise our nation's shared history and, importantly, to celebrate our culturally diverse communities. This year I was honoured to welcome more than 80 conferees from over 20 countries at two very special local citizenship ceremonies. I wish to offer my congratulations and sincere appreciation to both the Rotary Club of Kenmore and the Karana Bellbowrie Rotary Club for facilitating these wonderful events.

Another annual highlight on Australia Day in my local community is our unique Pullenvale lawnmower race. As the local state member for Moggill, it was my pleasure to contribute to the event by sponsoring the barbecue, and I wish to offer my sincere thanks to the Pullenvale IGA store for their assistance and community support. My congratulations goes to all participants who competed in the 21st annual Pullenvale lawnmower race.

Following the Pullenvale lawnmower race, it was great to catch up with locals at the Mount Crosby Bowls Club Australia Day Extravaganza before visiting the Brookfield Showground to catch up with Brookfield Show Society President, Dan Petrie. It was wonderful to conclude the day with local residents and families for an afternoon full of fun, various activities and live music at our local Bellbowrie Sports and Community Club.

With the commencement of the 2024 school year, it has been a privilege to attend many student leadership assemblies where I have had the honour of presenting badges to our school leaders, including at Moggill State School, Mount Crosby State School and also Kenmore State School. To all of our local students who have been appointed to leadership roles, I offer my sincere congratulations and I look forward to seeing the positive impact that they will all have on their individual schools throughout the year. Whilst on the subject of schools within the Moggill electorate, I look forward to celebrating Pullenvale State School's 150th anniversary next month alongside residents as well as current and former students and teachers. This is a significant milestone and a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the invaluable contribution the school has made to shaping the lives of local children over the past 150 years. My youngest two children, Angus and Lucinda, certainly enjoyed their time at Pullenvale State School.

A number of community groups in the electorate of Moggill have recently received vital funding via the Gambling Community Benefit Fund, and it was certainly a pleasure to provide my strong support to these organisations as part of their application for funding, including the Bellbowrie Kindy, the Moggill Scout Group and the University of Queensland Football Club which will all share in over \$80,000, so congratulations to all of those recipients. In addition to these grants, I also had the pleasure of supporting the Brisbane River Golf Club at Karana Downs by donating a defibrillator to its clubhouse. As a long-term supporter of the Brisbane River Golf Club at Karana Downs, I was pleased to provide this defibrillator and enhance the emergency response capability of not only this sporting organisation but also the local community given the linkages between this particular golf club and the Moggill Group SES.

## Mansfield Electorate



**Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (7.21 pm): The beginning of the year has seen much excitement in the Mansfield electorate between early morning parkruns, school leadership induction ceremonies and annual cultural events. Chinese Lunar New Year, celebrating the Year of the Dragon, is ever present in our community, with many families and friends coming together to usher out the old year and bring forth luck and prosperity. As not only the local member for Mansfield but a local resident in the electorate, it is wonderful to live amongst the celebrations and be part of these events. My community is blessed with a significant population of residents of Asian heritage. This diversity is a source of immense pride for me, as our multicultural tapestry adds richness and depth to our homes and to our community.


I had the honour of attending the first performance of the 2024 Chinese New Year gala show in Brisbane on 4 February where I witnessed the incredible talent and dedication of the Chinese community. This milestone event was hosted by the Queensland Chinese business council, the Queensland Chinese United Council and the Australia China Cultural and Economic Promotion Association. It highlighted the significance of the Chinese New Year, showcasing a magnificent array of performances. It was a joyous occasion shared with my colleagues the Hon. Mark Furner MP, Peter Russo MP and James Martin MP, deepening our understanding of the Chinese culture and its genuine needs. This remarkable event not only strengthened our bonds with the Chinese community but also



left a lasting impression on the visiting groups from China, promoting Brisbane and Queensland as a welcoming destination. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Michael Ma, Peter Zheng and the dedicated team for organising this world-class event.

I understand that my community highly values education. It is the reason many families move to our community in search of better life opportunities for their children. They know that the Mansfield electorate is a hub of educational excellence. They also know that this is thanks to the Queensland Labor government. The previous LNP government failed to build one new school in Queensland. In fact, it closed a number of schools and planned to close many others. Why do I know this? Nyanda State High School closed up the road from me and I ended up with all of the Nyanda State High School students at my school in Glenala. In fact, the LNP did not build one new classroom in our highly sought after Mansfield electorate schools. This is in stark contrast to the more than \$500 million that the Labor government has invested in our local schools since 2017. Labor will continue to invest in our young people. Labor will continue to believe in our young people as they are our future and the key to a strong, prosperous Queensland.

### Paradise Dam


 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (7.24 pm): Paradise Dam: what a disgrace; what a debacle! The food producers in the Wide Bay are furious, and rightly so. On 18 December last year Labor answered my question on notice regarding the repair of Paradise Dam with no mention of further failure discoveries. It suggested things were progressing well. It did give one clue in the response that the water minister knew more than he was letting on. Buried at the bottom, he said that Sunwater will provide an update to the community in early 2024. Well, we now know what this update was about—Paradise cannot be rebuilt. If the water minister knew about this then I have no doubt that the member for Bundaberg knew about it too. This in turn shows just how ludicrous the false outrage by the member for Bundaberg was—or, should I say, the soon-to-be-former member for Bundaberg. Even his own team seems to know this, so it gave him the first Dorothy Dixer of the year. The member for Bundaberg turns up and says that he is a champion for his community. The Paradise debacle proves what a fraud he is. Meanwhile, the future member for Bundaberg, the hardworking Bree Watson, knows what farmers and the Bundaberg region need.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member, I would ask you to withdraw that unparliamentary language.

**Mr HEAD:** I withdraw. The Bundaberg region needs transparency, honesty and more water, not less, and Bree Watson will deliver. The Paradise Dam debacle is Labor's mess, complete with the classic Labor cover-up and a solid dose of Labor spin. I ask the question: when did the minister and the Premier know about this? How long have they been hiding this from Queenslanders? Did the new Premier hold this over to ensure he did not get caught out giggling about an incredibly important issue? When will Labor be fully transparent with Queenslanders and table every single document that shows what really happened? Queenslanders deserve the truth and we deserve the opportunity to learn from these mistakes so they cannot be repeated. It is clear that heads should roll, but Labor will always look after its mates before it looks after Queenslanders.

Farmers are already facing some of the most uncertain growing conditions on record, excessive red and green tape and skyrocketing cost-of-living pressures. This is the last thing they need and this debacle stops new agricultural industry development in the Wide Bay. We know Labor's failures at Paradise are already pushing up the cost of fresh fruit and vegetables, and that is a huge blow for Queenslanders struggling to feed their families. As this dam crumbles, so does Labor's credibility in providing water security for Queenslanders. The next election is a clear choice—the choice between the LNP, which will build dams, or the tired old Labor government, which tears them down because it cannot build them properly. Only the LNP has the right priorities for Queensland's future.

### Path to Treaty

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (7.27 pm): Tonight I want to talk about treaty and the withdrawal of support for treaty by the opposition. It was a blatant political manoeuvre shown by the opposition when it withdrew support for the truth-telling and treaty processes in Queensland. This abandoning of support for First Nations people and their communities speaks to its own shortcomings. It is a dog whistle to the most hateful and deliberate ploy to appeal to those with barely disguised bigotry.

Since July 2019 Queenslanders have participated in a journey to bring about change—a journey towards truth, healing and reconciliation with its First Nations people. These are important steps to take and, as late as May 2023, we had a common purpose to lead everyone in Queensland towards a better understanding. We had bipartisan support in this House to take steps to heal the injustices of the past. The act reflects the importance of finding the truth. It provides for the establishment of a Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry. These are matters of profound moral and ethical significance. Our Path to Treaty places significant emphasis on sharing information. It is time we shone a light on the historical injustices faced by First Nations people. Telling the truth should never be used so flippantly as a mere political bargaining chip. The opposition has demonstrated it is literally willing to play with people's lives, and that is the reality of its decision.

We can view the Path to Treaty Bill 2023 through the same lens as former prime minister Paul Keating viewed his government's Native Title Act 1993. He has written about the Howard government's 1998 amendments which mercilessly attacked the 1996 High Court decision in the Wik case. Paul Keating said those amendments cut across the spirit of the Keating government's 1993 act and the notion that the legislation was, first and foremost, of a beneficial kind enacted to redress historic inequities rather than to compound ones sanctioned by earlier acts. This is how I view our Path to Treaty Bill 2023. We need to hear about the historic inequities—to hear the truth—rather than to compound these inequities sanctioned by earlier acts. It is now almost 30 years since the 1996 Wik High Court decision. The connection between First Nations people and the land still continues to be railroaded by the economic interests of mining companies. Our First Nations people still face inequities and misunderstanding. It is disheartening to see the depths to which the opposition stoop to deny our First Nations people their rightful place.

The House adjourned at 7.30 pm.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Head, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Kelly, King A, King S, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, Mander, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke, 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